



A new species of jumping spider of the genus *Opisthoncus* L. Koch, 1880 (Araneae: Salticidae) from southeastern Australia, with a redescription of *O. sexmaculatus* (C.L. Koch, 1846) based on new material

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Abstract

Opisthoncus mileshendyi sp. nov. is newly described from Tasmania and Victoria (Australia). Along with this previously undescribed species of *Opisthoncus*, this paper also provides a redescription of the female and the first description of the male of *O. sexmaculatus* (C.L. Koch, 1846).

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Introduction

Jumping spiders are one of the two most diverse spider families with over 6,975 species (World Spider Catalog 2026), 514 of which have been described from Australia (Australian Faunal Directory 2026). *Opisthoncus* L. Koch, 1880 is one of 91 described salticid genera occurring in Australia (Australian Faunal Directory 2026). Characteristically, males of this genus possess enlarged chelicerae and large fused teeth; females are not so dramatically modified. A common feature of the genus is the small cephalic protuberance located centrally in a dark band between the posterior lateral eyes (Gardzińska & Żabka 2013). Many of the species have a double row of dark patches along the dorsal surface of the abdomen as observed in the two species treated here. Very little is known of their biology or mating behaviour.

The genus *Opisthoncus* includes 32 described species (World Spider Catalog 2026), 25 of them re-described by Gardzińska & Żabka (2013). Species of *Opisthoncus* have been reported from Australia (continent-wide), New Guinea and on Lord Howe Island, but not on Norfolk, Christmas or the Cocos Keeling Islands. Since 1920, no new species have been described. However, Żabka (1991) established two new replacement names for species whose original names were preoccupied homonyms: *O. keyserlingi* Żabka 1991 and *O. kochi* Żabka 1991. Gardzińska and Żabka (2013), stated: “The review of several modern collections (Australian Museum, Sydney; Queensland Museum, Brisbane; Australian National Insect Collection, Canberra; Western Australian Museum, Perth) allows to estimate the real number of species as being close to one hundred in Australia alone (Żabka unpubl.).”

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Comparison with described species revealed *O. mileshendyi* sp. nov. to be most similar to *O. sexmaculatus* (C.L. Koch, 1846) (Figs 2, 5), as indicated from the double row of dark patches along the abdomen. Other members of the genus often feature dark patches, but not as pronounced as these two species treated here. This paper provides a description of this new species, which is recorded from Tasmania and Victoria, and a re-description of *O. sexmaculatus* based on specimens from Western Australia, with notes on the diagnosis of the two species.

Methods

The specimens of the new species were collected by the beating of tree branches. After photographing live spiders, they were euthanased by freezing, then preserved in 80% ethanol. Prior to examination, dissected female genitalia were cleared in lactic acid for 24 hours at room temperature.

Habitus photographs of *O. mileshendyi* sp. nov. were taken using an Olympus TG6 camera utilising inbuilt image stacking. Habitus photos of *O. sexmaculatus* were taken with a Canon EOS R5 camera and a Canon 100 mm rf speedlight macro lens.

Digital images were taken with a Leica EZ4 W microscope with inbuilt camera linked to an Apple Macbook Pro. Multiple images were taken on different focal planes and combined using Photoshop CS5 software.

Specimens of *O. mileshendyi* sp. nov. are deposited in the collection of the Queen Victoria Museum, Launceston, Tasmania, while specimens of *O. sexmaculatus* are held at the Western Australian Museum and the holotype female at the Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin.

Measurements are given in millimetres.

Abbreviations used in the text are as follows: AEW, anterior eye row width; AG, accessory gland; AL, abdomen length; ALE, anterior lateral eyes; AME, anterior median eyes; AW, abdomen width; C, conductor; CH, cephalothorax height; CL, cephalothorax length; CO, copulatory opening; CW, cephalothorax width; E, embolus; EFL, eye field length; FD, fertilisation duct; ID, intermediate part of insemination duct; L1, leg 1; met, metatarsal; MD, membranous part of insemination duct; N, epigynal notch; OQ, ocular quadrangle; PEW, posterior eye row width; pl, prolateral; PLE, posterior lateral eyes; pv, proventral; QVM, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Launceston, Tasmania; RTA, retrolateral tibial apophysis; rv, retroventral; S, spermatheca; SD, sperm duct; Sp, spermophor; T, tegulum; tib, tibia; v, ventral; WAM, Western Australian Museum; ZMB, Zoologisches Museum in Berlin.

Taxonomy

Family Salticidae

Genus *Opisthoncus* L. Koch, 1880

Opisthoncus mileshendyi sp. nov.

Figures 1–4

<https://zoobank.org/NomenclaturalActs/6C38EE49-46DB-4F5F-AFC7-182499CB6364>

Holotype

Australia: *Tasmania*: ♀, Churchill Park, Invermay, Launceston (-41.41545, 147.14005), 6 June 2024, beating, J. C. Douglas (QVM:2024:13:0228).

Paratype

Australia: *Tasmania*: 1 ♂, same data as holotype except 21 February 2023 (QVM:2024:13:0216).

Diagnosis

Carapace with a small cephalic protuberance between PLE. Chelicerae in males inclined forward. Female chelicerae with four teeth on retromargin (Fig. 3E). Male chelicerae with ventral spur and large conical dorsal spur (Fig. 4A, B). Abdomen in both sexes with four pairs of black patches dorsally confined to the posterior portion, curving elliptically longitudinally, with a gap the width of a patch anteriorly to almost touching distally (Fig. 2A, C), which differs from *O. sexmaculatus* in that the patches are sharper edged and separated by white lines. Copulatory openings wide, orientated anteriorly, insemination ducts moderately long with internal structures (as in Fig. 3F, G).

The epigyne of the female of this new species resembles *O. polyphemus* (L. Koch, 1867) in the general structure, but it can be distinguished by the larger copulatory openings, more elongate spermathecae, and the presence of four teeth on the cheliceral retromargin (vs. two in *O. polyphemus*; see Gardzińska & Żabka 2013, fig. 24F). Males are similar to *O. confinis* L. Koch, 1881 in the embolus arising from the ~6 o'clock position, this new species can most easily be distinguished by the presence of a large ventral spur on the chelicerae (vs. absent in *O. confinis*).

In life the new species appears as similar to *O. sexmaculatus* (see C.L. Koch 1846; Gardzińska & Żabka 2013; Figs 2, 5), as indicated by the double row of dark patches longitudinally on the dorsum. However, *O. sexmaculatus* is predominantly yellow in colour, has six patches compared to eight for the new species. The shape of the sternum is more elongated compared to the more oval shape of both male and female. The cheliceral dentition on the female differs with four retrolateral teeth on *O. mileshendyi* sp. nov. compared to a fissident tooth on *O. sexmaculatus*. The male of *O. mileshendyi* sp. nov. has a large retrolateral spur which *O. sexmaculatus* does not.

