



The first record of genus *Lipocrea* Thorell, 1878 in Turkey (Araneae, Araneidae)

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Abstract

Lipocrea epeiroides (O. P. Cambridge, 1872) is recorded for the first time for araneofauna of Turkey. This represents a new record of both the species and genus *Lipocrea* Thorell, 1878 from Turkey. Its description, morphological characteristics, and photographs are presented.

Key words: *Lipocrea epeiroides*, Araneidae, Turkey, new record

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Türkiye için *Lipocrea* Thorell, 1878 cinsinin ilk kaydı (Araneae, Araneidae)

Özet

Lipocrea epeiroides (O. P. Cambridge, 1872) Türkiye araneofaunası için ilk kez kaydedildi. Türün deskripsiyonu, morfolojik özellikleri ve fotoğrafları verildi.

Anahtar kelimeler: *Lipocrea epeiroides*, Araneidae, Türkiye, yeni kayıt

1. Introduction

Araneidae is one of the largest spider families which contains 2992 species in 168 genera with worldwide distribution (Platnick, 2010). The generic concepts of *Larinia* Simon, 1874 and its related groups were revised by Grasshoff (1970a, b, c, 1971) and the author split the “*Larinia* group” into eight genera: *Larinia*, *Drexelia* McCook, 1892, *Lipocrea* Thorell, 1878, *Siwa* Grasshoff, 1970, *Paralarinia* Grasshoff, 1970, *Faradja* Grasshoff, 1970, *Mahembea* Grasshoff, 1970 and *Lariniaria* Grasshoff, 1970. Some authors (Levi, 1975; Marusik, 1986) rejected the conclusions of Grasshoff, but some authors such as Levy (1986) have supported some of Grasshoff’s results. The genus *Lipocrea* was originally described by Thorell (1878) and includes 4 species: *L. diluta* Thorell, 1887 known from Myanmar to Australia; *L. fusiformis* (Thorell, 1877) known from Philippines, Sulawesi, India to Japan, *L. longissima*

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(Simon, 1881) known from Afrotropical region and *L. epeiroides* (O. P. Cambridge, 1872) so far known only from Israel and Yemen (Platnick, 2010).

The aim of this paper is to present the first record of the spider *L. epeiroides* for the araneofauna of Turkey. The detailed morphological illustrations of *L. epeiroides* are also provided.

2. Material and methods

Only one male specimen was collected by sweeping from Hatay province, Turkey. The identification was made using the descriptions of Levy (1986). Digital images were taken by SMZ10A Nikon stereomicroscope. For SEM photographs, the male palp were dried at 30 °C temperature and coated with a thin layer of gold by Polaron SC 502 sputter coater. The material was examined at an accelerating voltage of 15 kV under Jeol JSM 6060 LV Scanning Electron Microscope. The specimen is preserved in 70 % ethanol and deposited in the personal collection of Jörg Wunderlich (Heidelberg, Germany) with collection number: R20/AR/CJW. All measurements in the text are in millimeters (mm). Measurements are taken from the dorsal side of legs.

The taxonomy follows Platnick (2010) and the terminology follows Levy (1986).

3. Results

Family Araneidae Simon, 1895

Lipocrea epeiroides (O. P. Cambridge, 1872)

Material examined: Hatay province, Hassa district, Aktepe town, collected on annual plants (36°40'21.10"N; 36°30'48.16"E), 1 male, 05. V. 2008, leg. E.A. Yağmur & E. Tezcan.

Description of male: Carapace smooth surfaced, yellowish with a dark brown deep fovea (Figure 1). Anterior and posterior lateral eyes touching each other. Anterior median eyes separated one from another about 1 diameter. (Figure 2). Sternum yellowish, spear-shaped (Figure 3). Tips of chelicerae brownish. Chelicerae with two big, one medium, and one small teeth promarginally and one big and two small teeth retromarginally (Figure 4). Abdomen long and narrow, pointed at each end, ending with a small tip, two pale brown bands with black spots extend along dorsum (Figure 5a, b). Abdomen dorsally with some long, thin transparent hairs. (Figure 5b). Venter with white, longitudinal patch surrounded by a brownish large border, and two whitish spots close to spinnerets (Figure 6). No coxal tuber on walking legs (Figure 3). Femora I-II with a ventral-retrolateral row of dark color bristles (Figure 7a), and femora IV, on basal-ventral part, with 2 short spines emerged from small tubercles (Figure 7b).



Figure 1. General appearance of *L. epeiroides* (O.P. Cambridge, 1872) (Dorsal view).

Palp: Two patellar bristles are very distinct (Figure 2). Median apophysis large and spoon-shaped, median apophysis bears finger-shaped pointed process on mesal side; dark coloured large conductor forms a cap mesally; large terminal apophysis ending with pointed tip bending downwards; subterminal apophysis large and bears pointed tip; embolus thick (Figures 8-10).

