

The First Record of *crossopriza maculipes* (Araneae, Pholcidae) in Iraq

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Abstract

The species *Crossopriza maculipes* (Spassky, 1934) was recorded in Iraq for the first time. The specimens were collected from six locations of Basrah province, which located south of Iraq (Al-mdaina, Al-hwair, Shatarab, Abulkhaseeb, Safwan and Alzubair), during the period 1 December 2017-1 December 2018.

Key words: First record *Crossopriza maculipes*, Iraq, Pholcidae.

Introduction:

Crossopriza (Simon, 1893) belongs to a complex of pholcids spiders genera which shares a carapace with a deep round depression between the head and thorax, males having genital organs with a similar structure characterized by a paracymbium which is straight and tapering and an embolus integrated in the conductor. Females have as epigyne a flat strongly chitinaze plate without movable ligula. Male chelicerae lack proximal apophysis (Deeleman-Reinhold and Van Harten, 2001). The genus *Crossopriza* represents by seven species worldwide, (Platnick, 2019). The species *C. maculipes* is palearctic in nature but also have extended region to east side. It was reported from Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan (Huber *et al.*, 2014).

Material and methods:

52 specimens of species *C. maculipes* were examined in this study. These specimens were collected from some regions in Basrah province south of Iraq (Table and Figure 1). Specimens preserved in 80% ethanol and deposited in the Museum of Natural History of Basrah Universty. Specimens were examined and photographed under dissecting microscope (LEICA EZ 4HD). All measurements are in millimeters. Material examined. 21♂ 31♀, Iraq: Basrah province, Table 1, 1december 2017-1december 2018.

Table 1. Collection sites and number of study specimens

Stations	Location	Coordinates
AL-Mdaina	North of Basrah	N 30°56' 43.5" E47° 10' 21.6"
AL-Hwair	North of Basrah	N 30°59' 38.4" E47° 10' 21. 6"
Shat-AL-Arab	East of Basrah	N 30° 32' 3" E 47° 50' 4"
Abu-Alkhaseeb	East of Basrah	N 30° 28' 5 " E 47° 52' 8.45"
Zubair	West of Basrah	N 30° 21' 52.45 E 47° 38' 55.45"
Safwan	West of Basrah	N 30°6' 58.4 " E 47° 39' 12"

Taxonomic references (As mentioned in Platnick, 2019)

Crossopriza maculipes (Spassky, 1934) Figs. 2 and 3.

Ceratopholcus maculipes Spassky, 1934a: 361, f. 1-3 (Dmf).

Crossopriza maculipes Huber, Colmenares and Ramírez, 2014: 420 (T from *Ceratopholcus*=*Crossopriza*).

Crossopriza maculipes Ali, Zahid & Butt, 2016: 250, f. 3A-C (m).

Results and discussion:

Description:

Male:

The measurements were: total body length 3.4 mm, carapace length 1 mm and width 1.2 mm. Abdomen length 2.3 mm and width 1.3 mm. Leg measurements: I (coxa 0.5 mm, trochanter 0.2 mm, femur 12 mm, patella 0.6 mm, tibia 12 mm and tarsus 16 mm); II (coxa 0.4 mm, trochanter 0.2 mm, femur 8 mm, patella 0.3 mm, tibia 7 mm, tarsus 11 mm); III (coxa 0.5 mm, trochanter 0.1 mm, femur 8 mm, patella 0.2 mm, tibia 6 mm, tarsus 7 mm); IV (coxa 0.5 mm, trochanter 0.1 mm, femur 9 mm, patella 0.3 mm, tibia 7 mm and tarsus 10 mm).

Carapace has pale color with dark chitinaze central area and wider than long (Fig. 2C), clypeal area elevated AME and PME making U shaped appearance, ALE pair and PLE are close to each other (Fig. 2C), chelicerae, maxillae, labium pale brown in color (Fig. 2E). All legs have femur with some scattered dark stain. Abdomen dorsum integument pale with scattered dark stain (Fig. 2A). Venter is yellow pale with wide black median stripe (Fig. 2B)

Chelicerae: with two pairs of apophysis, one lateral and one frontal and directed inward (Fig. 2E).