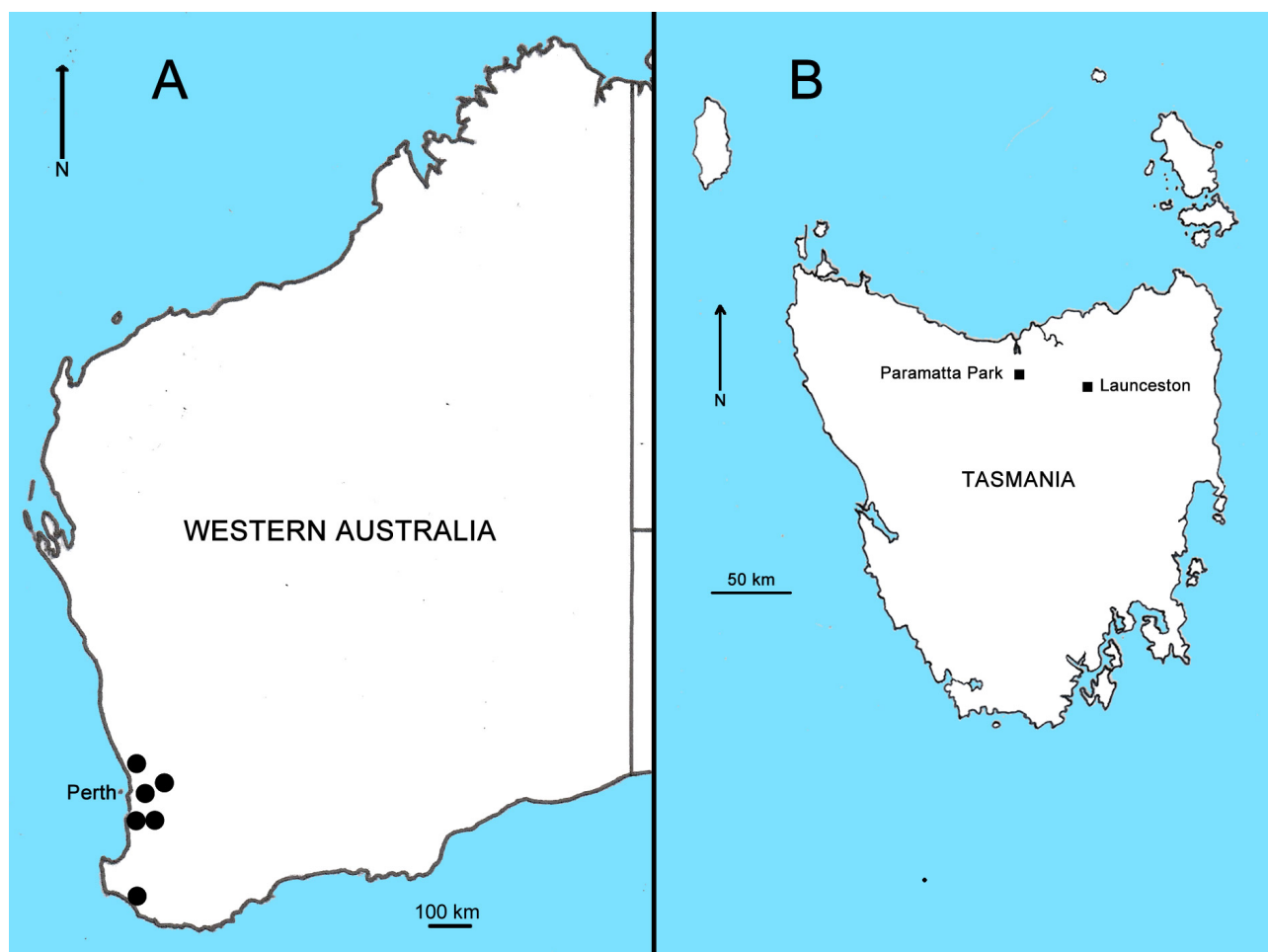


Figure 1. A, Known distribution records of *Opisthoncus sexmaculatus* (C.L. Koch, 1846) in Western Australia, confirmed with reference to specimen morphology. B, Known distribution records of *Opisthoncus mileshendyi* sp. nov. in Tasmania. Specimens are also known from Victoria.

Structure of the epigyne differs between the two species in that the copulatory opening of *O. mileshendyi* sp. nov. is larger and more open, the spermathecae are elongated compared to circular in *O. sexmaculatus* and more separated and the insemination duct is not as convoluted as in *O. sexmaculatus*. Palps of *O. sexmaculatus* are narrower, the tibia is three times longer and the length of the retrolateral apophysis is twice that of *O. mileshendyi* sp. nov.

Opisthoncus mileshendyi is distinguished from all other named congeners by the distinctive dorsum markings on the abdomen, namely eight black patches in two elliptical longitudinal rows separated by a narrow white line between each patch.

Description

Holotype female (Figs 2A, B, 3) QVM:2024:13:0228: 4.5 mm long.

Carapace: Round (CW=70% of CL) and (CH=48% of CL), reddish-brown, covered with recumbent, pale yellow setae. AME twice diameter of ALE and more separated from them than from each other. The OQ is nearly twice as wide as long and slightly wider posteriorly. Surrounds of PLE black with dark brown band extending between

PLE and black, cephalic protuberance near foveal region. Clypeus wide, brown, covered with numerous pallid long hairs. Chelicerae (Fig. 3E) dark brown, retro-margin with four teeth of equal size, promargin with two teeth, distal tooth smallest. Labium (Fig. 3B) dark brown with lighter anterior margins. Maxillae light brown with black margins. Sternum (Fig. 3A) ovate, cream coloured, darker marginally.

Abdomen: Elongate, dorsum light brown clothed in pale yellow setae; with four paired dark patches, longitudinally each patch is separated by a distance less than its own width, posterior-most patch smallest (Fig. 2A); white median band separating the two longitudinal rows of patches. Venter light grey, white laterally with central elongate stripes of small grey dots. Spinnerets light brown. Epigyne (Fig. 3C, F, G) with large copulatory openings oriented mid-anteriorly, spermathecae elongated longitudinally, twice its width, separated by two thirds their width, insemination ducts moderately long and looped before entering spermathecae, fertilisation ducts arise from apex of spermathecae.

