

Review of the subgenus *Ammosphex* Wilcke, 1942 of the genus *Arachnospila* Kincaid, 1900 (Hymenoptera: Pompilidae) of the Russian Far East and East Siberia

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Abstract

A total of nineteen species are reviewed. Five new species: *Arachnospila* (*Ammosphex*) *belokobylskii* Loktionov and Lelej, **sp. nov.** (Primorskiy Terr.), *A. (A.) orientausa* Loktionov and Lelej, **sp. nov.** (Primorskiy Terr.), *A. (A.) rasnitsyni* Loktionov and Lelej, **sp. nov.** (Buryatia), *A. (A.) tobiasi* Loktionov and Lelej, **sp. nov.** (Buryatia), and *A. (A.) zonsteini* Loktionov and Lelej, **sp. nov.** (Buryatia) are described and illustrated. Hitherto unknown females of *A. (A.) eoabnormis* Lelej, 1995, *A. (A.) kurentzovi* Lelej, 1995, *A. (A.) kurzenkoi* Lelej, 1995, *A. (A.) mongolopinata* Wolf, 1981, *A. (A.) wolffi* Lelej, 1995, and *A. (A.) yasumatsui* Wolf and Móczár, 1972 are described. Three species: *Arachnospila* (*Ammosphex*) *dschingis* Wolf and Móczár, 1972, *A. (A.) kaszabi* Wolf and Móczár, 1972, and *A. (A.) yasumatsui* Wolf and Móczár, 1972 are newly recorded from Russia. A key to species for both sexes is given. The synonymy of *Psammochares subflavus* Haupt, 1929 under *Arachnospila clericalis* (F. Morawitz, 1889) is confirmed.

Key words: Pompilidae, spider wasps, *Arachnospila*, *Ammosphex*, Russian Far East, East Siberia, new species

Introduction

The Russian Far East is located between East Siberia in the West and the Pacific Ocean in the East. East Siberia is the part of Siberia found between the Yenisey River in the West and dividing ranges along the Pacific Ocean in the East and from the Arctic Ocean in the North and Transbaikalia in the South. Most of this vast territory is occupied by the Euro-Siberian Subregion of the Palaearctic Region and only the southern part of the Russian Far East belongs to the Manchurian Province of the East Asian Subregion. Some Mongolian insects reach Transbaikalia.

The genus *Arachnospila* Kincaid, 1900 is predominantly Holarctic. In Europe the genus has 35 species in six subgenera (Wahis 2011). Thirty-three species (including new ones described here) of this genus, which are placed in the subgenera *Ammosphex* Wilcke, 1942, *Alpinopompilus* Wolf, 1965, *Anoplochaes* Banks, 1939, and *Arachnospila*, are distributed in Russia. In our previous paper (Lelej & Loktionov 2011) we reviewed eleven species of the nominotypical subgenus. We stated that *Psammochares subflavus* Haupt, 1929 described from Transbaikalia belongs to the *Arachnospila* (*Ammosphex*) *consobrina* species-group (Lelej & Loktionov 2011). Recently ASL examined the holotype of *P. subflavus* Haupt [Martin-Luther-Universität, Halle-Wittenberg, Germany], which really belongs to the nominotypical subgenus, and was identified by H. Wolf as *Arachnospila clericalis* (F. Morawitz 1889). This synonymy was proposed by H. Wolf (1977) and we confirm here the synonymy of *Psammochares subflavus* Haupt, 1929 under *Arachnospila clericalis* (F. Morawitz, 1889). In this paper, we review 19 species of the subgenus *Ammosphex*, of which five are described as new and three are newly recorded from Russia. Species of the subgenus *Ammosphex* are the most abundant *Arachnospila* collected and are the most difficult to identify. Identification of the males is more reliable than the females, but for a reliable identification the subgenital plate (hypopygium) and genitalia of the male must be examined and the clypeus and metapostnotum shape of the female.