AHL REASET. 2553

KEY TO THE IDENTIFICATION OF SUB-FOSSIL SPIDER REMAINS FROM ARCHAEOLOGICAL

DEPOSITS

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Introduction

Coleoptera and other insect remains have been commonly detected from waterlogged deposits including those associated with archaeological features, and their identification and analysis is now a well established discipline. Remains of spiders have also been encountered in such deposits, but hitherto, study of them has been limited to the more obviously identifiable taxa.

This key has been produced in order to ffacilitate recognition of disarticulated remains and only those parts of the exoskeleton likely to be preserved are dealt with. It is anticipated that as the key is used, other features will be noted, and a more comprehensive identification key can then be undertaken. Meanwhile, this preliminary aid for recognition should prove useful at least in establishing the family, and possibly, genus of the spider sclerite. Specific identification can only be achieved by direct comparison with modern comparative reference specimens, and although species characters are given here for certain genera, the key is not designed for identification at this level.

The Lyniphiidae will form the basis of a separate identification key.

(1 species)

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The only British copresentative of this family. It differs from other spiders in possessing hung-books instead of tracheae and in having large chelicerae which articulate vertically, with fangs which lie parallel to the body axis when at rest.

Atypus affinis Eichwald

Length: f. c12mm. m. c8 - 9mm.

Carapace: trapezoid, wider at front, (fig. 1a), greenish brown becoming yellow when preserved.

Eyes: 8, (fig. 1b.)

Chelicerae: In adults 10 - 13, usually 11 teeth on inner and small tooth on outer margin (fig. 1c).

Ecology

Forms eight inch burrows usually in herbage, especially in heather in sandy places or chalky or friable soils which do not become waterlogged. Banks with a southerly aspect are preferred.

Distribution

Herts., Cambridge, Essex, Middlesex, Kent, Sussex, Surrey, Hants., Dorset, Somerset, Cornwall, Pembroke, Glamorgan, Offaly, Channel Islands, Isle of Wight, Scillies and Lundy. In Europe Denmark to Algeria and eastwards to Hungary.

Fossil record



ERESIDAE

(1 species)

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Eresidae, together with the Dyctinidae and Uloboridae make up the Cribellates or Lace-web spiders. There is only one British species.

Eresus niger Petagna

Length: c8mm.

Carapace: wide in front (as in Salticidae), with head convex, (fig. 2a), velvety black with scarlet at edges.

Eyes: 8, (fig 2a), narrow clypeus with a projection between the Chelicerae. Chelicerae: Robust, no teeth or ridge on inner margin, outer margin angled apically with a tooth and scopula (fig. 26).

Ecology

Female burrows into ground. Generally southern, coastal heathery slopes.

Distribution

In Britain, 6 males and 1 female found between 1816 and 1906 in Parley Heath (Dorset), Bournemouth and Poole.

Fossil record

Eresus niger







b. anterior view of carapace and chelicerae showing position of eyes

DICTYNIDAE

(16 species)

Characters of genus

Carapace: Elevated in front. Thorax has forea

<u>Cinflio</u> species similar in appearance, separated on palpal tibia. <u>C. fenestralis</u> (stroem) more common in north, <u>C. similis</u> Blackwall (fig. 3, a and b) & <u>C. ferox</u> (Walckenaer) commoner in South. Found under trees, gorze, stones, walls, windows.

<u>Dictyna</u> The eight species are divided into two species groups based upon the species groups based upon the carapace colour and shape of the male Chelicerae. (See fig 3, g. and h.).

Group I: <u>D.arundinacea</u> (L.), <u>pusilla</u> Thor., <u>Major</u> Menge, <u>uncinata</u> Thor. and <u>latens</u> (Fabr.). M. separated on palp characters. f.difficult to separate and there is much interspecific variation.

Group II: <u>D.puella</u> S.m., <u>flavescens</u> (Walck.) and <u>viridissima</u> (Walck.). These have a row of semicircular light patches on the posterior part of each margin. Male Chelicerae have swelling at base. M. separated on shape of ridges on Chelicerae, f. upon position of anterior eyes.