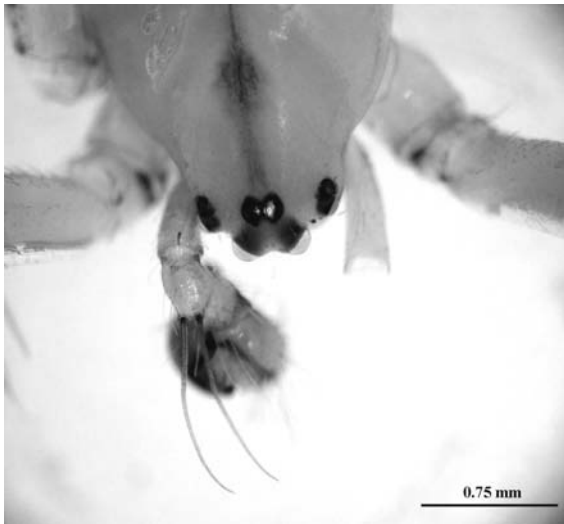


Figure 2. Eyes and patellar bristles of palp, left palp was removed by authors (Dorsal view).

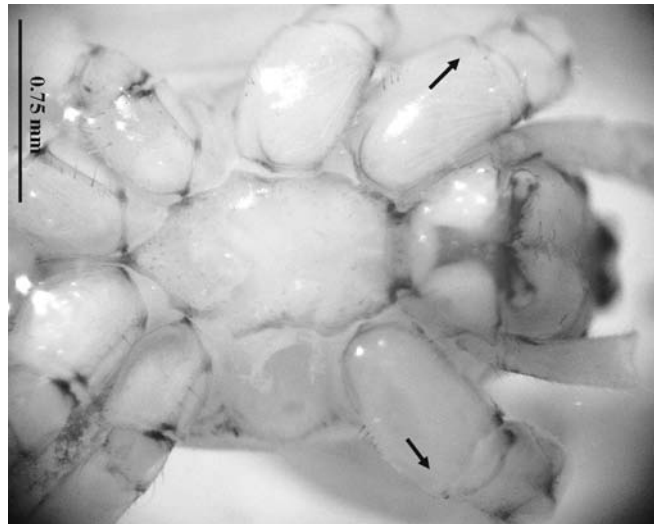


Figure 3. Sternum and no coxal tuber on walking legs (arrows)

Measurements: Body length 6.7; carapace 2.85; abdomen length 3.85; length of legs: I 14.53, II 14.35, III 11.60, IV 13.5; leg I: coxa 0.08; trochanter 0.29; femur 3.30; patella 1.45; tibia 4.10; metatarsus 5.20; tarsus 0.11.

Remarks

L. epeiroides was originally described with the specimens collected from vicinity of Jericho, Israel by O.P. Cambridge (1872), and then, there have been only few additional data on this species. The species is not common in the collections, so we have limited information on the zoogeographical pattern and habitat of this species. Our sample was collected by sweeping from heaths in rocky area. The recording of this species from Turkey widens its range of distribution.

The morphometric measurements and other characteristic features of our sample conforms to holotype characteristics of this species given by Levy (1986) and no significant differences have been determined in palpal structures.

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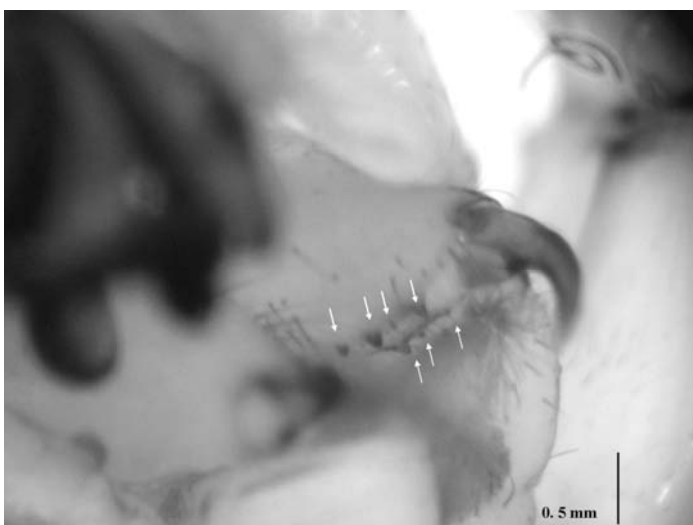


