

NOTA BREVE:

First records of *Psilochorus simoni* (Berland, 1911) (Araneae: Pholcidae) in the Iberian Peninsula

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First records of *Psilochorus simoni* (Berland, 1911) (Araneae: Pholcidae) in the Iberian Peninsula

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Abstract:

This short note reports for the first time the presence of the Pholcid *Psilochorus simoni* in the Iberian Peninsula, which extends its distribution in Southwestern Europe. The species is considered an unintentional introduction from America, with both synanthropic and cave-dwelling habits.

Keywords: Araneae, Pholcidae, *Psilochorus simoni*, first record, Iberian Peninsula, Spain, León.

Primeras citas de *Psilochorus simoni* (Berland, 1911) (Araneae: Pholcidae) en la Península Ibérica

Resumen:

En el presente trabajo se aportan las primeras citas de *Psilochorus simoni* en la Península Ibérica ampliando su área de distribución al Suroeste de Europa. La especie se considera una introducción involuntaria desde América de hábitos tanto sinantrópicos como cavernícolas.

Palabras clave: Araneae, Pholcidae, *Psilochorus simoni*, primera cita, Península Ibérica, España, León.

The genus *Psilochorus* Simon, 1893 currently includes 43 species, mainly distributed in the Nearctic and Neotropical ecozones (16 species in the USA, 1 in Canada, 19 species in Mexico, 5 in Brazil and 1 in Venezuela and Ecuador). One single species have been recorded in the Australasian region (1 doubtful species in New Guinea), while *Psilochorus simoni* (Berland, 1911) is the only species known in the Palearctic (Huber, 2009; Platnick, 2009; Slowik, 2009).

The genus has been considered American in origin. It has been suggested that *Psilochorus simoni* was unintentionally introduced to Europe through France (Berland, 1911; Locket *et al.*, 1974). The original description of the species was based on an adult male that was captured in a basement of the Comparative Anatomy laboratory at the Sorbonne, in Paris. This basement was contiguous to the Botany and Geology laboratories where multiple materials from many different geographical origins were stored. *P. simoni* could have travelled on any of them (Berland, 1911).

Many records have been subsequently reported in the Palearctic region, from Ireland to Iran (see below), following a dispersion pattern probably linked to human-mediated transport (Fürst & Blandenier, 1993). Interestingly, the only records reported from outside Eurasia are circumscribed to California and Oregon (USA), where the species was originally described under the junior synonymy *P. simplicior* Chamberlin & Ivie, 1942 (Slowik, 2009).

During a revision of the arachnological material kept at the collection of the Department of Biodiversity & Environmental Management of the University of León (Spain), three specimens of Pholcidae were located. After a detailed morphological study (shape, size and genitalia) and a comparison with the works of Hubert (1979) and Huber (1994), they proved to be two females and a male of *P. simoni*. The label data correspond with three places in the province of León (NW of Spain) located within a 50 kilometer radius around the city of León: Ambasaguas del Curueño (878 m, 42°42'N-5°22'W, 15-V-1986, 1 ♂, collector unknown), Fáfilas (823 m, 42°15'N-5°28'W, 28-XI-1984, 1 ♀, A. M. Llamas leg.), and León (843 m, 42°35'N-5°34'W, 28-IX-1989, 1 ♀, C. Garate leg; 21-IX-2009, 1 ♂, J. Benhadi leg.). This material is stored in the Arachnology Collection of the University of León. An additional record has been reported from Barcelona (41°24'N-2°09'E, 02-II-2002, 1 ♀, C. Ribera Almerje leg.) (Dr. Carles Ribera pers. com.).

Psilochorus simoni seems to prefer dark places, although it presents a wide ecological range for variables such as altitude, latitude, temperature and humidity (Bayram *et al.*, 2008; Huber, 1994; Fürst & Blandenier, 1993). *P. simoni* has been reported in both caves and domestic areas, which have led to some authors to con-

sider it both a troglophilic and a synanthropic species (Fürst & Blandenier, 1993).

Nowadays, *P. simoni* is widely spread all over Europe (Fig. 1). It has been reported in France (Berland, 1911), United Kingdom (Bristowe, 1933), Italy (Parenzan, 1953), Switzerland (Comellini, 1954), Denmark (Nordgaard, 1960), Poland (Dziabaszewski, 1967), Austria (Kritscher, 1969), Finland (Huhta, 1972), Norway (Klausen, 1972), Belgium (Fraiture, 1973), Germany (Moritz, 1973), The Netherlands (Voosen, 1983), Sweden (Jonsson, 1990), Hungary (Szinetár, 1992), Ireland (Nolan, 2002), Slovenia (Kostanjšek & Ramšak, 2005), Czech Republic (Ruzicka & Buchar, 2008), and entering Asia from the Middle East (Fig. 2) through Iran (Ghavam *et al.*, 2004) and Turkey (Bayram *et al.*, 2008).

The present records, first for the Iberian Peninsula, further extends the distribution of *P. simoni* in Southwestern Europe and represents an addition of a new genera and species to the checklist of Iberian spiders.