Lathys Two species separated on size, colour and m. palp differences. Both found only in the South.

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Argenna subnigra (0.P.Cambridge).	Identified	on	eye	position	(fig.	3f.)
Protadia patula (Simon)	It	Ħ	Ħ	11	Ħ	3e.

<u>Altella lucida</u>

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Eyes: Ant. sub-contiguous, post.med. close to lats. 1m. found in house in Herts.

Figure 3

DICTYNIDAE



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dorsal view of cephalothorax

b. anterior view

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a. and b. Cinflio similis

c. - f.

arrangement of eyes



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c. <u>Dictyna</u>



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d. Lathrys

f. Argenna





g. and h. anterior views of Dictyna carapaces.

h. D.puella

g. Dictyna arundinacea

(2 species)

Family characters

Carapace: (fig 4a, c)

Eyes: 8, dark

Chelicerae: Robust, parallel sided.

Uloborus walckenaerius Latreille

Length: f.3.5-6mm. m.3-4mm.

Carapace: Brown with median and lateral bands covered in white hairs. (fig

)

Eyes: fig 4a, b.

Sternum: Dark brown.

Ecology

Heather.

Distribution

Southern counties including Devon and New Forest.

Hyptiotes paradoxus (C.L.Koch)

Length: f.5-6mm. m. c4mm.

Carapace: (fig. 4c). Ginger to dark brown with dark/black markings.

Eyes: fig. 4c.

Ecology

Often yew or box trees and other conifers.

Distribution

New Forest, Hampshire, Surrey, and Glengariff, Cork. Old record from Lake District. Figure 4







b. anterior view of <u>Uloborus</u>



c. dorsal view of <u>Hyptiotes</u> <u>paradoxus</u> (male)

OONOPIDAE

(5 species)

Oonopidae are small, pale coloured spiders. Five species occur in Britain today, but only two are considered native, the others are established in hot houses.

Characters of Family

Carapace: smooth, no thoracic fovea, narrowed in front. Eyes: 6 except in introduced <u>Diblemma</u>, grouped together.

Native Species

Oonops pulcher Templeton and O.domesticus de Dalmas

Length: 1.5-2mm.

Carapace: Pink to brick red.

Eyes: 6, (fig. 5a)

Species separated on palp and tibia features.

Ecology pulcher: under stones, matted vegetation, leaves, moss and birds nests. domesticus: Merionith, England S. to Lancs, Argyll.

Introduced species

Ischnothyreus velox Jackson

Carapace: yellow brown, granular surface.

Eyes: (Fig. 5c)

Occurrence: Hot houses at Kew, Chester and Alnwick.

<u>Triaerís stenaspis</u> Simon

Carapace: redder than <u>I.velox</u> Eyes: (fig. 5b) Sternum: (fig. 5f) Occurrence: Hot houses at Dublin and, once at Penrith.

Diblemma donisthorpei O.P.Cambridge

Carapace: yellow, flatter than Oonops, two curved rows of bristles on

tubercules.

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Eyes: 2, (fig. 5d)

Sternum: (fig. 5g)

Occurrence: Under flower pots at Kew.

Fig. 5

0**6**nopidae



eye arrangements:

- a. Oonops
- b. <u>Triaeris</u> c. <u>Ischnothyreus</u> d. <u>Diblemma</u>

18 8 A. anterior view e. Oonops

ventral view of sternum: 6. Trizeris stenaspii 9. Diblemma donisthorpei

DYSDERIDAE

(6 species)

The three genera are separated on the positions of the six eyes (figs. 6a-c).

Characters of Family

Carapace: smooth with no thoracic fovea.

Eyes: 6

Dysdera erythrina (Walckenear) and D. croacta C.L.Koch

Length: 8-15mm.

Carapace: Red. (fig. 6e)

Eyes: 6, (fig. 6a, d)

Chelicerae: strong, projecting in front, basal segment with teeth, usually

3, fang very long.