Figure 4. Cheliceral teeth

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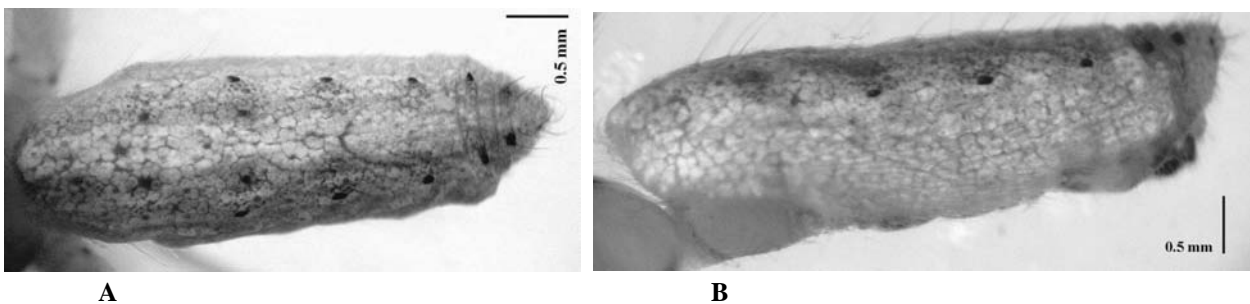


Figure 5. Dorsal (A), and lateral view of abdomen (B).

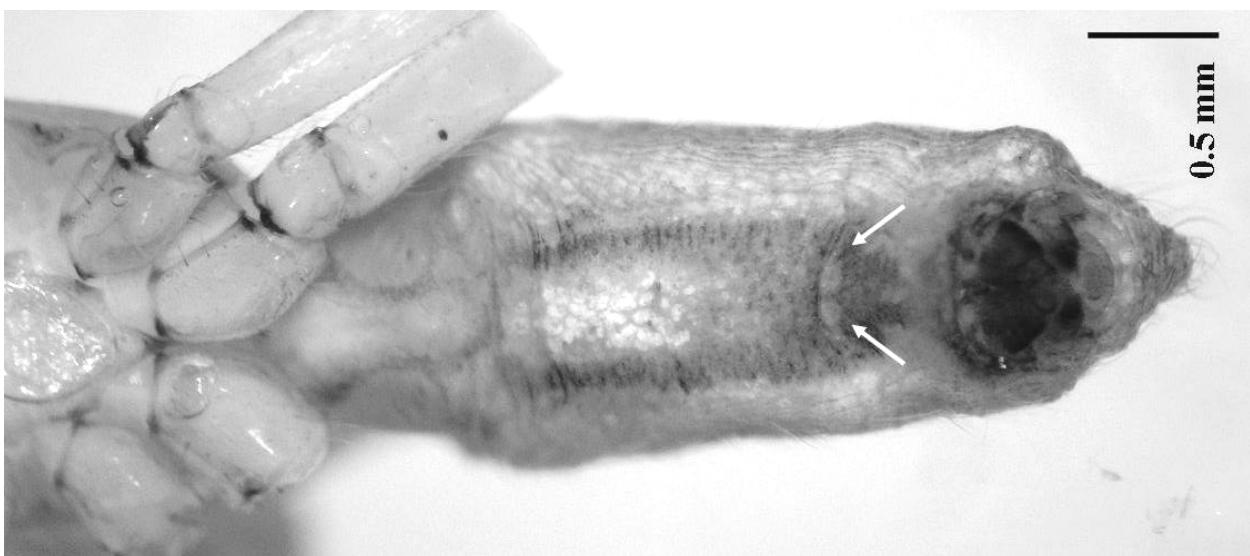


Figure 6. Abdomen, ventral view, with two whitish spots (arrows).