Legs: Legs (Fig. 3D) light yellow. Spine notation: met1: v2-2, tib1: pv1-1-1, rv1-1-1, pl0-0-1.

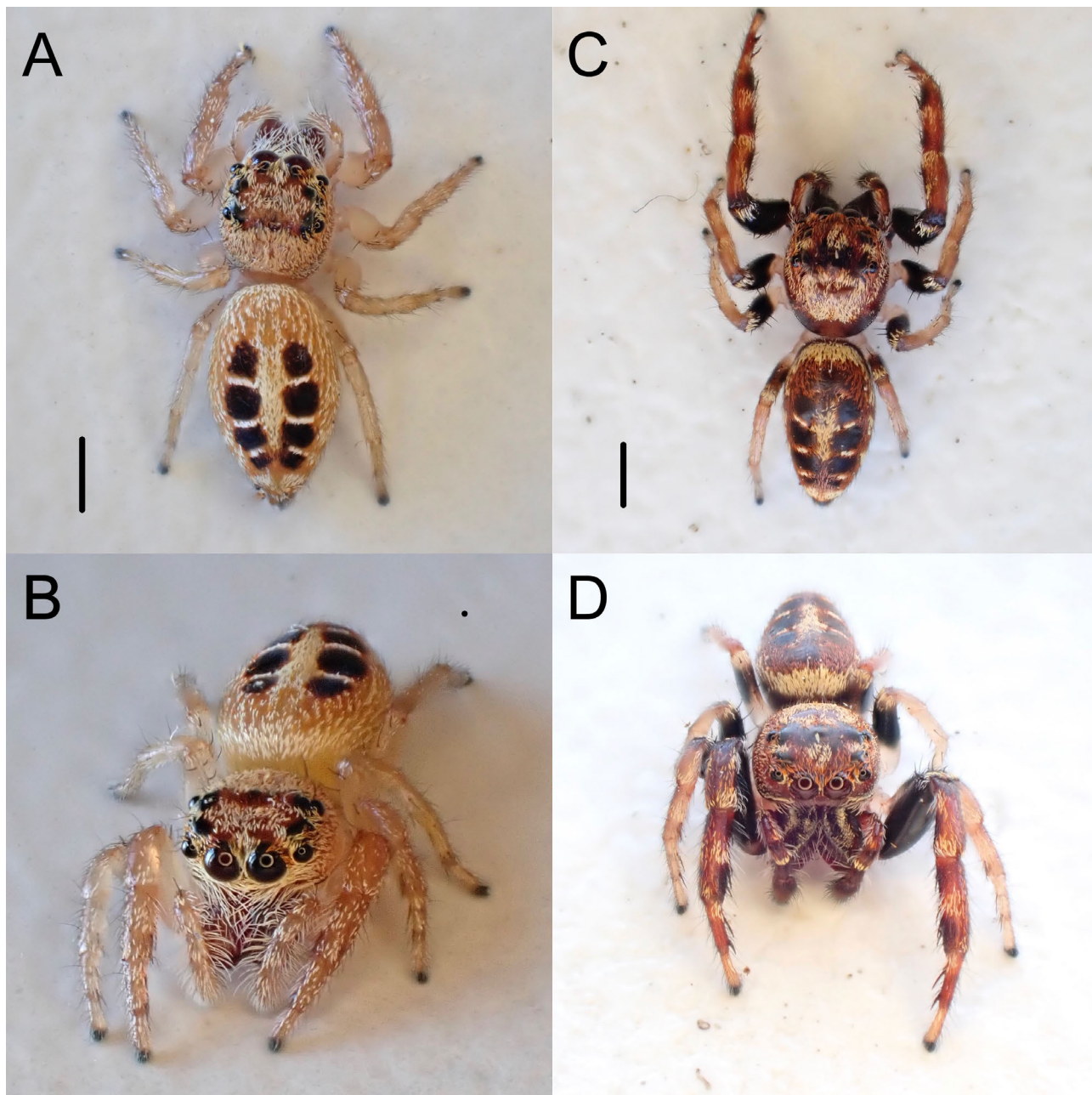


Figure 2. *Opisthoncus mileshendyi* sp. nov., habitus images: A, B, female (dorsal and frontal views); C, D, male (dorsal and frontal views). Scale bars: 1.0 mm.

Dimensions: CL 2.13, CW 1.62, CH 1.08, AL 2.56, AW 1.94, AEW 1.33, PEW 1.43, EFL 1.00, L1 3.81(1.07+0.77+0.96+0.47+0.54).

Paratype male (Figs 2C, D, 4) QVM:2024:13:0216: 5.0 mm long.

Carapace: Round, (CW=77% of CL, CH=72% of CL), red-dish-brown, covered with recumbent, pale yellow setae. AME twice diameter of ALE and more separated from them than from each other. The OQ is nearly twice as wide as long and slightly wider posteriorly. Surrounds of eyes black. Dark brown band extending between PLE with black, cephalic protuberance near foveal region. Clypeus wide, but narrow, devoid of setae except for narrow band of setae laterally. Chelicerae dark brown.

Retromargin two teeth, proximal tooth smallest. Promargin similar, but spaced further apart. Single spurs distally on ventral and dorsal surfaces of basal segment. Labium brown with lighter anterior margins. Maxillae light brown with black margins. Sternum oval, cream coloured, darker marginally.

Abdomen: Elongate, dorsum yellow clothed in brown setae, with four paired dark patches, longitudinally each patch is separated by a distance less than its own width, posterior-most patch smallest (Fig. 2A); yellow median band separating the two longitudinal rows of patches (Fig. 2C). Venter black, whitish sides with central elongate stripes of small orange dots. Spinnerets black.

