

A NEW *SCOPODES* FROM CALIFORNIA (ARANEAE, GNAPHOSIDAE)

Recent sorting of accumulated material at the American Museum of Natural History has revealed a specimen of an undescribed *Scopodes* from Tulare County, California; this is the fifth species of the genus known from California. The specimen, a male, will key out to *Scopodes catharius* in the published key (Platnick and Shadab, 1976, p. 17) but may be easily distinguished from that species by its sinuous embolus, twisted conductor, subapically invaginated median apophysis, and broad retrolateral tibial apophysis (Figs. 1, 2). The phylogenetic relationships of the species cannot be determined with any degree of certainty until the female is discovered. The combined presence of a palpal conductor situated beside the median apophysis and a denticle on the cheliceral retromargin indicate that the species probably belongs to the clade including *Scopodes kastoni* and *S. catharius* (Platnick, N. I., and M. U. Shadab 1976. Amer. Mus. Novitates 2594: 1-33, fig. 39).

However, since the presence of a palpal conductor is a plesiomorphic character in *Scopodes* (as determined by out-group comparison with *Zimriomus*), the possibility cannot be ruled out that the species represents the most primitive member of the *ochraceus* group instead. The illustrations are by Dr. Mohammad U. Shadab.

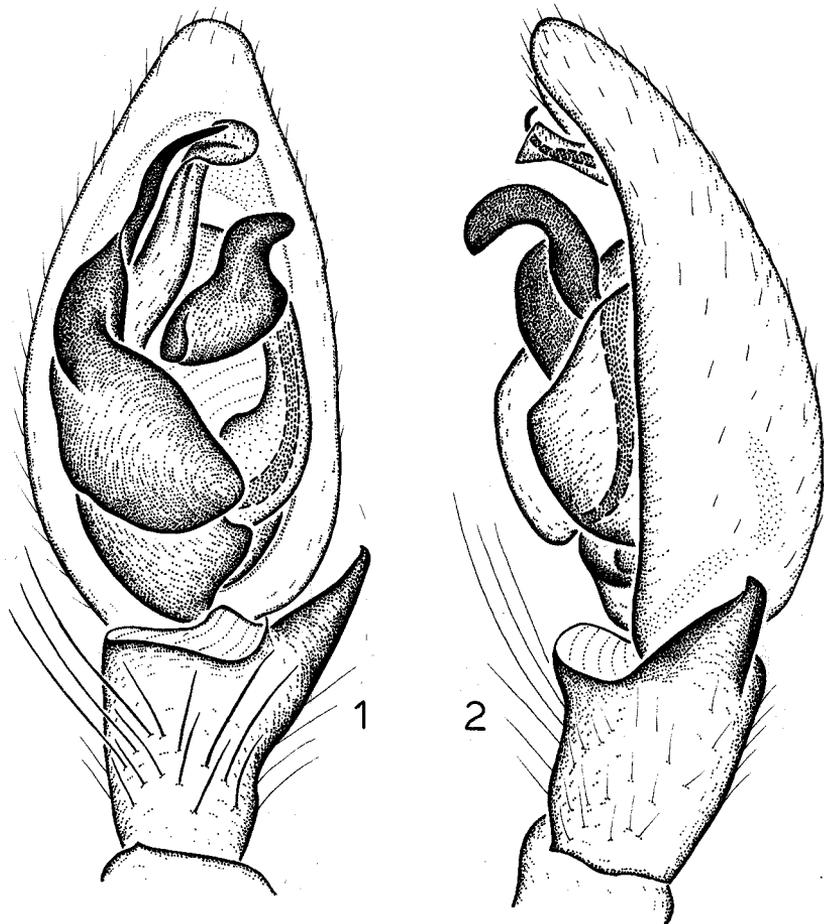
Scopodes gertschi, new species

Type.—Male holotype from Kawea River, 5 miles east of Three Rivers, elevation 1258 feet, Tulare County, California (17 July 1952; W. J. Gertsch), deposited in the American Museum of Natural History.

Etymology.—The specific name is a patronym in honor of the collector of the holotype.

Diagnosis.—*Scopodes gertschi* may be distinguished from the other known species of the genus by the wide and sinuous embolus and the subapically invaginated median apophysis (Fig. 1).

Male.—Total length 5.51 mm. Carapace 2.44 mm long, 1.84 mm wide. Femur II 2.12 mm long (holotype). Eye sizes and interdistances (mm): AME 0.10, ALE 0.12, PME 0.13,



Figs. 1-2.—*Scopodes gertschi*, new species: 1, palp, ventral view; 2, palp, retrolateral view.

PLE 0.12; AME-AME 0.06, AME-ALE 0.04, PME-PME 0.05, PME-PLE 0.09, ALE-PLE 0.04. Median ocular quadrangle length 0.31 mm, front width 0.25 mm, back width 0.21 mm. Twisted palpal conductor beside heavy, sharply bent embolus (Fig. 1). Retrolateral tibial apopysis broad, relatively massive (Fig. 2). Leg spination: tibiae: III r1-1-1; IV r2-1-1; metatarsus I vlp-0-0.

Female.—Unknown.

Distribution.—Known only from the type locality. This is the most northern record of *Scopodes* in California, and is approximately 40 miles west of the next most northerly collecting site (1-2 miles west of Lone Pine, Inyo County). Since *Scopodes naturalisticum* has been taken much farther north in Nevada, it is possible that additional California species will be found in the Fresno area and further north. **Norman I. Platnick**, Department of Entomology, The American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, New York 10024.