Sternum: Connected to carapace with long, chitinous strips. Species separated on leg, genital and palp characters.

Ecology

Warm places (e.g. sun warmed stones, rubbish dumps) under stones, on sandy or chalky soils. Prey on woodlice.

Distribution

Widespread. D.erythrina not found north of Lancs.

Harpactea hombergi (Scopoli)

Length: f. 6-7mm. m. 5-6mm.

Carapace: dark brown, narrowing more anteriorly than preceding.

Eyes: Six (fig. 6b)

Chelicerae: 0.m. 2 teeth, i.m. 2-3 teeth, very long fang.

Ecology

Under bark, stones, matted vegetation, often in woods.

Distribution

Widespread.

Segestria senoculata (linnaeus), bavarica C.L.Koch, florentina (Rossi)

Length: 7-22mm

Carapace: (fig. 6g)

Eyes: Six, (fig, 6c)

Sternum: Elongatated, attentuated in front.

Chelicerae: Two rows of teeth, outer: 3 teeth, central being largest, inner row: two teeth.

S.senoculata (Linnaeus)

Length: 7-10mm

Occurrence: Widespread, walls, stones, bark.

S.bavarica C.L.Koch

Length: 10-12mm

Chelicerae: Polished black or brown.

Occurrence: Rare on Mainland, ?Berks & Dorset, Cornwall, Scilly, Lundy and Channel Islands.

S.florentina (Rossi)

Length: 13-22mm

Chelicerae: Green sheen (sometimes bronze in m.)

Occurrence: Rare, almost always near or at a sea port.

(Exeter, Plymouth, Bristol, Westminster, Bridport, Fowey). Only established in southern towns near the sea, therefore?imported species.

Fossil record

Harpactea Kombergi.

Peat associated with a Bronze Age trackway, (Girling 1976).

Figure 6. DYSDERIDAE







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- eye arrangements: a. <u>Dysdora</u> b. <u>Harpactea</u>
- c. Segestria
- anterior view
- d. Dysdera
- dorsal view
- o. <u>Dysdera crocata</u> g. <u>Segestria senoculata</u>

sternum:

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(1 species)

The Spitting spider. In Britain, the Scytodidae and Pholcidae are confined to houses and cellars, but they are found away from houses in warmer countries.

Scytodes thoracica Latrielle

Length: 5-6mm

Carapace: no thoracic forea, elevated behind (fig. 7a)

Eyes: Six, (fig. 7b)

Sternum: Pale with black mark by each leg, fused to labium (fig. 7c) Chelicerae: Short fang, chitinous laminae (fig. 7d)

Ecology

In houses on walls.

Distribution

Rare, counties bordering South Coast, Dorset, Wilts, Sussex, Kent, Oxford, Hants, Somerset, Gloucs., Berks, London, Cambs. Isle of Wight.



d. chelicera

(2 species)

Pholcus phalangiodes (Fuesslin)

Length: 8-10mm

Carapace: narrowed in front, pale yellow with brown markings in region of forea, covered with fine hairs.

Eyes: Six (but eight in some foreign species), small medians almost touching, widely spaced from medians, (figs. 8a)

Chelicerae: Large tooth at margin, also, 2 tooth like prominences in m., (fig. 8b).

Ecology

Walls in houses.

Distribution

Bristow (1958) states that the southern range coincides with the limit of the southern for the mean annual temperature of 50° F. North of this, it is confined to cellars where temperatures vary little. Suggest that the absence of extremes of temperature determines the survival of <u>pholcus</u>.

Physocyclus simoni Berland

Length: 2-2.5mm

Carapace: yellow brown, head sharply divided from thorax

Eyes: 8, similar to Pholcus, but with median almost touching laterals

Chelicerae: Large tooth at margin, in addition, tooth in front in m. (fig. 8c)

Ecology

Walls in houses.