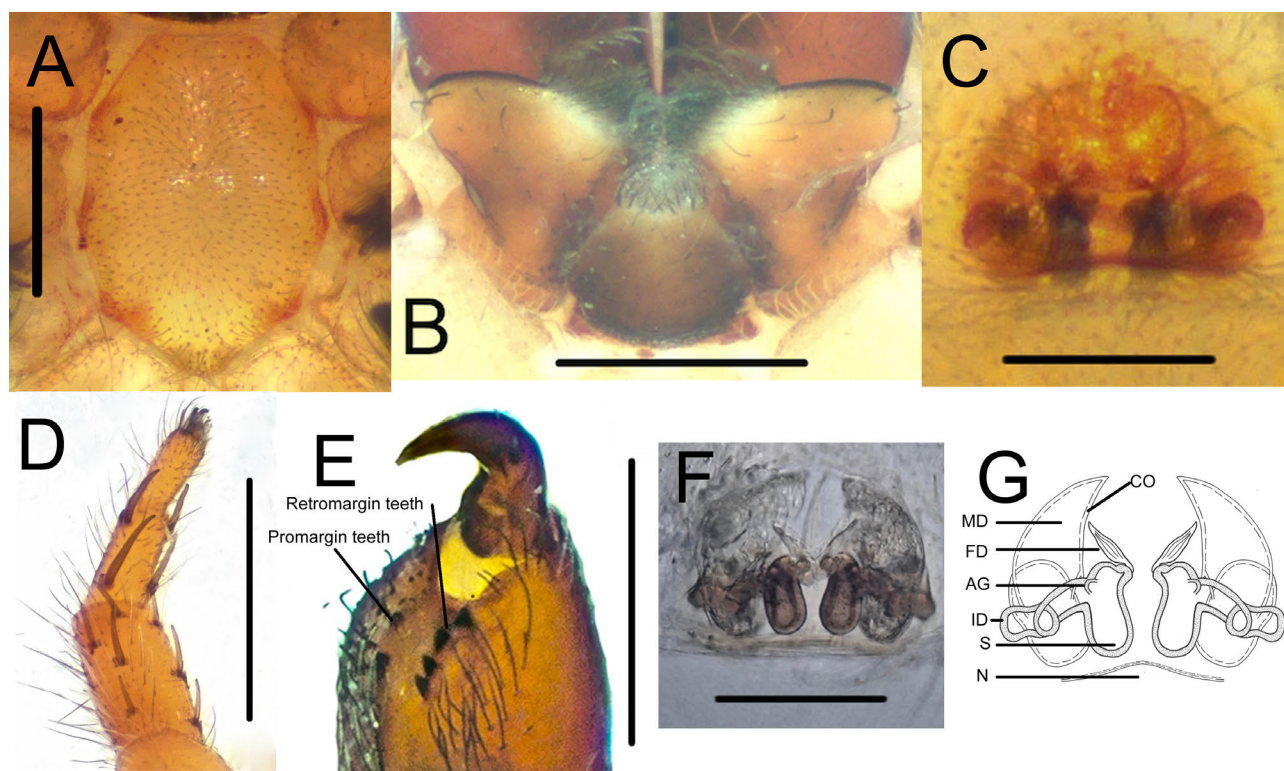


Figure 3. *Opisthoncus mileshendyi* sp. nov., female holotype: A, sternum, ventral view; B, maxillae and labium, ventral view; C, epigyne, ventral view; D, distal leg I, showing spines on tibia and metatarsus; E, distal chelicera, showing teeth; F, epigyne, dorsal view; G, illustrated epigyne, dorsal view, showing internal structures. Scale bars: 0.5 mm (A, B, E); 0.25 mm (C, F); 1.0 mm (D). AG, accessory gland; CO, copulatory opening; FD, fertilisation duct; ID, intermediate part of insemination duct; MD, membranous part of insemination duct; N, epigynal notch; S, spermathecae.

Legs: Legs I and II dark brown with black and yellowish bands, femora black. Legs III and IV light brown, femora light brown, black distally. Spine notation: met1: v2-2, tib1: pv1-1-1, rv1-1-1, pl0-0-1. Palpal organ (Fig. 4C) with tegulum moderately narrow, elliptic, embolus arising prolaterally at 6 o'clock terminating at apex of cymbium, spermophor not meandering, sperm duct arises at the anterior prolateral corner of the tegulum. Tibia about 30% of cymbium length. Retrolateral tibial apophysis short and pointed.

Dimensions: CL 2.29, CW 1.76, CH 1.04, AL 2.83, AW 1.54, AEW 1.30, PEW 1.34, EFL 0.92, L1 6.39 (1.75+1.30+1.50+1.00+0.74).

Other material examined

Australia: *Tasmania*: 1 ♂, 2 ♀, Churchill Park, Invermay, Launceston (-41.41545, 147.14005), 29 December 2022, J. Douglas (QVM:2022:13:0473–0475); 2 ♂, 2 ♀, same data except 21 February 2023 (QVM:2024:13:0214, 0215, 0217, 0218); 1 ♂, same data except 13 May 2023 (QVM:2024:13:0219); 2 ♂, same data except 19 April 2024 (QVM:2024:13:0221, 0222); 1 ♂, 3 ♀, same data except 27 April 2024 (QVM:2024:13:0223–0226); 2 ♀, same data except 6 June 2024 QVM:2024:13:0227, 0229); 1 ♀, Paramatta Park (-41.33025, 146.5302), 6 January 2024, J. Douglas (QVM:2024:13:0220).

Australia: *Victoria*: 1 ♀, Balwyn (-37.8075, 145.098889), 6 January 1982, M.S. Harvey (WAM T165468).

Distribution

The specimens of the new species were collected in Churchill Park, Invermay, Launceston, northern Tasmania. Specimens were only found on one tree in the parkland over an 18 month period, notwithstanding extensive searching elsewhere within the park. Subsequently, another specimen was found at a roadside stop at Parramatta Park, 79 kilometres to the north-west of Launceston. No other specimens have been recorded from Tasmania. One specimen had been recorded from Victoria but incorrectly identified. Despite intense sampling of spiders around Tasmania conducted over the last 10 years, no other specimens of *O. mileshendyi* sp. nov. have been collected that I am aware of.

Biology

Specimens of the new species were collected from the foliage of a blackwood tree (*Acacia melanoxylon*) alongside several other invertebrate species, including crab spiders (Thomisidae), sac spiders (Clubionidae), numerous small cockroach nymphs (Blattidae) and small caterpillars. The cockroaches are numerous and being soft bodied, likely represent suitable prey.

