

***Oecobius putus* O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1876 (Araneae: Oecobiidae) in Jordan**

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Abstract: *Oecobius putus* O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1876, a spider of the family Oecobiidae is recorded from the Dead Sea region in Jordan for the first time. One adult male and one adult female were collected in April 2024 in a resort at the Dead Sea region, Jordan at the lowest place on Earth (altitude -381 m). Its illustrations and measurements are presented below.

Keywords: Araneae, Oecobiidae, *Oecobius putus*, Jordan.

Introduction

Oecobiidae Blackwall, 1862 is a small family of 129 spider species in seven genera with the largest genus being *Oecobius* Lucas, 1846 which includes ninety-three species worldwide (World Spider Catalog, 2024).

Oecobius spiders are commonly known as the “dwarf round-headed” or “star-legged” spiders. These small sized cribellate araneomorph spiders are characterized by large anal tubercle, that consists of two segments with a double fringe of curved setae. They are usually found under small star-shaped mesh-webs, and some species are synanthropic (Jocqué and Dippenaar-Schoeman, 2006).

Oecobius putus O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1876 is mainly distributed across Africa and Asia in addition to North America (World Spider Catalog, 2024). It is a “synanthropic” spider that lives in close association with people and benefits from their surroundings, especially small insects.

Until now, oecobiid spiders are represented in Jordan only by two species of two genera, namely, *Oecobius cellariorum* (Dugès, 1836) and *Uroctea hashemitorum* Bosselaers,

1999. This record increases the confirmed number of the known spider species from Jordan to thirty-eight species of thirty-one genera and seventeen families (El-Hennawy, 2020, 2023, 2024).

Material and Methods

One adult male and one adult female were found together inside a small star-shaped mesh-web on a wall in April 2024 in a resort at the Dead Sea area in Jordan. Both specimens were preserved in 75% ethanol and deposited at the Arachnid Collection of Egypt (ACE).

The abbreviations used include: AL = abdomen length, CL = carapace length, CW = carapace width, TL = total length. All measurements are in millimeters (mm).

Results

Family **Oecobiidae** Blackwall, 1862

Genus ***Oecobius*** Lucas, 1846

Oecobius putus O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1876 Figures 1-9.

Material examined. 1♂, 1♀, Mövenpick Resort at the Dead Sea, Jordan (31°43'1.44" N, 35°35'14.73" E, elevation -381 m), 28 April 2024, inside a star-shaped mesh-web on a wall, leg. H.K. El-Hennawy [ACE.2024.04.28.AR.001-002.JOR].

Description

Octavius Pickard-Cambridge collected males and females of *Oecobius putus* from upper Egypt in 1864 and described all these spiders as a new species in 1876 saying:

The legs have on the metatarsi and tarsi (of

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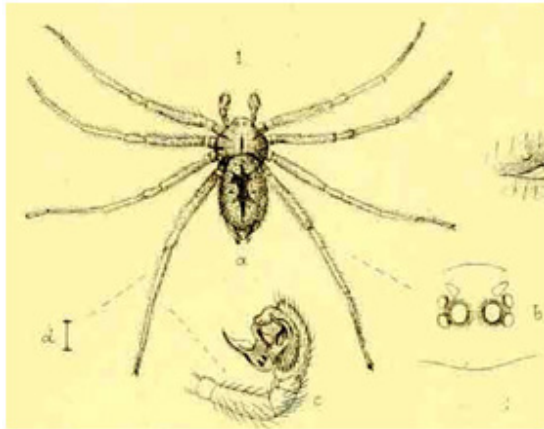


Figure 1. *Oecobius putus* O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1876 ♂ after (Pickard-Cambridge, 1876: Plate LVIII, fig.1.).



Figure 2. *Oecobius putus* O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1876 habitus, dorsal view (♂).



Figures 3. *Oecobius putus* O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1876 habitus, dorsal view (♀).



Figures 4. *Oecobius putus* O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1876. ♂, cephalothorax, dorsal view.



Figures 5. *Oecobius putus* O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1876. ♀, anal tubercle, ventral view.



