

**REDESCRIPTION OF *CHTHONIUS VIRGINICUS* CHAMBERLIN  
(PSEUDOSCORPIONIDA, CHTHONIIDAE)**

Recent papers on *Globochthonius* Beier, a subgenus of *Chthonius* G. Koch, (Curcic 1973, 1976, 1977) have brought to mind the problem of *Chthonius virginicus* Chamberlin (1929), a species placed in *Globochthonius* by Beier (1931). While most species of *Globochthonius* are found in Europe, in the southern Alps and the Balkan peninsula (Curcic 1976), *C. virginicus* is apparently distributed over a small area of the east coast of the United States (Hoff 1958). These distributions would pose an interesting biogeographical problem if the species were correctly placed. However, as is shown below, *C. virginicus* actually belongs in the subgenus *Ephippiochthonius* Beier (1930).

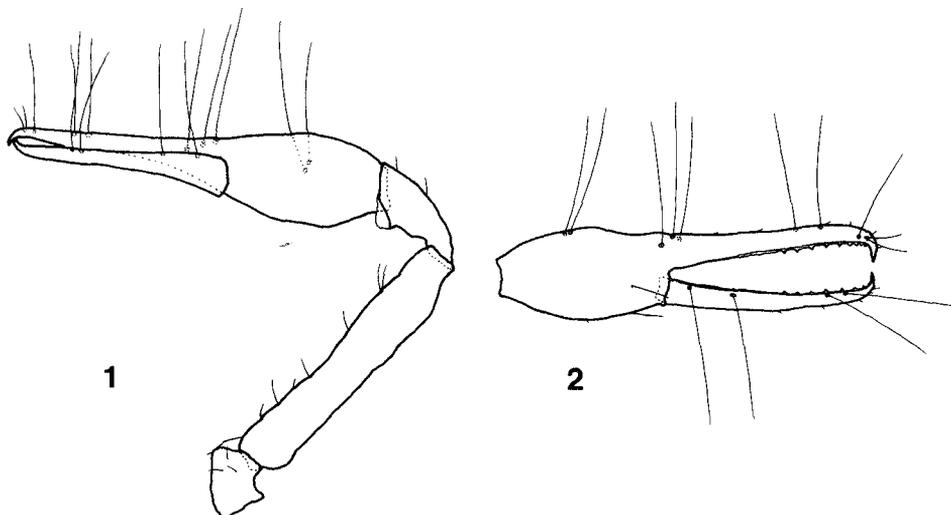
I am grateful to Dr. L. L. Pechuman for allowing me to study the type specimens in the Cornell University Collection, and to Charlotte H. Alteri for drawing the figures.

*Chthonius (Ephippiochthonius) virginicus* Chamberlin

Figs. 1 and 2

**Material.**—Holotype female (JC 64.01003) and one paratype female from Great Falls, Fairfax County, Virginia, 3 April 1921 (Crosby) [Cornell University Collection].

**Description.**—All parts lightly sclerotized and light in color. Carapace about as long as broad; no epistome, but anterior margin serrate across most of its width; four corneate eyes, the anterior pair larger than the posterior; chaetotaxy mm4mm-6-4-2-m2m, on each side two microsetae preocular and one laterally on the posterior margin. Coxal area typical; each coxa II with a group of eight bipinnate spines, and each coxa III with three similar spines; intercoxal tubercle with two small setae. Abdomen typical; tergal chaetotaxy 4:4:4:4:6:6:6:6:6:4:6:0; sternal chaetotaxy 8:(3)10(3):(2)9(2):10?:6:6:7:8:0:2, the lateralmost setae on sterna 5, 6 and 7 being very small.



Figs. 1 and 2.—*Chthonius virginicus* Chamberlin: 1, ventral view of left palp; 2, lateral view of right chela.

Chelicera 0.8 as long as carapace; hand with seven or eight setae; movable finger with a row of five teeth, fixed finger with seven and an irregular ridge proximally; flagellum of about 10 finely pinnate setae; galea a prominent knob.

Palp characteristic of the subgenus (see Beier 1963:50); proportions of segments shown in Fig. 1; trochanter 1.55-1.6, femur 5.45-5.6, tibia 2.0-2.1, and chela 4.4-4.65 times as long as broad; hand 2.05-2.2 times as long as deep; movable finger 1.15 times as long as hand. Trichobothria as shown in Fig. 2, which also clearly illustrates the dorsal depression characteristic of *Ephippiochthonius*. Fixed chelal finger with 16 widely spaced teeth distally, followed by five very small denticles, and with a small accessory tooth on the external surface near the distal end; movable finger with six spaced teeth and six small proximal denticles; movable finger also with a small sensillum on the external surface proximal to the level of trichobothrium *sb*.

Legs typical of the genus; leg IV with entire femur about 2.5 and tibia about 4.0 times as long as deep. Tactile setae not determinable.

**Measurements** (mm).—Figures are given first for the holotype, followed in parentheses by those for the paratype. Body length 1.54(1.72). Carapace length 0.48(0.445). Chelicera 0.385(0.37) by 0.21(0.18). Palpal trochanter 0.18(0.17) by 0.11(0.11); femur 0.60(0.56) by 0.11(0.10); tibia 0.25(0.23) by 0.125(0.11); chela 0.835(0.79) by 0.19(0.17); hand 0.39(0.35) by 0.19(0.16); movable finger 0.445(0.415) long. Leg IV: entire femur 0.56(0.52) by 0.235(0.22); tibia 0.33(0.325) by 0.09(0.08); metatarsus 0.21(0.19) by 0.065(0.065); telotarsus 0.36(0.33) by 0.045(0.04).

**Remarks.**—Inasmuch as no other members of *Globochthonius* have been identified from America, it is satisfying, zoogeographically speaking, to learn that *C. virginicus* does not belong to that subgenus, which, then, is apparently restricted to Europe. Problems remain, however, with regard to the identity and relations of *C. virginicus* with other members of the subgenus *Ephippiochthonius*, particularly *C. tetrachelatus*. Careful study is needed of the many American specimens that have been referred to *C. tetrachelatus* (see Hoff 1958) to determine whether they might belong to *C. virginicus* instead. Because the subgenus *Ephippiochthonius* is essentially European in distribution, it has been considered that *C. tetrachelatus* had been introduced into America from Europe. Likewise, *C. virginicus* might be of European origin; if so, to what species does it correspond? An answer to this question can only be obtained after the status of the *C. virginicus* in America is ascertained and a more complete description is available, including the male and the nymphal stages.

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