

New locality data of *Stegodyphus lineatus* (Latreille, 1817) (Araneae: Eresidae) from Basrah province south of Iraq

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Abstract

Stegodyphus lineatus (Latreille, 1817) is a member of family Eresidae which is commonly known as velvet spiders. This species was recorded from neighbouring countries as well as unknown locality from Iraq. In current study, definite localities of the species are recorded from south of Iraq. The images of adult female and its epigynum are presented.

Keywords: Araneae, Eresidae, *Stegodyphus*, locality, Basrah, Iraq.

Introduction

Eresidae, commonly known as velvet spiders, is a relatively small family contained only nine genera, 97 species, and 5 subspecies (World Spider Catalog, 2022).

Stegodyphus is a genus of velvet spiders that was first established by Simon in 1873. Most of its twenty species are distributed in Africa and Asia. It is represented by only one species in southern Europe and one species in Brazil (World Spider Catalog, 2022).

Stegodyphus lineatus (Latreille, 1817) has been recorded from neighbouring countries of Iraq: Turkey (Kraus & Kraus, 1989; Miller *et al.*, 2012), Syria (Kraus & Kraus, 1989), Jordan (El-Hennawy, 1987; Kraus & Kraus, 1989), and Iran (Kraus & Kraus, 1989; Zamani & Marusik, 2018). It was recorded from an unknown locality from Iraq by Kraus & Kraus (1989): "Mesopotamia (1♀ MNHN AR 932)" [Only 1 female specimen in Paris natural history museum] (Zamani & El-Hennawy, 2016; Fomichev *et al.*, 2018).

In the current study, the females of *Stegodyphus lineatus* (Latreille, 1817) were collected from three sites of Basrah province desert south of Iraq.

The aim of this study is to present definite localities of this species with images of the adult and its epigynum.

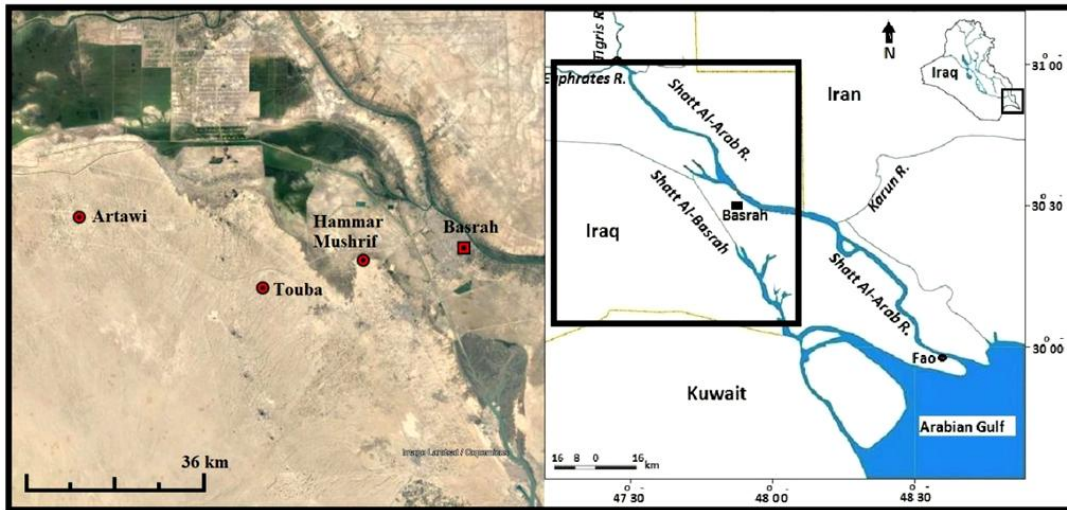


Fig. 1. Collecting sites (red circles) of *Stegodyphus lineatus*, near Basrah, Iraq.