Etymology

The species epithet is a patronym honouring Miles Hendy, currently a 16 year old student in Hobart who has demonstrated a keen interest in spiders. He has

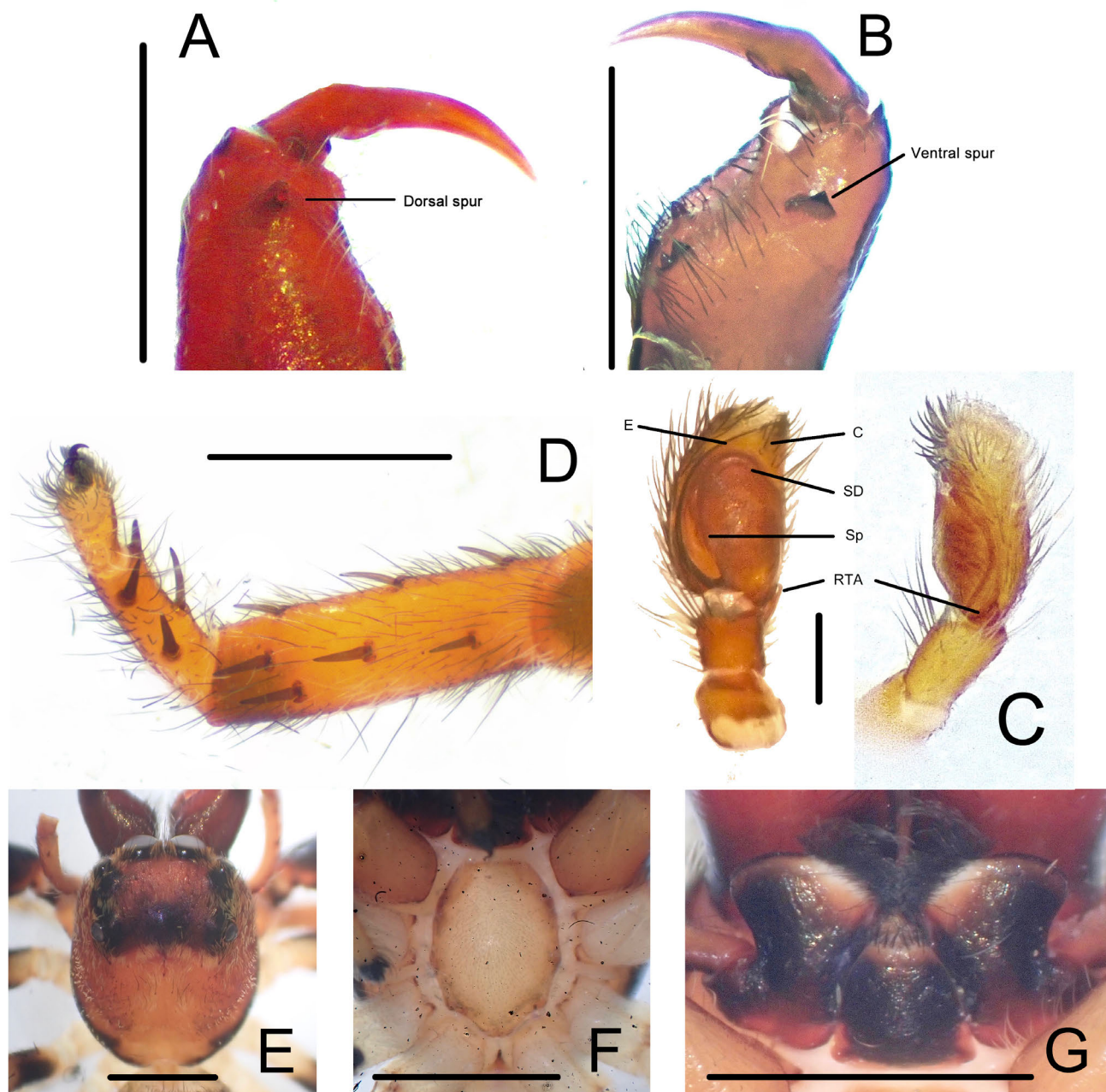


Figure 4. *Opisthoncus mileshendyi* sp. nov., male paratype: A, distal chelicera, dorsal view; B, distal chelicera, ventral view; C, palp, ventral and retrolateral views; D, distal leg I, showing spines on tibia and metatarsus; E, carapace, dorsal view; F, sternum, ventral view; G, maxillae and labium, ventral view. Scale bars: 1.0 mm (A, B, D, E, F, G); 0.25 mm (C). C, conductor; E, embolus; RTA, retrolateral tibial apophysis; SD, sperm duct; Sp, spermophor.

assisted in a number of field exercises collecting spiders for the QVM collection and assisted in laboratory work identifying spiders. His name for this spider has been chosen as an encouragement to other young science enthusiasts who are looking at a career in the natural sciences.

Remarks

O. versimilis G.W. Peckham & E.G. Peckham, 1901 is described from Victoria, being a location where *O. mileshendyi* sp. nov. also occurs, the species needed to be eliminated as a potential synonym. Attempts were made to locate the specimens described by Peckham & Peckham (1901) at the Milwaukee Public Museum,

Wisconsin and at the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Massachusetts. Neither of these institutions were able to locate the specimens among the other Peckham & Peckham collections which they held. From the description provided by Peckham & Peckham (1901), it is obvious that the abdomen of the specimens they described do not compare to *O. mileshendyi* as indicated as there are only two pairs of dark spots mentioned, compared with four pairs on *O. mileshendyi* sp. nov. There is also no mention of a white region down the middle of the abdomen covered with a network of brown lines, nor a brown cross on the front part. The description by Peckham & Peckham (1901), which does not include any illustration, could be consid-

ered a *nomen dubium* when further *Opisthoncus* species are described from Victoria considering the holotype of *O. verisimilis* could not be located (Julia Colby and Ligia Benavides, pers. comms.) and the original description by Peckham & Peckham (1901) is of unsatisfactory quality for a positive identification.

***Opisthoncus sexmaculatus* (C. L. Koch, 1846)**

Figures 1, 5–7

<https://zoobank.org/NomenclaturalActs/E9A09D76-9B37-4132-BE64-88FCD5CA3195>

Plexippus sexmaculatus C.L. Koch, 1846: 119, fig. 1169.

Gangus sexmaculatus (C.L. Koch): Simon, 1903: 700.

Opisthoncus sexmaculatus (C.L. Koch): Žabka, 1991: 47; Gardzińska & Žabka: 442, fig. 28A–D.

Holotype

Australia: *Western Australia*: ♀, "Nov. Holland. Occ.", early 1840s, L. Preiss (ZMB_Ararch_1733). Images supplied by staff at ZMB.

Diagnosis

Carapace with a small cephalic protuberance between PLE. Chelicerae in males inclined forward. Female chelicerae with bicuspid fissident tooth retrolaterally and three small teeth prolaterally (Fig. 6E). Male chelicerae with two teeth widely spaced on retromargin and a large dorsal spur (Fig. 7A). Male and female abdomen in both sexes dorsally with three pairs of black patches longitudinally confined to the posterior portion (Fig. 5A, B), whereas in *O. mileshendyi* sp. nov. (Fig. 2A, C) the dark patches are larger and more contiguous, and have distinct white lines between them. Copulatory openings relatively small compared to *O. mileshendyi* sp. nov. Insemination ducts moderately long extending well below the level of the spermathecae compared to ducts barely extending below the spermathecae in *O. mileshendyi* sp. nov., with internal structures as shown in Figure 6F, G. Spermathecae circular compared to distinctly ovoid in *O. mileshendyi* sp. nov. Male palpal tibia 60% of cymbium length compared to 30% in *O. mileshendyi* sp. nov.