Distribution

Exclusively in dry wine cellars, ? import from France.



b. male chelicera of <u>P. phalangioides</u>

Figure 8.

PHOLCIDAE

a. anterior view of Pholous

c. male chelicera of Physocyclus simoni

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(25)	species)	
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These nocfurnal spiders include the domestic 'Mouse-spider'.

Characters of Family Carapace: Broad or attentuated in front. Eyes: Two rows, posterior medions often irregular - oval or triangular. Chelicerae: Vertical and toothed. Six genera separated by following characters Chelicerae with serrated ridge on i.m. Gnaphosa - Chelicerae with tooth/teeth, but no ridge on i.m. posterior row of eyes procurved or straight Carapace with no fovea, clothed in squamiform hairs Micaria - Carapace with fovea, larger Ant. median eyes larger than laterals Herpyllus - Ant. medians not larger, usually smaller than laterals Both rows of eyes nearly straight, sternum long, narrow Phaeocedus - Ant. row of eyes procurved, sternum oval Post. row of eyes (nearly) straight, scarcely longer than Post. row procurved, longer than anterior, carapace broad, not attenuated. Drassodes

Drassodes (figs. 8a-f)

Six species fall into two groups on tibia and truchanter.

Characters. In D. lapidosus (Walckanaer),

Chelicerae teeth vary (figs. 8c,d,e.)

Herpyllus (Scotophoeus) blackwall: (Thorell). (fig. 8g) Widespread species normally found in houses and out houses.

Phaecedus braccatus (L.Koch)

Rare southern species, in leaves, under stones.

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<u>Zetotes</u>

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Nine British species identified by genitalia, tibia, palps and colour. Usually found in coastal and chalky areas.

Gnaphosa

The three British species are separated on tibia characters.

Micaria

Eye arrangement (figs. 8h,i) combined with abdomen, palp and tibia features used to divide the three species



CLUBONIDAE

(35 species)

These spiders strongly resemble the Gnaphosidae, from which they are separated on arrangment of the anterior spinners. Genera, <u>Clubonia</u> and <u>Cheira canthium</u>, <u>Arroeca</u>, <u>Arraecina</u>, <u>Slotina</u>, <u>Liocranum</u>, <u>Zora and Phrurolithus</u>. (fig. 10).

The malp palps are important in identifying these spiders and separating them from Gnaphosidae. Identification of fossil remains which are unlikely to include palps is likely to be difficult, if not impossible, therefore little attention is devoted to them in this key.

ANYPHAENIDAE

(1 species)

The single species is related to the Clubonidae. Bristow (1958) refers to it as "The Buzzing Spider".

Anyphaena accentuata (Walckenaer)

Length: f.4.5-7.5mm. m.4-6.5mm.

Carapace: (fig.11) Cream or light brown with grey, brown or black markings dark forms also.

Eyes: 8, (fig.11)

Sternum: Colour variable, brown, darker towards margins.

Chelicerae: Robust, in m. streaked with brown, outer margin 3 teeth, inner

margin 6; basal 3 close and smaller.

Ecology

Trees and bushes, especially oaks and conifers. Found on leaves where they feed on flies and leaf hoppers.

Distribution

All over British Isles.

Anyphaena accentuata



anterior view

SPARASSIDAE

(1 species)

Micrommata, together with Thomisidae species, make up the Crab Spiders because of the curvature of the legs and their sideways gait.

Micrommata virescens (Clerck)

Length: f. c12mm., m. c8mm.

Carapace: longer than broad, narrowed in front. Females and young males are bright green, male yellowish-green (with scarlet rings on abdomen). Eyes: 8, anterior row recurved, posterior row procurved. (fig. 12) Chelicerae: I.m. 2 large and 1 small tooth, well defined cheliceral scopula.

Ecology

Herbage, bushes and young trees. Especially on <u>Molinia caerulea</u> - purple moor-grass.

Distribution

More frequent in South, but recorded from Yorkshire and Northumberland. Locally distributed.

Figure 12.