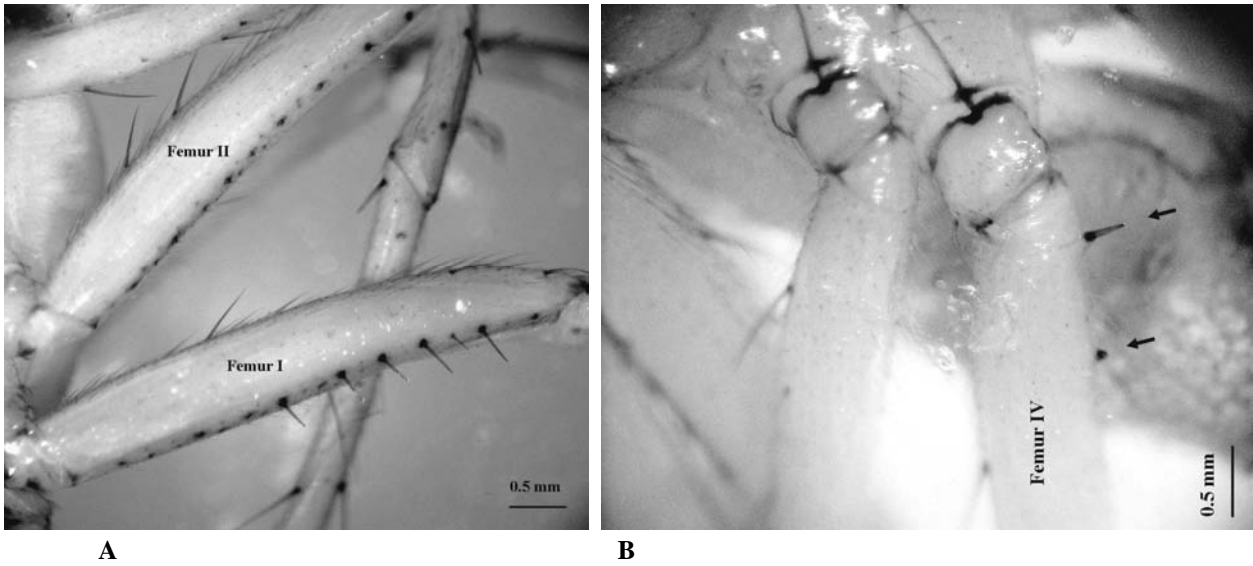


Figure 7. Bristles on femora I and II (A), spines on basal-ventral part of femur IV (B).

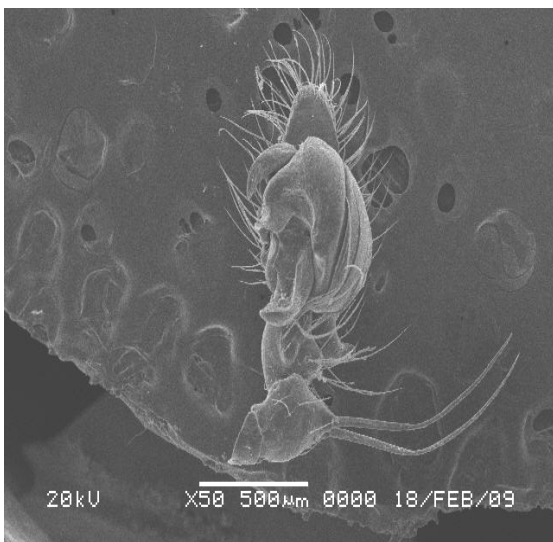


Figure 8. Ventral view of left palp

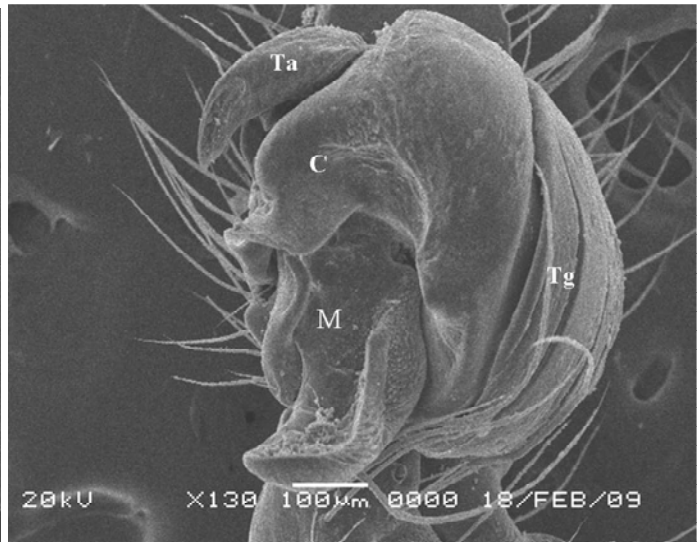


Figure 9. Ventral view of left palp, enlarged. Ta: Terminal Apophysis, C: Conductor, Tg: Tegulum, M: Median Apophysis.

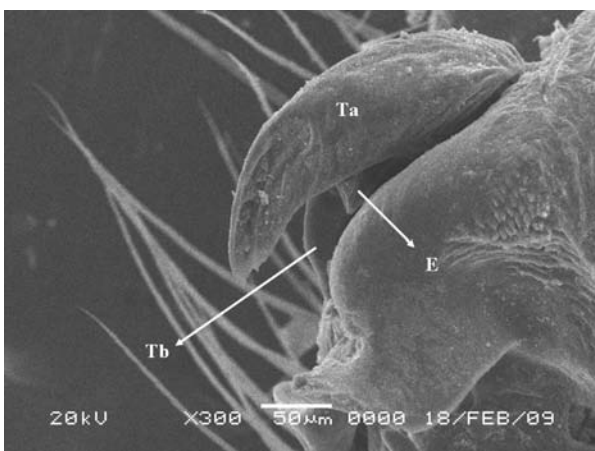


Figure 10. Ventral view of left palp. Ta: Terminal Apophysis, Tb: Subterminal Apophysis, E: Embolus

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