Description

Female (Figs 5A, C, 6) WAM: T165470:

Carapace: Round, (CW=77% of CL) and moderately high (CH=51% of CL), Dark brown over eye field area, reddish brown distally, covered with recumbent yellow setae. AME twice diameter of ALE and more separated from them than from each other. The OQ is nearly three times as wide as long and slightly wider posteriorly. Black patches to posterior of AME. Dark brown band extending between PLE, with cephalic protuberance near foveal region. Clypeus wide, yellow, covered with numerous pallid long hairs and scales. Chelicerae dark brown, retromargin with one bicuspid tooth, promargin with three small teeth. Labium and maxillae (Fig. 6B)

dark brown with lighter anterior margins. Sternum (Fig. 6A) elongated oval, cream coloured with darker margin.

Abdomen: Elongate. The dorsal surface yellow with three paired dark patches, longitudinally each patch is separated by a distance less than its own width, anterior-most patch smallest (Fig. 5A), yellow median band separating the two longitudinal rows of patches. Anterior surface of abdomen has field of small speckled dark spots. Venter pale yellow with darker central stripe tapering distally to spinnerets. Spinnerets dark brown. Epigyne (Fig. 6C, F, G) with relatively small copulatory openings oriented mid-anteriorly, circular spermathecae separated by one third its width, insemination ducts moderately long, accessory glands rather invisible, fertilisation ducts arise from apex of spermathecae, insemination ducts looped before entering spermathecae.

Legs: Legs dark yellow. Spine notation: met1: v2-2, tib1: pv1-1-1, rv1-1-1, pl0-0-1 (Fig. 6D).

Dimensions: CL 4.03, CW 3.12, CH 2.04, AL 4.49, AW 2.63, AEW 2.19, PEW 2.65, EFL 2.13, L1 7.96 (2.13+2.06+1.80+1.08+0.89).

Male (Figs 5B, 7) WAM: T165472:

Carapace: Trapezoidal and moderately high (CW=73% of CL. CH=56% of CL), reddish brown, covered with recumbent dark yellow setae. AME twice diameter of ALE and more separated from them than from each other. The OQ is greater than three times as wide as long and slightly wider posteriorly. Black patches distal of anterior median eyes. Cephalic protuberance on the centerline between PLE. Clypeus wide with long pale yellow setae. Chelicerae dark brown. Retromargin with two teeth spaced wide apart. Promargin with no teeth, but single large spur on dorsal distal surface of basal segment. Labium (Fig. 7E) brown with lighter anterior margin. Maxillae light brown with dark brown margins. Sternum (Fig. 7D) yellow, elongated, rounded anteriorly, tapered distally with distinct indentations bordering coxa of leg two.

Abdomen: Elongate, tapering posteriorly to a horseshoe-shaped flange which surrounds the tip of the abdomen, apart from the spinneret area (Figs 7F, G). The dorsal surface yellow with six distinct black patches in two rows distally and two lighter black markings anteriorly. Anterior surface has field of small dark dots. Long setae on distal portion of abdomen. Venter light brown with dark brown lateral stripes and dark brown central stripe. Spinnerets dark brown.

Legs: Leg I (Fig. 7H) yellow with black patch on proximal surface of metatarsi. Legs II, III and IV yellow. Spine notation: met1: v2-2, tib1: pv0-1-1, rv1-1-1, pl0-0-1. Palpal organ (Fig. 7C) tegulum ovoid, embolus long and arising prolaterally at 4 o'clock terminating at apex of cymbium, spermatophore narrow and not meandering, sperm duct arises at the anterior prolateral corner of the tegulum, tibia about 60% of cymbium length. Retrolat-

