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BUNOCHELIS ALTENAI, A NEW HARVESTMAN FROM THE CANARY ISLANDS (OPILIONES, PHALANGIIDAE)

by

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(36th Contribution to the knowledge of the fauna of the Canary Islands, edited by Dr. D. L. Uyttenboogaart, and continued by Dr. C. O. van Regteren Altena)¹).

In the spring of 1947, during his stay on the Canary Islands, Dr. C. O. van Regteren Altena collected a small number of Opiliones on the Island of Tenerife, which he kindly permitted me to study. Most of these specimens are juveniles that could not be identified. Three species are, however, represented by adult specimens. I identified two of these with *Metadasylobus fuscoannulatus* (Simon) (localities: Barranco Andura (or Andola), south of Realejo, 17-III-1947, 1 ♂, 3 ♀♀; Las Mercedes, about 650 m, 22-III-1947, 1 ♂), and *Bunochelis longipes* Roewer (localities: La Paz, near Puerto Orotava, 12-III-1947, 1 ♂; Icod el Alto, about 500 m, 25-III-1947, 1 ♂) respectively.

The third species appeared, however, to be new to science; it is dedicated to its collector. I classify it with *Bunochelis*, a genus in which the first joint of the chelicerae of the male has a dorsal protuberance. *Bunochelis altenai* nov. spec. is described and figured in the present paper, whilst in a key a comparison is made with other species of the genus. I am greatly indebted to Prof. Dr. C. F. Roewer for his kind assistance in the study of the new species. The material is preserved in the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden.

Bunochelis altenai nov. spec. (fig. 1a, b, c)

Material. Barranco Andura (or Andola), south of Realejo Alto, Tenerife, Canary Islands, 17-III 1947, 1 ♂ (holotype); 1 subadult ♂ (paratype).

¹) Contribution no. 34, see: Zool. Verh. no. 11 (1950). No. 35 (wrongly numbered 34 also!), see: Zool. Meded., vol. 31, no. 20 (1952).

