

On *Poecilochroa variana*, recently collected in Turkey for the first time (Araneae: Gnaphosidae)

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Abstract. The spider *Poecilochroa variana* is recorded in Turkey for the first time. The characteristic features are described and illustrated, and data on ecology and distribution are given. All specimens were collected from north-east Turkey.

Kurzfassung. Die Spinne *Poecilochroa variana* wurde in der Türkei erstmals festgestellt. Die charakteristischen Merkmale werden beschrieben und abgebildet, und Daten zur Ökologie und Verbreitung werden mitgeteilt. Alle Exemplare stammen aus dem Nordosten der Türkei.

Key words. New record, spider, Anatolia, Turkey, Middle East.

Introduction

About 45 species of spiders of the genus *Poecilochroa* Westring, 1874 have been described from the Palaearctic region (PLATNICK 2002). The type species *Poecilochroa variana* (C. L. Koch, 1839) is a European species, first described from Germany and subsequently found in Russia and Central Asia (BONNET 1958, PLATNICK 1989). So far over 60 species of Gnaphosidae have been recorded in Turkey, but no member of the genus *Poecilochroa* (BAYRAM 2002). In adjacent countries, *P. ochridana* Drensky, 1929, *P. conspicua* (L. Koch, 1866) and *P. albomaculata* (Lucas, 1846) have been recorded from the Balkans; *P. conspicua* from Caucasia; *P. senilis* (O. P. Cambridge, 1872) and *P. campestrata* (O. P. Cambridge, 1874) from Syria (TYSCHCHENKO 1971, BRIGNOLI 1983, DELSHEV & BLAGOEV 2001). We can now add *Poecilochroa variana* as a species new to the spider fauna of Turkey, and we describe some of the characteristic features of the species.

Poecilochroa variana (C. L. Koch, 1839)

Description.— Prosoma narrow at the front, longer than wide. Dorsal part clothed with white hairs, this band more distinctive in female. Back part of furrow and longitudino-lateral bands reddish-brown. In male, prosoma brown, and with radial stripes of reddish-brown colour; the second row straight, the first recurved. The ocular area, chelicerae, maxilla and labium darker than the other parts of prosoma. Labium rather long, maxilla slightly widened at the end. Sternum yellowish-brown, dark only on the margin. Legs I and II of similar size. Leg IV slightly longer than Legs I and II. Femora I, II, III and IV clearly black. Tarsi, metatarsi and tibia lighter than the rest of the leg segments.

Anterior part of the opisthosoma bears black, long and thick hairs, the rest covered with black and short hairs. There is a clear pattern of white hairs on the opisthosoma. White hairs