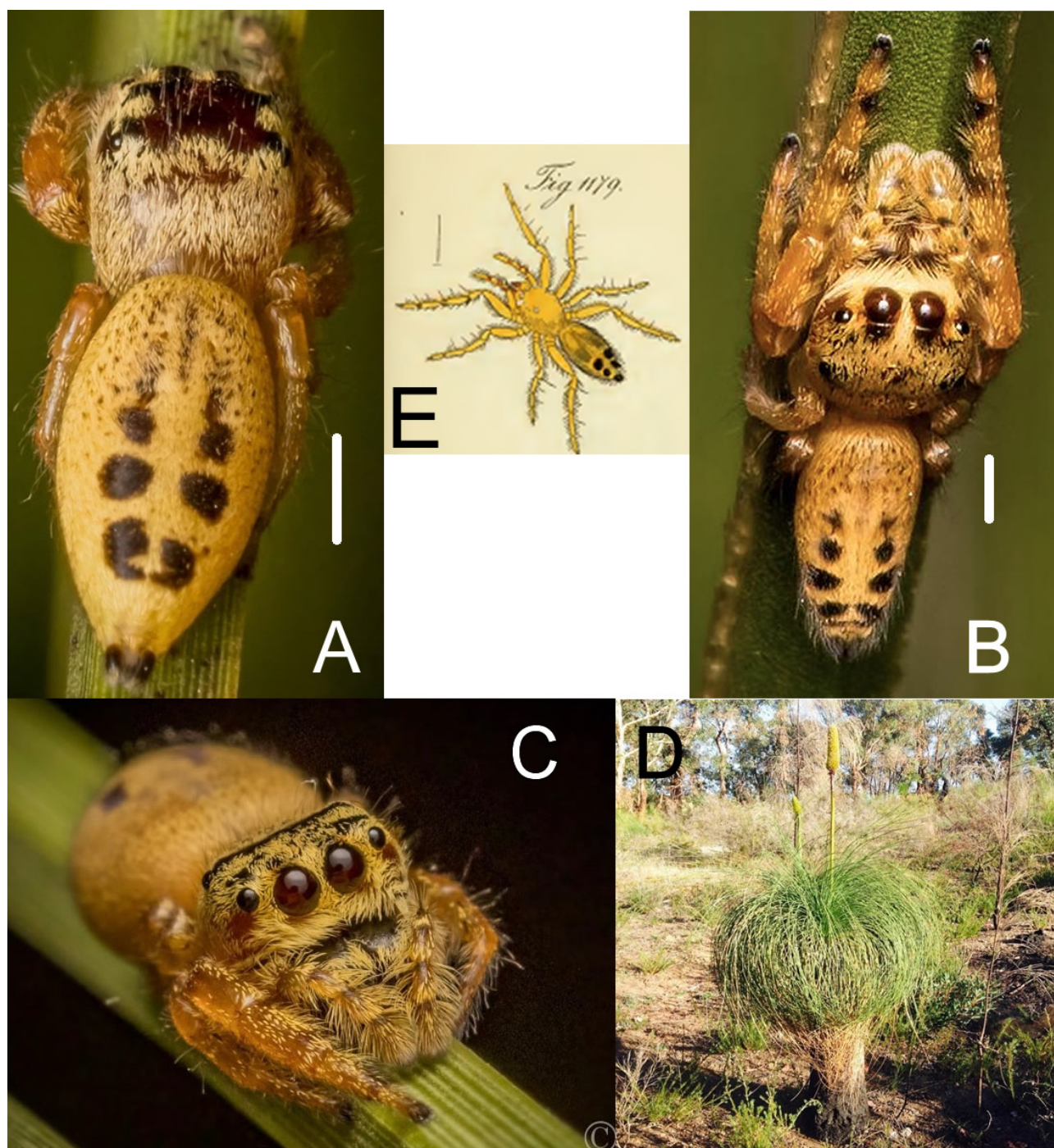


Figure 5. Western Australian specimens of *Opisthoncus sexmaculatus* (C.L. Koch, 1846): A, female habitus; B, male habitus; C, female, frontal view; D, Western Australian grass tree.; E, habitus drawing of holotype female specimen for comparison, reproduced with permission from C.L. Koch (1846). Scale bars: 1.0 mm. Images A–C by K. Taylor; D by R. Douglas.

eral tibial apophysis one third length of tegulum curved toward cymbium at distal end.

Dimensions: CL 4.40, CW 3.24, CH 2.45, AL 3.98, AW 2.25, AEW 2.59, PEW 2.66, EFL 1.46, L1 11.95 (2.92+2.56+3.39+1.80+1.28).

Other material examined

Australia: *Western Australia*: 1 ♀, Banganup Lake (-32.166667, 115.816667), 30 March 1990, M.S. Harvey, J.M. Waldo (WAM: T165470); 1 ♀, same data except 31 March 1990, A.E. De Jong (WAM: T165466); 1 ♀, Black

Point, D'Entrecasteaux National Park (-34.416667, 115.55), 28 December 1951, B.Y. Main (WAM: T165376); 1 juvenile, Darlington (-31.916667, 116.066667), 19 June 1949 (WAM: T165469); 1 ♂, North Bannister (-32.533333, 116.383333), 4 October 1987, M. Peterson, B. Coulson (WAM: T165472); 1 ♀, Tim's Thicket (-32.666667, 115.616667), 18 September 1988, G. Harold (WAM: T165467); 1 juvenile, Trigg (-31.866667, 115.75), 6 September 1988, D. Knowles (WAM: T165471); 1 ♂, 1 ♀, Trigg Reserve (-31.868889, 115.760278), 17 September

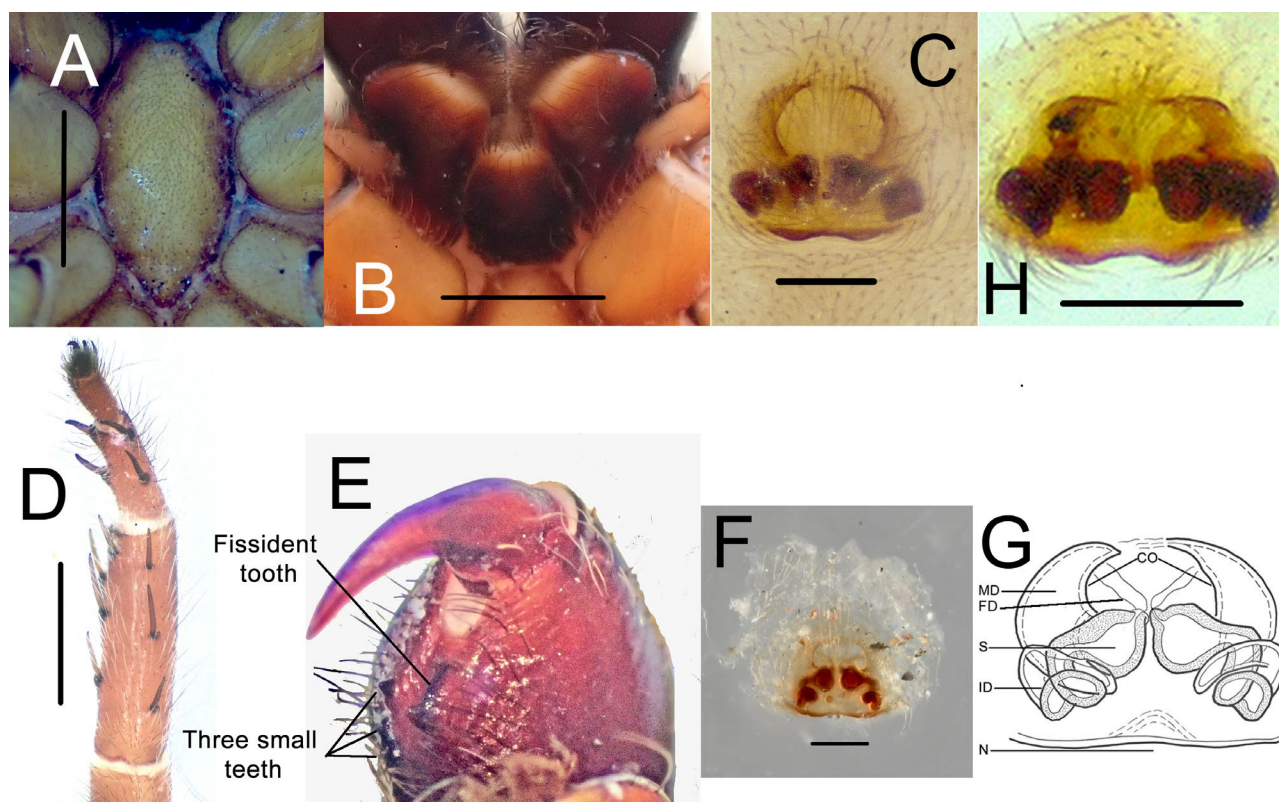


Figure 6. *Opisthoncus sexmaculatus* (C.L. Koch, 1846), female: A, sternum; B, maxillae and labium; C, epigyne, ventral view; D, distal leg I showing spines on tibia and metatarsus; E, distal chelicera showing teeth; F, epigyne of holotype, dorsal view; G: illustrated epigyne, dorsal view, showing internal structures; H, epigyne of Western Australian specimen for comparison. Scale bars: 0.5 mm (A, B), 0.25 mm (C, F); 1.0 mm (D). Image F by Oskar Werb. CO, copulatory opening; FD, fertilisation duct; ID, intermediate part of insemination duct; MD, membranous part of insemination duct; N, epigynal notch; S, spermathecae.

