

***Thomisus citrinellus* Simon 1875 is a new record (Araneae: Thomisidae) for spider fauna of Iraq**

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ABSTRACT: A thomisid spider species, *Thomisus citrinellus* Simon 1875 is recorded for the first time in Iraq. Photographs of habitus and genitalia of the species are presented. Descriptions and localities of species are also given.

Key Words: *Thomisus citrinellus* Simon 1875, New Record, Spider Fauna, Iraq.

Irak Örümcek Faunası için Yeni Bir Örümcek kaydı: *Thomisus citrinellus* Simon 1875 (Araneae: Thomisidae)

ÖZET: Bir Yengeç Örümceği olan *Thomisus citrinellus* Simon 1875 türü Irak Örümcek Faunası için ilk kez kaydedilmiştir. Türe ait habitus ve genitalya fotoğrafları sunulmuştur. Deskripsiyonu ve lokaliteler ayrıca çalışmada verilmiştir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: *Thomisus citrinellus* Simon 1875, Yeni Kayıt, Örümcek Faunası, Irak.

INTRODUCTION

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 & van Harten, 2007). They are commonly found on flowers and usually coloured in white, yellow and pink. Until now, only one species of this genus (*Thomisus unidentatus* Dippenaar-Schoeman & van Harten, 2007) has been recorded from Iraq (Seyyar et al. 2015).

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&Sherman, 2012).

Thomisidae is one of the largest spider families including 2153 species in 175 genera on 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). The aim of this paper is to present the thomisid spider *Thomisus citrinellus* Simon 1875 as a new record for the araneofauna of Iraq.

MATERIAL and METHODS

In this study, the specimens were obtained by manual collection and from under stones in surrounding of Basrah, Iraq (Fig.1). The specimens were preserved in 70% ethanol. Examined specimens are deposited in the OHUAM (Ömer Halisdemir 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 & van Harten (2007) were consulted.

RESULTS

Thomisus citrinellus Simon 1875

Synonyms

Thomisus spinifer O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1872a

Thomisus citrinellus Simon, 1875a

Thomisus spinigerus Mello-Leitão, 1929d

Thomisus spinifer Simon, 1932

Thomisus spinifer Lessert, 1936

Thomisus spinifer simoni Caporiacco, 1941b

Thomisus spinifer obscurior Caporiacco, 1941b

Thomisus spinifer Millot, 1942

Thomisus spinifer decoratus Millot, 1942

Thomisus spinifer maculitibiis Caporiacco, 1947d

Thomisus spinifer obscurior Caporiacco, 1949a

Thomisus spinifer simoni Caporiacco, 1949a

Thomisus spinifer Comellini, 1957

Thomisus citrinellus Levy, 1973

Material examined: Iraq, Basrah, Shat-Alarab (10♀♀) Abu-Alkhaseeb (11♀♀), Al-Hwair (4♀♀). All specimens were deposited in Ömer Halisdemir University Arachnology Museum (Fig.2).

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

World distribution: Mediterranean, Africa, Yemen, Socotra, Seychelles (World Spider Catalog, 2016) and Iraq (this study).

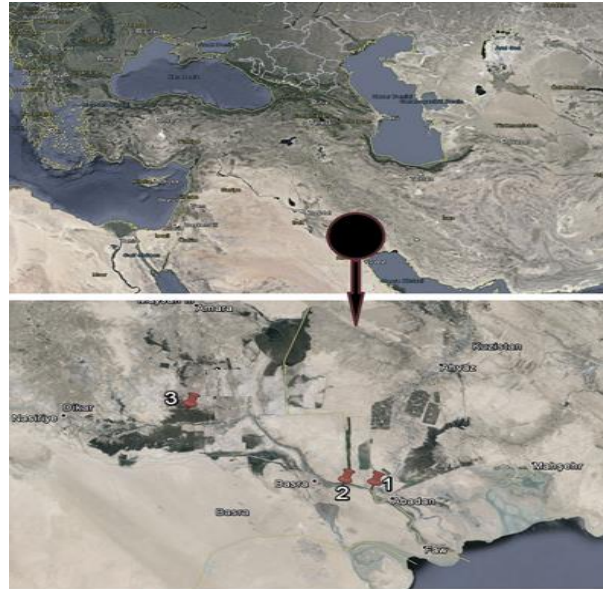


Figure. 1: Collecting localities of *Thomisus citrinellus* Simon 1875. 1- Shat-Alarab, 2- Abu-Alkhaseeb, 3- Al-Hwair



B



C

Figure 2: *Thomisus citrinellus* Simon 1875, A- General habitus of female; B- Epigyne; C- Vulva

DISCUSSION

There is not enough literature about the thomisid fauna of Iraq, because this fauna has not been studied. *Thomisus citrinellus* Simon 1875 is widespread throughout Africa, Saudi Arabia, Palestine, Yemen but no record of this species in Iraq. Adult females were collected in May- June. The recording of this species from Iraq widens its distribution to the Middle East.

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