

## SHORT COMMUNICATION

### THE FIRST RECORD OF AMBLYPYGI FROM EGYPT

**Hisham K. El-Hennawy:** 41 El-Manteqa El-Rabia St., Heliopolis, Cairo 11341, Egypt

**ABSTRACT.** *Charinus ioanniticus* (Kritscher 1959) (Charinidae) is recorded for the first time from Egypt. Two specimens were collected from Burg El-Arab near the Mediterranean coast, north of Egypt.

**Keywords:** Amblypygi, *Charinus ioanniticus*, Egypt

Amblypygi are widely distributed throughout the tropics and subtropics but most genera have a localized distribution. The sole exception is *Charinus* Simon 1892 which is circum-tropical (Weygoldt 2000). The amblypygid fauna of the eastern Medi-

terranean region is represented by *Charinus ioanniticus* (Kritscher 1959) which has been reported from Greece, Israel and Turkey (Kritscher 1959; Kraus 1961; Weygoldt 1972; Kovařík & Vlasta 1996). Among an arthropod collection from the



Figure 1.—Dorsal view of *Charinus ioanniticus* female, from El-Mallahat near Burg El-Arab, Egypt.

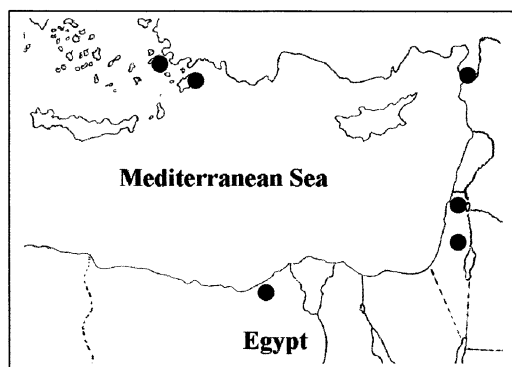


Figure 2.—Distribution map of *Charinus ioanniticus* in the eastern Mediterranean region. Solid circles represent recorded localities, clockwise from top: Kos, Rhodes, Samanda (Seleucia), Nazareth, Jerusalem, and Burg El-Arab.

western area of the Mediterranean coast of Egypt made by Drs. A. H. Ali and T. Tantawi on the Faculty of Science of Alexandria University, I found two females of *C. ioanniticus* collected about 50 km west of Alexandria. These specimens represent the first record of Amblypygi from Egypt.

*Charinus ioanniticus* (Kritscher 1959)  
Figs. 1 & 2

*Lindosiella ioannitica* Kritscher 1959: 454–457; Kraus 1961: 491. *Charinus ioanniticus* (Kritscher): Weygoldt 1972: 123, 129; Delle Cave 1986: 163; Kovařík & Vlasta 1996: 57–58; Weygoldt 2000: 74, 126.

**Material examined.**—**EGYPT:** El-Mallahat near Burg El-Arab, 2 females, 19 September 1998, Drs. A. H. Ali and T. Tantawi, in the author's collection.

**Remarks.**—My subsequent visit to the area (30°55'36"N, 29°31'50"E, elevation 20m) on 8 October 2000, in which I inspected the ruins of an old stony building with a deep rectangular room in the middle, identical to the description of Dr. Ali, failed to locate any further specimens.

The specimens listed here fit the previous descriptions of *C. ioanniticus* (e.g. Kritscher 1959; Weygoldt 1972), and the larger specimen (Fig. 1) has the following measurements (in mm): total length 7.56; prosoma length 2.97; width 4.25, width/length 1.43; opisthosoma length 4.59.

Like many other species of *Charinus*, *C. ioanniticus* appear to prefer a saxicolous habitat. Kritscher (1959) described a new genus and new

species *Lindosiella ioannitica* from Lindus in Rhodes, Greece. A male, three females and four juveniles were found in crevices of walls and rocks in April. Previous records of *Charinus ioanniticus* and this new discovery in North Africa, show that this taxon is distributed around the eastern Mediterranean (Fig. 2). It is expected that careful searching will reveal further localities in this area.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I thank Drs. Abdel-Nasser H. Ali and Tarek Tantawi (Alexandria) who collected the Amblypygid specimens and made them available to me. Prof. Dr. Peter Weygoldt (Freiburg) kindly revised a draft of the manuscript. He and Dr. František Kovařík (Praha) provided me with references.

#### LITERATURE CITED

- Delle Cave, L. 1986. Biospeleology of the Somaliland Amblypygi (Arachnida, Chelicerata) of the caves of the Showli Berdi and Mugdile (Bardera, Somaliland). *Redia* 69:143–170.
- Kovařík, F. & D. Vlasta. 1996. First report of Amblypygi (Charinidae: *Charinus ioanniticus*) from Turkey. *Klapalekiana* 32:57–58.
- Kraus, O. 1961. Charontidae aus Israel, ein zoogeographisch bemerkenswertes Vorkommen (Arach., Pedipalpi-Amblypygi). *Senckenbergiana Biologica* 42:491–493.
- Kritscher, E. 1959. Ergebnisse der von Dr. O. Paget und Dr. E. Kritscher auf Rhodos durchgeführten zoologischen Exkursionen. II. Pedipalpi (Amblypygi). *Annalen des Naturhistorischen Museums in Wien* 63:453–457.
- Simon, E. 1892. Arachnides des îles Philippines. *Annales de la Societ  Entomologique de France* 61:35–52.
- Weygoldt, P. 1972. Charontidae (Amblypygi) aus Brasilien. Beschreibung von zwei neuen *Charinus*-Arten, mit Anmerkungen zur Entwicklung, Morphologie und Tiergeographie und mit einem Bestimmungsschl ssel f r die Gattung *Charinus*. *Zoologische Jahrb cher, Abteilung f r Systematik,  kologie und Geographie der Tiere* 99:107–132.
- Weygoldt, P. 2000. Whip Spiders (Chelicerata: Amblypygi). Their Biology, Morphology and Systematics. 163 pp. Apollo Books, Stenstrup, Denmark.

*Manuscript received 10 May 2001, revised 18 September 2001.*