Ficrommate virescens

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anterior view

(37 species)

All members of this family are crab-like in appearance. The species fall into two sub-families;

Misumeninae; Legs f and II longer than III and IV, chelicerae with no teeth. Philodrominae; Legs approximately equal, chelicerae with one tooth on I.m. Misumeninae genera;

Thomisus;Lateral eyes on conical protruberances, figs. 13c,d Isp.Pistius;Lateral eyes on shallow protruberances, Isp.

Oxyptila; Laterals as <u>pistius</u>, Med.Oc.Trap. longer than broad, clavate hairs, fig. 13g, 9 sp.

Oiaea; Eyes as <u>Oxyptila</u>, setaceous hairs. Isp.

- Misumena; Laterals as <u>Pistius</u>, Med.Oc.Trap. square or broader than long, ant. meds. = in size to ant. lats. some spines on carapace. Isp.
- <u>Xysticus;</u> Eyes as Misumena except ant. meds. approx $\frac{1}{2}$ diameter of ant. lats. Ant.meds. closer to lats. than to each other. Many spines on carapace figs. 13b, e,j. II spp.

Philodrominae genera;

Philodromus; Post eyes slightly recurved, meds. further apart than from lats, fig. 13f. 8 sp.

Tibellus; Post eyes strongly recurved, meds. nearer than to lats. (Figs. 13a, i), carapace longer than wide 2sp.

<u>Thanatus;</u> Post eyes strongly recurved and post. meds. nearer or equidistant than to laterals, (fig. 13h) carapace scarcely longer than wide. 2sp. Plate 13.

THOMISIDAE





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- a. Tibellus magiticus.
- b. Xysticus ulmi (f.)
- c. Thomisus onustus (f.)
- eyo arrangements
- d. <u>Thomisus onustus</u> (m.) e. <u>Xysticus</u> f. <u>Oxyptila</u>

- g. Philodromus
- oye arrangements:
- d. <u>Thomisus onustus</u> (m.)
 e. <u>Xysticus</u>
 f. <u>Philodromus</u>

- g. Oxyptile
- h. Than tus
- i. Tibollus

frontal view

j. <u>Xysticus</u>



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SALTICIDAE

(32 species)

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	The family of jumping spiders have square or rectangular carapaces with four							
lar	ge, forward	-pointing	eyes. T	here are 17 ger	nera separated on the	eye arrangement:		
	Occular tr	apezium s	lightly l	onger than broa	ad	Synagales		
	Occ. trap.	slightly	broader	than long		Myrmarachne (figs1)		
	Occ. trap.	much bro	ader than	long, legs with	thout spines	Sallicus (figs. 1.		
	11 11	11 11		", legs wi	th spines	Phlegra		
	12 17	11 11	11	н н н	11	Aelurillus		
	Occ. trap.	broader	behind th	an in front .		Ballus		
	Post. eyes	almost ½	way alon	g carapace		Bianor		
	Post. eyes	$\frac{1}{3}$ way al	ong carap	ace		Pellenes		
	11	*1	**	, sternum na	rrow in front	<u>Marpissa</u> (fig. 14		
	t1	IR	**	, sternum no	t narrowed	Hyctia		
	11	11	18	u	28	Neon		
	Post. eye	diameter	= ant. la	it. eye diamete	Γ	Hisarius		
					meter	Evarchus		
	Carapace '	very squat				<u>Attulus</u>		
						Sitticus		
	41	HF 11				Euophrys (fig. 10		
	18	и и,				Heliophanus.		

The Key of Locket and Millidge (1951) is particularly useful for this family.

Figure 14.

SALTICIDAE



a: Salticus scenicus (m.)



d. Myrmarachne formicaria

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f. Muopheys frontalid e. Salticus



(1 species)

The family is common in the tropics, but there is only one British representative.

Oxyopes heteropthalmus Latrielle

Length: f. 5-6mm. m.5.5-6.5mm.