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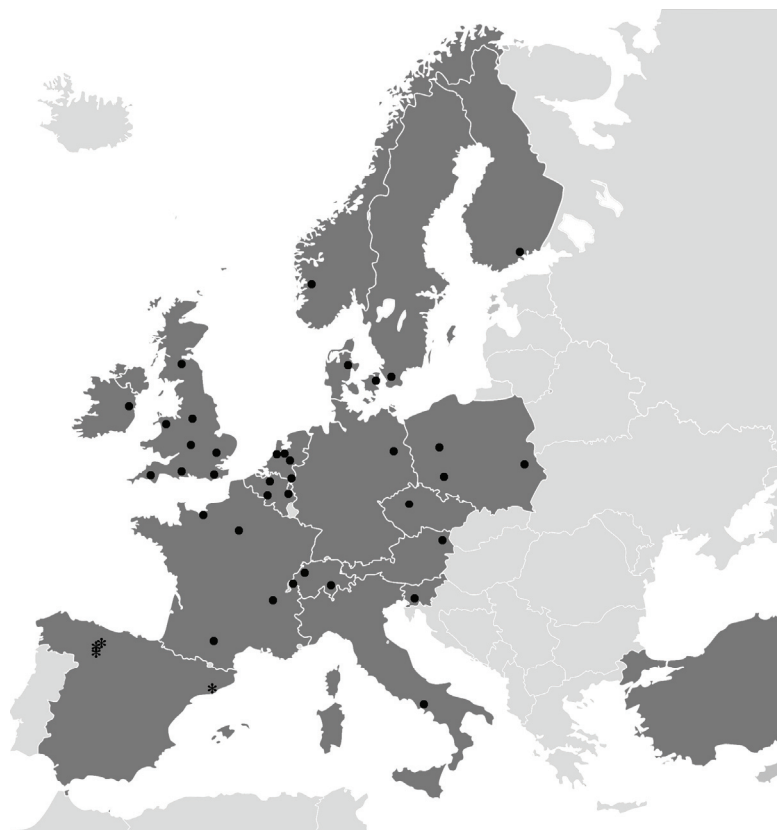


Figure 1. Geographical distribution of *Psilochorus simoni* in Europe. New records are shown with an asterisk. References of the mapped points: **Austria:** Kritscher, 1969. - **Belgium:** Ranzy & Baert, 1987. - **Czech Republic:** Ruzicka & Buchar, 2008. - **Denmark:** Klausen, 1972. - **Finland:** Huhta, 1972. - **France:** Berland, 1911; Dalmas, 1915; Bristowe, 1933; Comellini, 1954. - **Germany:** Moritz, 1973. - **Italy:** Brignoli, 1971. - **Ireland:** Nolan, 2002. - **The Netherlands:** Helsdinguen, 2009. - **Norway:** Klausen, 1972. - **Poland:** Bielak-Bielecki & Rozwałka, 2007; Borowiek, 1999; Dziabaszewski, 1967. - **Slovenia:** Kostanjšek & Ramšak, 2005. - **Sweden:** Jonsson, 1990. - **Switzerland:** Comellini, 1954; Fürst & Blandenier, 1993. - **Turkey:** Bayram *et al.*, 2008. - **United Kingdom:** Bristowe, 1933; Merret, 1979.

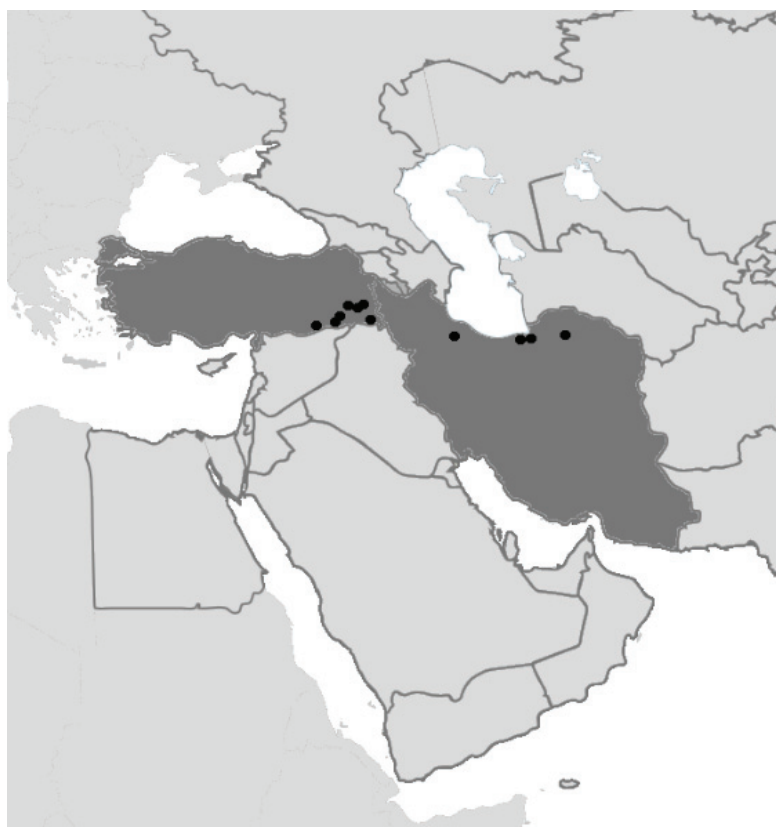


Figure 2. Geographical distribution of *Psilochorus simoni* in Asia. References of the mapped points: **Iran:** Ghavami *et al.*, 2006. - **Turkey:** Bayram *et al.*, 2008.

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