

A NEW *MICROSA* FROM THE BAHAMA ISLANDS
(ARANEAE, GNAPHOSIDAE)

Since the discovery of *Microsa chickeringi* on St. Thomas (Platnick and Shadab, 1977), additional specimens have been found from two other of the Virgin Islands and, more importantly, an additional species, described below, has been found from the Bahama Islands. Since the closest relatives of *Microsa* Platnick and Shadab, appear to be African (*Asemesthes* Simon), the first species could have been regarded as an undescribed form introduced into the West Indies by man, but the discovery of a second species confirms the status of the genus as a native element of the West Indian spider fauna and suggests that additional species will eventually be found to occur on other islands of at least the Greater Antilles.

All specimens cited below are in the American Museum of Natural History. The format of the descriptions follows those in Platnick and Shadab (1975). The illustrations are by Dr. M. U. Shadab.

Microsa chickeringi Platnick and Shadab

Microsa chickeringi Platnick and Shadab, 1977: 193, figs. 1-9.

New records.—British Virgin Islands: Virgin Gorda; Baths and Devil's Bay (25 June 1966), 1 female. United States Virgin Islands: St. John; King Hill, Coral Bay, Berlese sample of leaf litter (18 July 1975; W. B. Muchmore), 1 male, 1 female.

Microsa gertschi, new species

Figures 1-4

Types.—Male holotype and female paratype from South Bimini, Bahama Islands (May 1951; 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 type specimens.

Diagnosis.—Males of *M. gertschi* may be distinguished from those of *M. chickeringi* by the much larger prolateral tegular apophysis (Fig. 1), females by the much more widely separated lateral spermathecal lobes (Figs. 3, 4).

Male.—Total length 1.91 mm. Carapace 0.92 mm long, 0.83 mm wide. Femur II 0.61 mm long (holotype). Eye sizes and interdistances (mm): AME 0.03, ALE 0.05, PME 0.04, PLE 0.06; AME-AME 0.04, AME-ALE 0.05, PME-PME 0.05, PME-PLE 0.08, ALE-PLE 0.07. MOQ length 0.13 mm, front width 0.10 mm, back width 0.12 mm. Palp with large prolateral tegular apophysis (Fig. 1), without retrolateral tibial apophysis (Fig. 2). Leg spination: tibiae: I v1r-2-0; II v1r-1r-1p; III p1-1-1, v1p-2-2; IV p1-1-1, v2-2-2; metatarsi: I, II v2-0-2; III p0-0-2, v2-0-2, r0-0-2; IV v1p-1p-2.

Female.—Total length 2.20-2.99 mm. Carapace 0.97-1.19 mm long, 0.84-0.93 mm wide. Femur II 0.60-0.72 mm long (nine specimens). Eye sizes and interdistances (mm): AME 0.03, ALE 0.05, PME 0.03, PLE 0.05; AME-AME 0.04, AME-ALE 0.03, PME-PME 0.06, PME-PLE 0.06, ALE-PLE 0.11. MOQ length 0.14 mm, front width 0.10 mm, back width 0.12 mm. Epigynum with anterior ridge (Fig. 3), spermathecae with widely separated lateral lobes (Fig. 4). Leg spination: femora: II p0-0-0; IV p0-0-0; tibiae: I v1r-2-1p; II v1r-1r-2; III p1-1-1, v1p-2-2; IV v1p-2-2; metatarsi: I, II v2-0-2; III v1r-2-2, r0-0-2; IV v1p-1p-0.

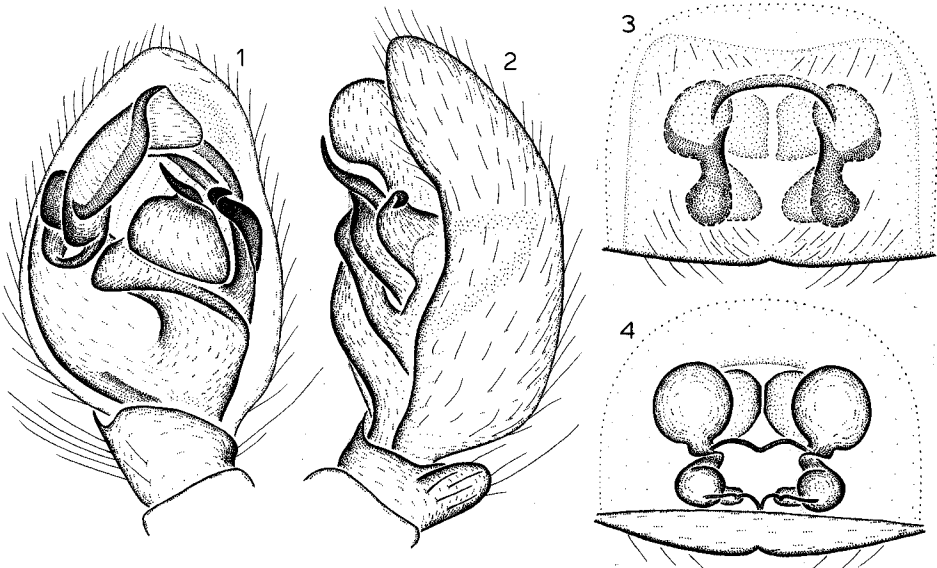
Material Examined.—Eight females taken with the types.

Distribution.—Known only from the Bahama Islands.

LITERATURE CITED

- Platnick, N. I., and M. U. Shadab. 1975. A revision of the spider genus *Gnaphosa* (Araneae, Gnaphosidae) in America. *Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.* 155:1-66.
 Platnick, N. I., and M. U. Shadab. 1977. A new genus of the spider subfamily Gnaphosinae from the Virgin Islands (Araneae, Gnaphosidae). *J. Arachnol.* 3:191-194.

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Figs. 1-4.—*Microsa gertschi*, new species: 1, palp, ventral view; 2, palp, retrolateral view; 3, epigynum, ventral view; 4, vulva, dorsal view.