1988, M. Žabka, D. Knowles (WAM: T19314, 19315, T19316).

Distribution

The second species treated here, *O. sexmaculatus*, has been confirmed to occur in coastal Western Australia (Fig. 1A). In C.L. Koch's description of the type specimen, he only gives the location translated from German as "Fatherland: Western New Holland". The female holotype specimen is held at the Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin.

According to the Atlas of Living Australia (2026), *O. sexmaculatus* has been recorded 767 times, mostly from Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia, with one specimen recorded for Tasmania. However, none of the specimen identifications on ALA could be confirmed with reference to key diagnostic features, and based on the colour pattern shown in available observation images, many appear to belong to *O. mileshendyi* sp. nov., apart from the 4 specimens shown to be from Western Australia which are distinctly a different species, namely *O. sexmaculatus*.

Biology

The specimens of the *O. sexmaculatus* that were photographed live were found exclusively on the leaves of a grass tree (*Xanthorrhoea preissii*) (Fig. 5D), a Western

Australian native perennial flowering plant. Other preserved specimens have also been recorded on grass trees.

Remarks

Due to the 180 year interval between the holotype of *O. sexmaculatus* being described by C.L. Koch (1846) and the present day, it is necessary to determine that the female specimen re-described in this paper is in fact the same species as the holotype. The comparison between the epigynes (Figs 6F, H) indicates the form of the epigyne structures are compatible in shape. C.L. Koch (1846) translated from the German original describes the abdomen as, "below and in the sides rust-red yellow slightly hairy, on the back thick yellow hairy, with two rows of large black spots, the front rows spot longer than wide, the hinds somewhat squarely rounded" (Figs 5A, E). This description matches that of the present day specimen. Other photographic comparisons of chelicerae and leg spines are not possible due to the fragility of the holotype.

Disclosures

Nil

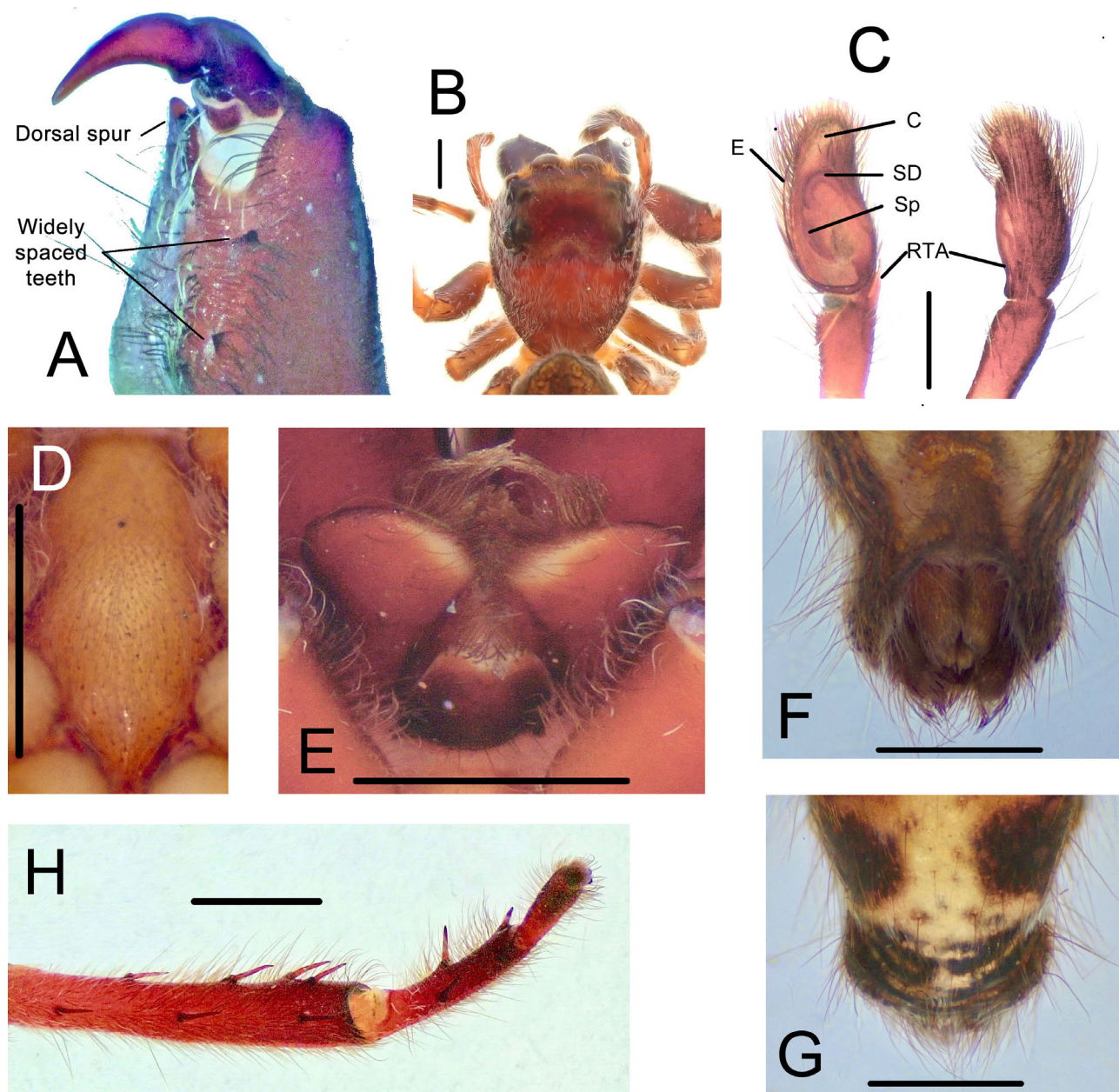


Figure 7. *Opisthoncus sexmaculatus* (C.L. Koch, 1846), male: A, distal chelicera, ventral view; B, carapace, dorsal view; C, palp, ventral and retrolateral views; D, sternum, ventral view; E, maxillae and labium, ventral views; F, spinnerets, ventral view; G, posterior end of abdomen showing flange, dorsal view; H, distal leg I, showing spines on tibia and metatarsus. Scale bars: 1.0 mm (B, D, F, G, H); 0.5 mm (E); 0.25 mm (C). C, conductor; E, embolus; RTA, retrolateral tibial apophysis; SD, sperm duct; Sp, spermphor.

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