Palp: As in Fig. (2 F-I), paracymbium slender, embolus embedded and short.

Female:

The measurements (Fig. 3A,B): Total body length 4.4 mm, carapace length 2.1mm, width 2.6 mm. Abdomen length 2.3 mm and width 1.4 mm.

Leg measurements: I: 50.2 (coxa 0.6 mm, trochanter 0.2 mm, femur 10mm, patella 0.6 mm, tibia 8mm, tarsus 14mm), II: 40.8 (coxa 0.5 mm, trochanter 0.2 mm, femur 7 mm, patella 0.4 mm, tibia 6 mm, tarsus 11 mm), III: 33.1 (coxa 0.4 mm, trochanter 0.1 mm, femur 5 mm, patella 0.4 mm, tibia 4 mm, tarsus 7 mm), IV: 42.3 (coxa 0.5 mm, trochanter 0.2 mm, femur 8 mm, patella 0.5 mm, tibia 6 mm, tarsus 6 mm). Female in general similar to male but differ in size

Epigyne: (Fig. 3C,D): Length 0.5 mm, 0.6 mm width, domed shape with two dark chitenious patches on each lateral side, another one dark patches at top of Epigyne, the tooth sits anterior to an imaginary straight line connecting the extremities.

Habitat:

The specimens were collected during the day and night from the roofs and walls of some abandoned houses and buildings in some regions in Basrah provinces south of Iraq. Female builds an irregular web, from which it hangs upside down, no cocoon is observed but the eggs are glued together (Fig. 6).

Comments:

Crossopriza is closely related to *Holocnemus* Simon, the two genera sharing the presence of a ventral row of short erect spines on the first femur in males, and peculiar liniform spots on all femur and tibia in both sexes. In females of *Crossopriza*, there is a stimulatory device which consists of a pair of conical projections near the hind margin of the carapace facing chitinous stimulatory patches on the anterior face of the abdomen (Fig. 4B), the latter is absent in the *C. johncolldsleyi*. *Crossopriza* species can be distinguished from those in *Holocnemus* by the shorter abdomen, the length of which barely exceeds the height behind, and by the absence of stridulating files on the chelicerae in males.

Crossopriza females are diagnosed by the presence of a transverse chitinized strip bordering the epigyne, with a tooth in the middle, which is absent in *Holocnemus* ((Deeleman-Reinhold and Van Harten, 2001). Huber *et al.*, (2014) pointed out that the *Crossopriza maculipes* (Spassky, 1934) new combination. Spassky's original description suggests a species very similar (or even identical) to *Crossopriza lyoni* (Blackwall, 1867). The examination (by BAH) of numerous specimens of *Crossopriza* from Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan (mostly in ZMMU) has shown that *C. maculipes* is indeed very similar to but also clearly distinguishable from *C. lyoni*. The two species share a second pair of apophyses frontally on the male chelicerae (Huber, 2014) but it easily distinguished from *c. lyoni* by shape of male palp and Epigynum.

Acknowledgements:

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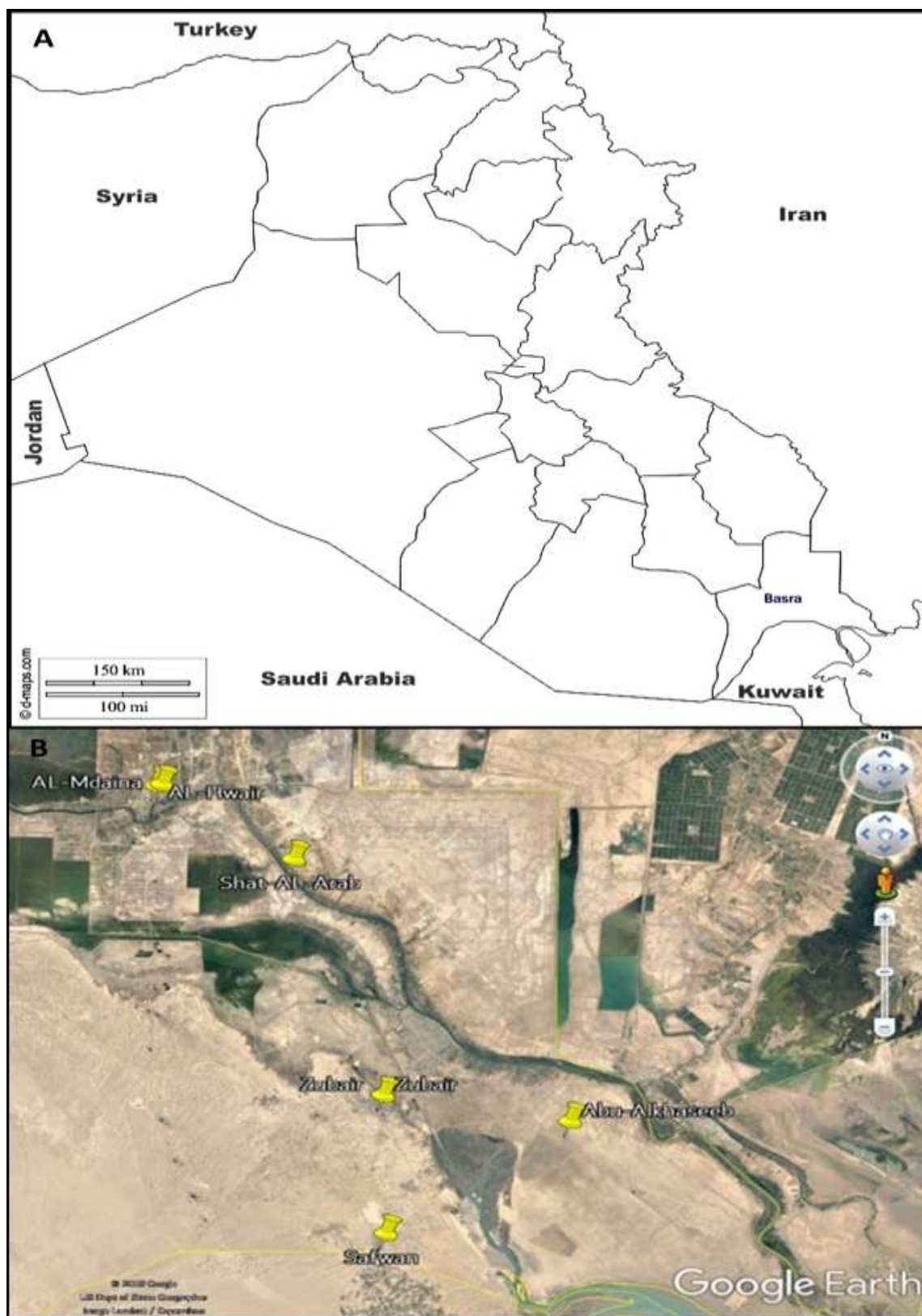


Fig. 1. Map of Iraq showing the collecting localities of *Crossopriza maculipes* in Al Basrah province, southern Iraq.