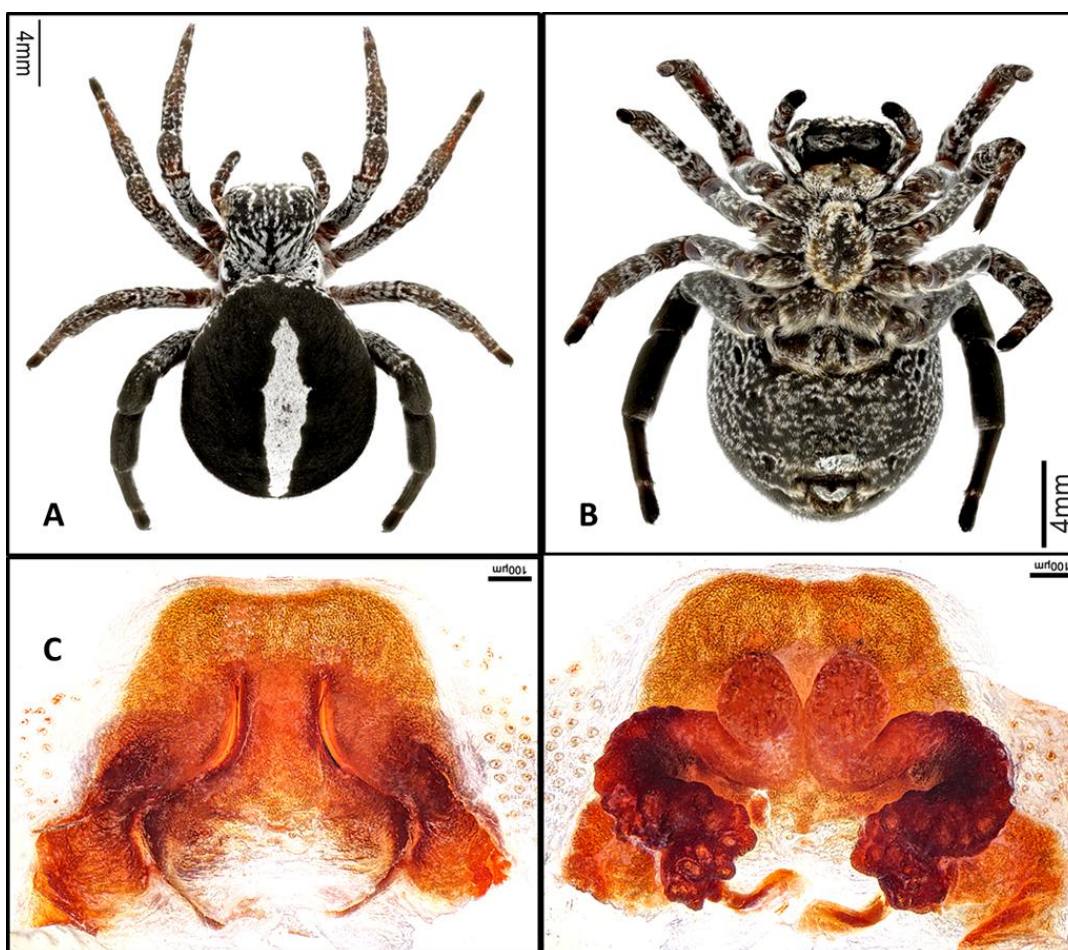


Fig. 2. *Stegodyphus lineatus* (Latreille, 1817) female. A-B. Habitus. A. dorsal view. B. ventral view. C. Epigynum, ventral view. D. Vulvae, dorsal view.

Material and Methods

In the current study, 12 females of *Stegodyphus lineatus* were collected from three sites of Basrah province desert: 1- Artawi (30°34'48.108"N, 47°0'44.97"E), 2- Hammar Mushrif (30°28'58.6632"N, 47°37'11.442"E), 3- AL-Touba (30°26'18.4956"N, 47°24'15.4404"E), (Fig. 1), during the period from 1 September 2021 to 1 April 2022.

Hand collecting method was taken on collecting the specimens from *Astragalus* plants, where the webs of *Stegodyphus lineatus* were built inside them (Fig. 3).

Spiders were preserved in ethyl alcohol 80%, examined and photographed by Leica microscope in Entomology laboratory of Science college, Basrah university.

The specimens were identified according to El-Hennawy (2009).

Results

Material examined: 5♀♀, Artawi; 4♀♀, Al-Touba; 3♀♀, Hammar Mushrif; 1 September 2021 to 1 April 2022; Leg. Shurooq A. Najim.

Total length: 13.2-15.1 mm, Fig. (2A) dorsal view, Fig. (2B) ventral view.

Cephalothorax length: 4.4-5.1 mm. Abdomen length: 8.9-10 mm.

Female genitalia: Figs. 2C-D) 0.90-0.95 mm.

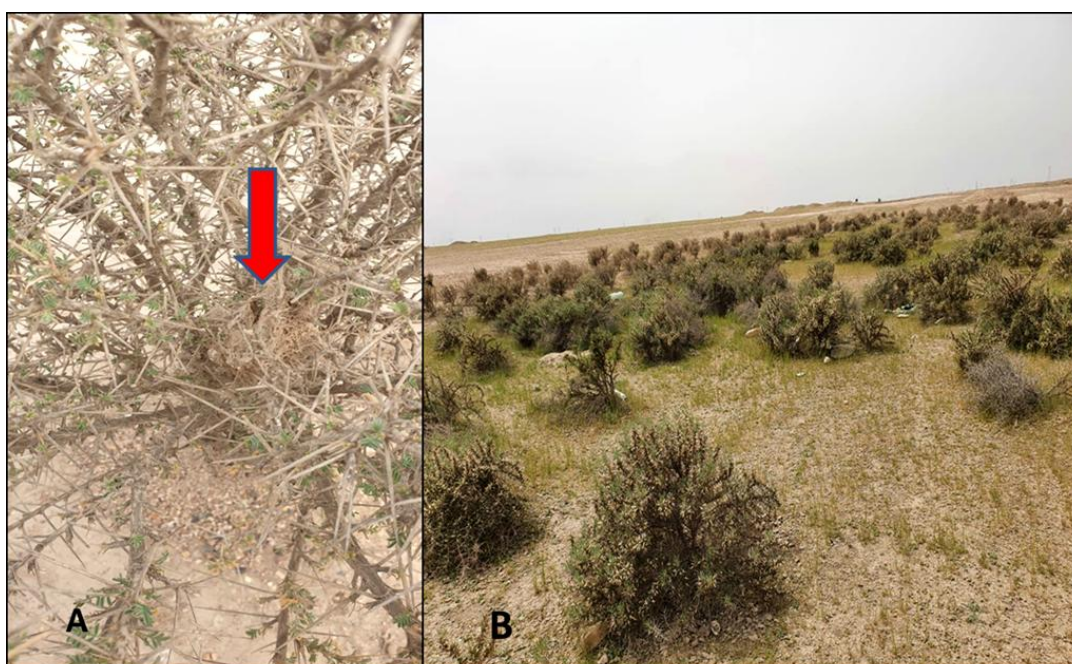


Fig. 3. A. *Astragalus* plant and the web of *Stegodyphus lineatus* inside it. B. Habitat of *Stegodyphus lineatus* at Basrah desert south of Iraq.

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