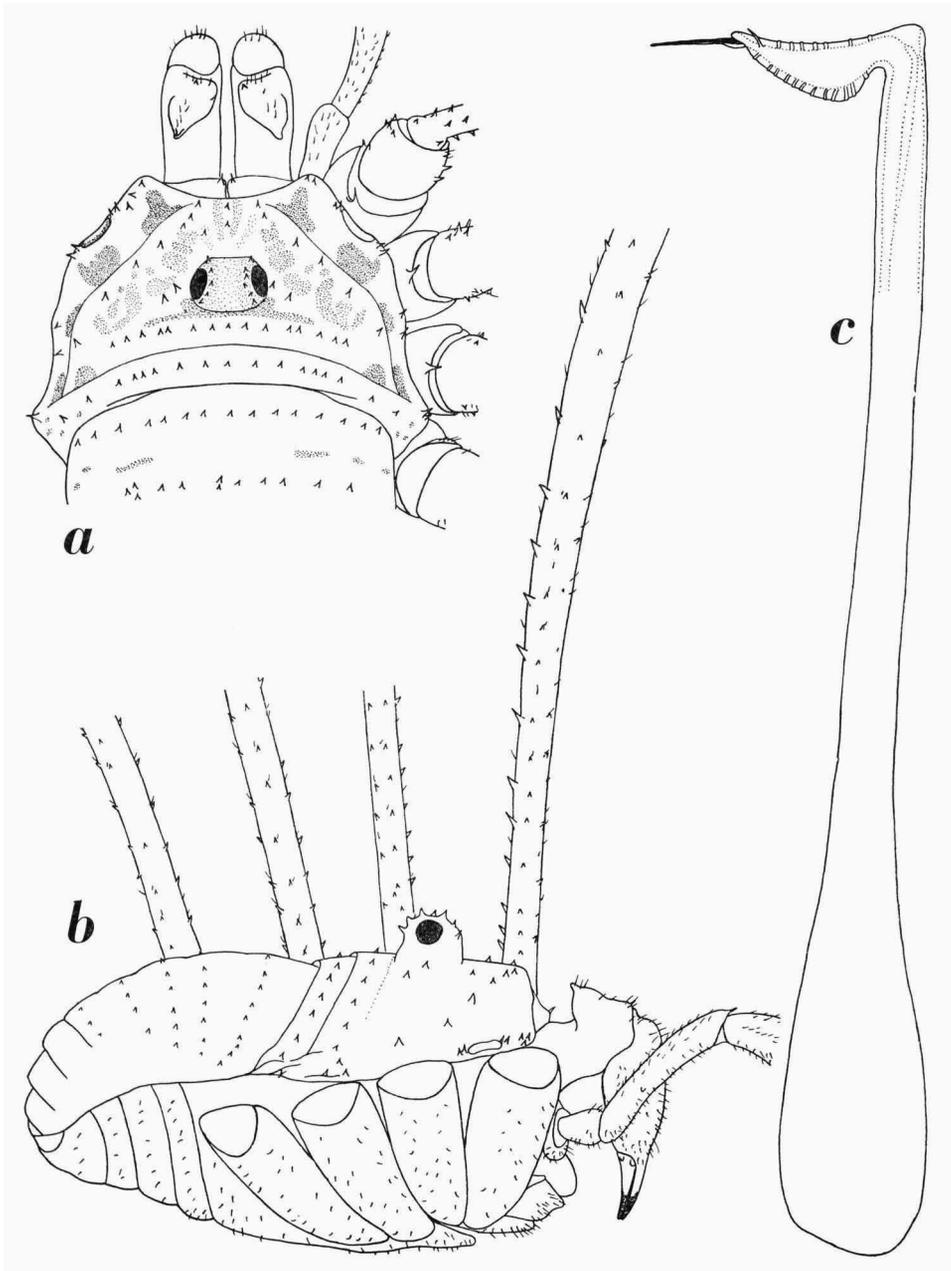


Fig. 1. *Bunochelis altenai* nov. spec., ♂ : a, dorsal view of the cephalothorax, $\times 40$; b, lateral view, $\times 40$; c, lateral view of the penis, $\times 143$.

Description. Length of the male (without chelicerae) : 4.2 mm.

Cephalothorax whitish with a pattern of light and dark brown spots : it bears a number of denticles (fig. 1a). Supracheliceral laminae each with one denticle. Ocularium brown with two longitudinal rows of 5-7 denticles.

Abdomen dorsally whitish, with 5 transverse rows of denticles, of which those of the posterior two rows are very small. The ventral surface of the abdomen is white; it bears a few small hairs.

Chelicerae (fig. 1b) pale yellow. First joint with a dorsal protuberance that points backwards; no ventral spur.

Palp pale; dorsal surface of the femur, the patella, and the top of the tarsus brownish. No apophysis on femur and patella. The apical part of the femur bears a small dorsal denticle; ventro-laterally 1 or 2 small tubercles are present. The remaining parts of the palp are only covered with hairs. Length of the palp 5.3 mm.

Legs dark yellow-brown. The femora are similar in shape, only slightly angular; tibiae cylindrical. Coxae grey-white; they bear hairs but no denticles. Femora with 5 longitudinal rows of denticles. Patellae and tibiae with longitudinal rows of small denticles and hairs. Femora and patellae with 3 dorsal teeth on the apical part. Length of the legs : 33-57.5-35-47 mm; length of the femora : 7.5-13-7.2-10 mm; length of the tibiae : 5.5-12-5.3-7.1 mm respectively.

Penis (fig. 1c) pale. Length of the corpus penis 2.76 mm; glans 0.46 mm; stylus 0.21 mm.

The most striking differences between *B. altenai* and the other species of the genus *Bunochelis* are the following. Femur I is not broadened and about twice as long as the length of the body. The ventral surfaces of palp-femur and trochanter bear no denticles. A further comparison of *B. altenai* with the other species of the genus is made in the following key.

Key to the species of the genus *Bunochelis*

1. Trochanter of the palp with ventral denticles; femur of the palp with dorsal and ventral denticles *B. spinifera* (Simon)
- Trochanter of the palp without ventral denticles; femur of the palp without dorsal denticles or with a few denticles on the dorsal-apical part only 2
2. Supracheliceral laminae each with 3 denticles. The length of femur I is equal to about half the length of the body. Femur of the palp with a few denticles on the dorsal-apical part *B. brevipes* Roewer
- Supracheliceral laminae each with 1 denticle. Femur I at least as long as the body. Femur of the palp without dorsal denticles 3

3. Femur I as long as the body; in comparison with the other femora broadened; it bears stronger denticles. Femur of the palp with ventral denticles *B. longipes* Roewer
— Femur I about twice as long as the body; femur I, II, III, and IV similar in shape. Femur of the palp without ventral denticles . *B. altenai* nov.spec.

LITERATURE

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