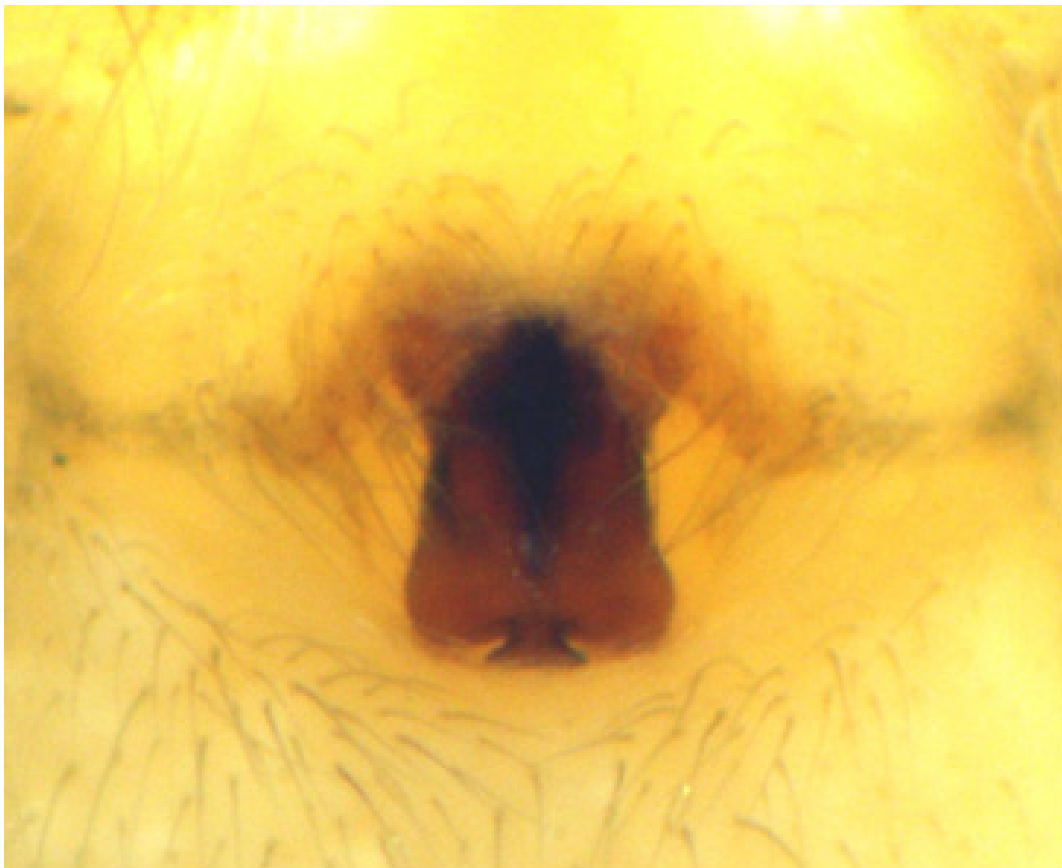
Figures 6. *Oecobius putus* O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1876 ♂, Pedipalp. prolateral view.



Figures 7. *Oecobius putus* O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1876 ♂, Pedipalp. retrolateral view.



Figures 8. *Oecobius putus* O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1876 ♀. Abdomen, ventral view.



Figures 9. *Oecobius putus* O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1876 ♀. Epigynum, ventral view.

the fourth pair at least) several distinct and tolerably strong prominent spines. The eyes are not so large. The interval between those of the central pair (which are the largest of the eight) is equal to an eye's diameter; and the two posterior flattened angular eyes are much smaller. The armature also of all the femora is of a much more spinous character. The abdomen is more thickly covered with white cretaceous spots; and the cruciform marking on the upper side is better defined, though of a similar character. The palpi are thickly furnished with fine pale hairs. (Pickard-Cambridge, 1876) He also illustrated the male of this species in addition to its palpal organ (Figure 1).

For the description of *Oecobius putus* and the illustrations of both the male and female genitalia see (Pickard-Cambridge, 1876; Hassan, 1953; Kritscher, 1966; Shear, 1970; Baum, 1972; Wunderlich, 1995; Zamani *et al.*, 2016; Dippenaar-Schoeman *et al.*, 2022; Dippenaar-Schoeman *et al.*, 2021; Marusik and Zonstein, 2024).

Measurements: ♂ TL 2.4, CL 0.9, CW 1.0, AL 1.7; ♀ TL 3.1, CL 1.0, CW 1.0, AL 2.2.

Habitus: Male (Figure 2) and female (Figure 3). Male cephalothorax and eyes (Figure 4). Female anal tubercle (Figure 5). Genitalia: Male Pedipalp (Figures 6-7). Female Epigynum (Figures 8-9).

The studied spiders were found at an area of a low elevation “altitude -381 m” at the lowest place on Earth, on the contrary of *Euophrys everestensis* Wanless, 1975 and *Euophrys omnisuperstes* Wanless, 1975, of the family Salticidae, which inhabit areas of high altitudes in the Himalayas (Wanless, 1975) at elevations ranging between 16,500 and 19,500 ft. A survey of the spiders living in this region is recommended to identify the spider species living at the same conditions.

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