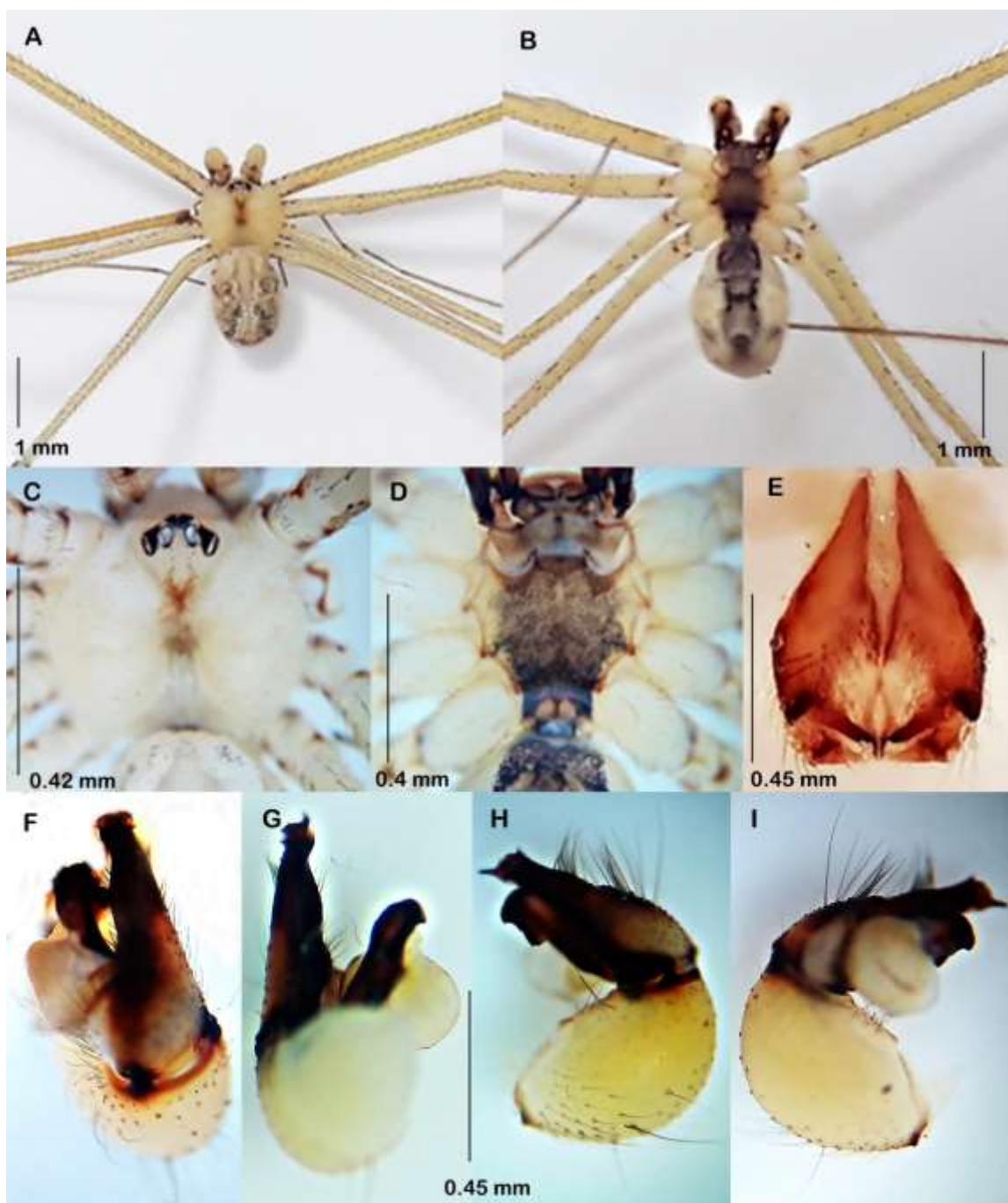


Fig. 2. *Crossopriza maculipes* (Spassky, 1934) ♂. A-B. Habitus. A. dorsal view. B. ventral view; C. Carapace, dorsal view. D. Sternum, ventral view; E. Chelicerae, ventral view; F-I. Left palp. F. prolateral dorsal view. G. ventral view. H, I. retrolateral view. (Photos by A. Al-Khazali).

