



A new spider record of the genus *Thomisus* Walckenaer, 1805 (Araneae: Thomisidae) from Iraq

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Abstract

A thomisid spider species, *Thomisus unidentatus* Dippenaar-Schoeman and van Harten, 2007 is recorded for the first time from Iraq. Photographs of habitus, palpal organ and epigyne of the species are presented. Description and collecting data of this species are also given.

Key words: *Thomisus*, new record, Iraq

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Irak'tan *Thomisus* Walckenaer, 1805 (Araneae: Thomisidae) Cinsine ait Yeni Bir Örümcek Kaydı

Özet

Bir Yengeç Örümceği olan *Thomisus unidentatus* Dippenaar-Schoeman and van Harten, 2007 türü Irak Örümcek Faunası için ilk kez kaydedilmiştir. Türe ait habitus, palpal organ ve epijin fotoğrafları sunulmuştur. Türün deskripsiyonu ve lokaliteler ayrıca çalışmada verilmiştir.

Anahtar kelimeler: *Thomisus*, yeni kayıt, Irak

1. Introduction

The spider fauna of Iraq are poorly studied and the arachnological investigations are still poor. There is no scientific report on the crab-spider fauna of the country (Samir and Sherman, 2012). Thomisidae is one of the largest spider families including 2153 species in 175 genera in the world (World Spider Catalog, 2016). A total 365 thomisid spider species in 69 genera are known from the Afrotropical Region (Dippenaar-Schoeman and van Harten, 2007).

Thomisidae are commonly called crab-spiders as they extend their legs in a crab-like fashion and are able to move forwards, backwards as well as sideways. The member of this family commonly inhabit the flowers of the grasses and shrubs and the body coloration can adapt its living environment (Yang et al., 2005).

The genus *Thomisus* are large genus containing about 82 species is known from the Palaearctic, Afrotropical and Oriental Regions (Dippenaar-Schoeman and van Harten, 2007). They are commonly found on flowers and usually coloured in white, yellow and pink. Until now, no member of this genus has been recorded from Iraq.

The aim of this paper is to present the thomisid spider *Thomisus unidentatus* Dippenaar-Schoeman & van Harten, 2007 as a new record for the araneofauna of Iraq.

2. Materials and methods

In this study, the specimens were obtained by manual collection and from under stones in surrounding of Basrah, Iraq. The specimens were preserved in 70% ethanol. Examined specimens are deposited in the NUAM (Niğde University Arachnology Museum). The identification and photos were made by means of a SZ61 Olympus stereomicroscope. In the identification of this species, the works of Dippenaar-Schoeman and van Harten (2007) were consulted.

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Figure 1. Collecting localities of *Thomisus unidentatus* Dippenaar-Schoeman and van Harten, 2007. 1- Shat-Alarab, 2- Abu-Alkhaseeb, 3- Al-Hwair

3. Results

Thomisus unidentatus Dippenaar-Schoeman & van Harten, 2007

Material examined: Iraq, Basrah, Shat-Alarab (10♂♂, 6♀♀) Abu-Alkhaseeb (12♂♂, 9♀♀), Al-Hwair (1♀). All specimens were deposited in Niğde University Arachnology Museum (NUAM THO 0001-38) (Fig.2).

Identification and description: See Dippenaar-Schoeman & van Harten, (2007)

World distribution. Yemen (World Spider Catalog, 2016) and Iraq (this study)

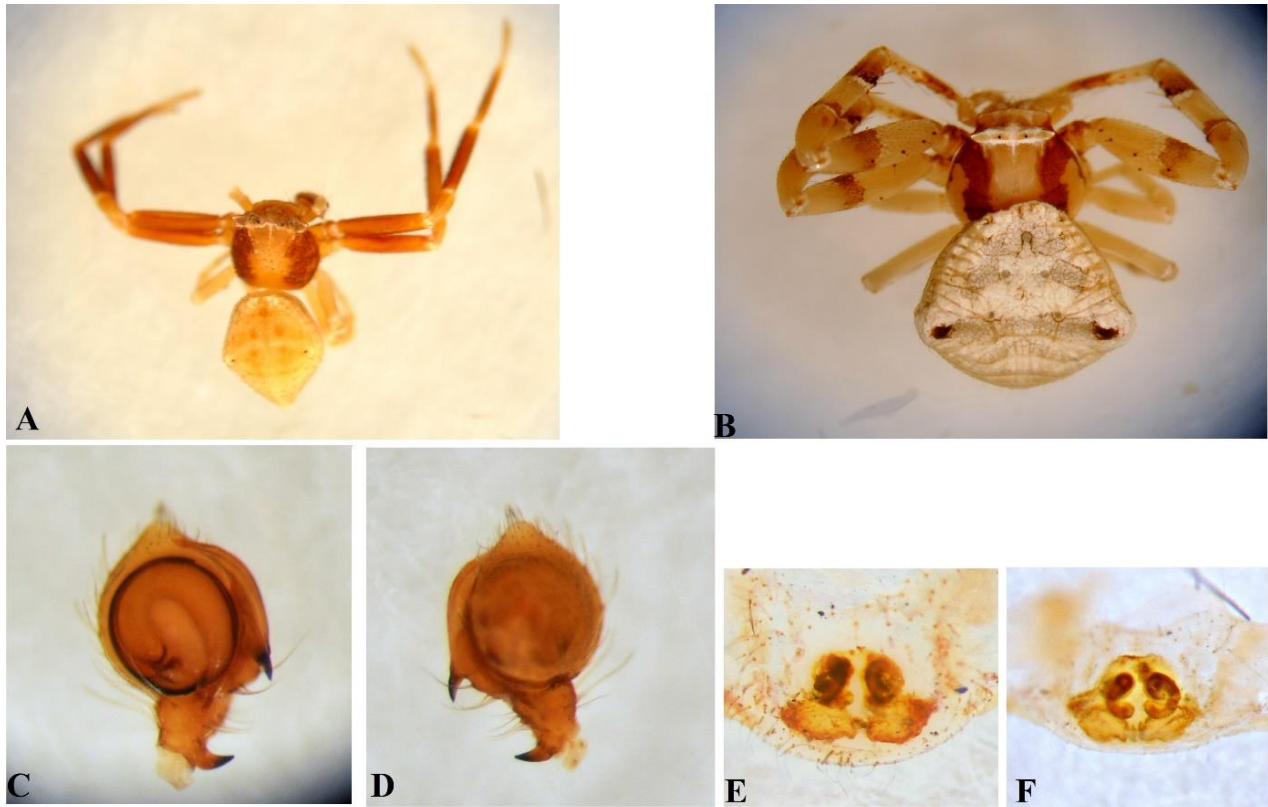


Figure 2. General habitus: A- Male, B- Female; Male Palp: C-Prolateral, D- Dorsal; Epigyne: E-Dorsal, F- Ventral

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