Carapace: (fig. 15a) dark brown and cream, normal and scale like hairs. Eyes: 8, (fig. 15b)

Sternum: Brown with longitudinal yellow stripe.

Chelicerae: Conical, tapering.

Ecology

Between flowers, shrubs and particularly heather.

Distribution

Sheltered places in Brockenhurst, Lyndhurst and Mark Ash (New Forest) and, in 1959, found by Hammond in Surrey. Plate 15

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OXYPIDAE : Oxy pes hetorophthalmus



a. dorent view of car pace (a.)



b. frontal viow

LYCOSIDAE

(37 species)

The wolf spider family includes the notorius South Italian <u>Tarantula</u>. Most members of the family are similar in appearance and species are usually separated on the shape and arrangement of the eyes and genitalia differences.

Ant.	eyes	stre	ongly pred	curved	* * * * *				Aulonia
Ant.	eyes	not	strongly	precurved,	head	elev	ated with	almost	
						ve	rtical si	des	Lycosa (fig. 16a,
13	*1	11	11	41	head	not	elevated	with	
						sl	oping sid	les	Tarentula
	н	u	11	it		н			Xerolycosa
11	+1		11	, carapace	e dar	k wit	h no ligł	nt band	Arctosa
11	п		11	, carapace	e wit	h 'V'	shaped n	arked	<u>Pirata</u> (fig.16e)
n	11		11	, carapac	e wit	h med	ian light	band	Trochosa (fig.16c

'n

LYCOSIDAE

a. enterior view of Lycosu









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Trochose





b. dor**se**l view of <u>lycosa</u>



PISAURIDAE

(2 or ? 3 species)

Family Characters

Eyes: 2nd row much shorter than third row.

Pisaura mirablis (Clerck)

Length: f. 12-15mm. m. c12mm.

Carapace: reddish-brown with yellow stripe. Foves with radiating striac. Small hairs, difficult to see in spirit.

Ecology

Long grass, heather, open woods.

Distribution

Common, whole of Britain.

Dolomedes fimbriatus Latrielle

Length: f. 13-20+mm. m. 9-13mm.

Carapace: deep brown with two yellow or white bands near margins. Markings are partly due to hair colours and are less striking in preserved specimens.

Ecology

Swamps, pools and streams.

Distribution

Widespread in Britain, but local.

Dolomedes plantarius

(Specimens found in Blackwall's collection, but these might be foreign.

<u>D.plantarius</u> has been collected in East Anglia in 1956. Differs from <u>D.fimbriatus</u> in possessing wider cephalothorax with relatively narrower pale bands. Definite identification based upon shape of reproductive organs.

AGELINIDAE

(24 species)

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The family includes the common house spider, Tegenaria.

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Ant. eyes contiguous, post.eyes similar	Argyroneta
Post. eyes in strongly procurved row	Tetrix (figs. 18d,e)
Both rows of eyes procurved	Agelona
Both rows not or slightly procurved, front carapace narrowed	
Carapace front much broader	Amaurobius (fig. 18c)
Ant. row of eyes strongly procurved (from front)	Cryphoeca
Ant. row of eyes straight or nearly straight	Cicurina
Ant. med. smaller than others	Tetrilus (figs. 18i,
11 II II II II	Tuberta
Ant. meds. = to or greater than post. med	Anistea
Ant. meds. smaller than post. med	Hahnia (fig. 18h)

Plate 18

AGELELNIDAE



MIMETIDAE

(3 species)

Characters of family

Carapace: elevated in middle (fig. 19b) with small circular depression in thoracic region.

Eyes: 8, lats. on eminences, (fig. 19a)

Sternum: Longer than wide.

Chelicera: Long, vertical and parallel sides, stridulating ridges on o. surface.

Species: <u>E.Cambridgei</u> Kulczynski, <u>furcata</u> (Villers) and <u>tuberculata</u> (Degeer). separated on genetalia. < 4

<u>MIN TTIDAE</u> : ERO SPP.



a. dorsal view of carapace



6. lateral view of car-pace