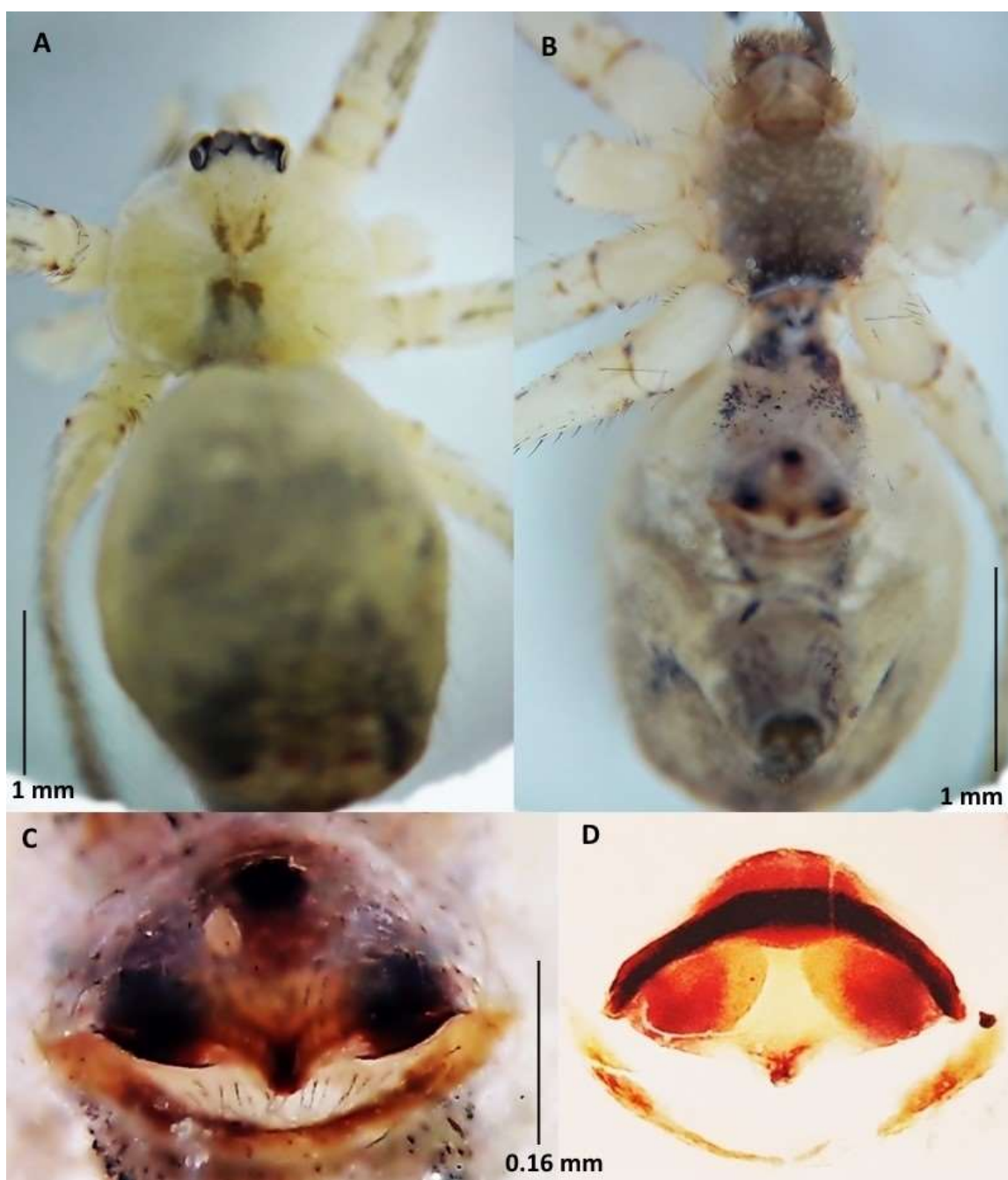


Fig. 3. *Crossopriza maculipes* (Spassky, 1934) ♀. A-B. Habitus. A. dorsal view. B. ventral view; C. Epigyne, dorsal view; D. Epigyne, ventral view (Photos by A. Al-Khazali).

التسجيل الأول في العراق للنوع *Crossopriza maculipes* (Araneae, Pholcidae)شروق عبد الله نجيم⁽¹⁾ وأزهر محمد الخزعلي⁽²⁾

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الملخص

سجل النوع (*Crossopriza maculipes* (Spassky, 1934) لأول مرة في العراق، حيث جمعت العينات من ستة مواقع مختلفة في محافظة البصرة وهي: المدينة، والهوير، وأبو الخصيب، وشط العرب، والزبير، وسفوان، وللفترة من 2017-2018.

الكلمات المفتاحية: التسجيل الأول *Crossopriza maculipes*، العراق، Pholcidae.