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The first record of family Selenopidae (Arachnida: Araneae) from Turkey

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Abstract: The family Selenopidae and selenopid spider *Selenops radiatus* Latreille, 1819 are recorded in Turkey for the first time.

Key words: Selenopidae, *Selenops radiatus*, new record, Turkey

Selenopidae (Araneae; Selenopidae) familyasının Türkiye'den ilk kaydı

Özet: Selenopidae familyası ve selenopid örümcek *Selenops radiatus* Latreille, 1819 Türkiye'den ilk kez kaydedilmektedirler.

Anahtar sözcükler: Selenopidae, *Selenops radiatus*, yeni kayıt, Türkiye

The spider family Selenopidae was described by Eugène Simon in 1897 and consists of ecribellate, entelegyne, laterigrade spiders with a flattened body, 8 eyes in 2 rows, and tarsi with 2 claws and claw tufts. The family Selenopidae is represented by 5 genera and 194 species in the world (Platnick, 2009). The genus *Selenops* includes 116 species and occurs mostly in tropical regions of the world, with a small radiation into temperate areas of China, Korea, and Japan (Platnick, 2009). Although most species of *Selenops* have been recorded only in a few localities, the distribution range of the genus extends from northern Argentina and Paraguay in South America, northward through tropical and subtropical America to North America and from Africa to some Mediterranean countries and Australia. Only one species, *Selenops radiatus* Latreille, 1819, occurs in the Mediterranean region (Muma, 1953; Helsdingen, 2007; Platnick, 2009). Members of the genus *Selenops* can be distinguished from other selenopid genera by eye arrangement; the anterior median eyes, posterior median eyes, and anterior lateral eyes are aligned or faintly recurved, with the posterior median eyes equal or subequal in size to the anterior median

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eyes (Corronca, 2002). So far, 694 spider species belonging to 237 genera in 45 families have been recorded in Turkey, but no member of the genus *Selenops* has been recorded until now (Bayram et al., 2009). In the present paper, *Selenops radiatus* and the family Selenopidae are reported as a new record for the araneofauna of Turkey.

Two females of *Selenops radiatus* were examined in this study. These specimens were collected from the province of Muğla in the Bodrum district of Turkey (Figure 1). They were preserved in 70% ethanol and deposited in the Arachnology Museum of the Turkish Arachnological Society (MTAS). Observations were made by means of an SZ61 Olympus stereomicroscope using the keys of Corronca (2002). All measurements are in millimeters.

Taxonomy

***Selenops* Latreille, 1819**

Diagnosis: *Selenops* differs from the other genera of Selenopidae by the arrangement of the median and anterior lateral eyes. The anterior median eyes and posterior median eyes are aligned or slightly recurved, with the posterior median eyes equal or subequal to the anterior median eyes. The middle field of the female epigynum is well developed, with distinct lateral lobes, and the secondary pocket of the epigynum is present and longer than the genital apertures (Corronca, 1998).

***Selenops radiatus* Latreille, 1819** Figure 2

Selenops radiatus Corronca, 2002: 25, f. 62-66, 88A-F (♂♀).

For detailed synonym list, see Platnick (2009).

Material examined: 2 ♀♀ (MTAS/Sel: 0901-02), Aspat Bay, (36°59′28.74″N, 27°19′20.85″E, Bodrum district, Muğla Province), 21.3.2009, collected under the bark of *Eucalyptus* trees, leg. S. Tezcan.

Description: Female. Measurements (MTAS/Sel: 0901-02): Body length, 19.0-16.8; Carapace length, 7.2-7.0; Carapace width, 8.0-7.9; Abdomen length, 11.8-9.8; Abdomen width, 9.5-9.3; length of leg I: Coxa, 2.9-2.9, Trochanter, 1.0-0.9; Femur, 7.0-6.9; Patella, 2.9-2.8; Tibia, 6.2-6.1; Metatarsus, 5.2-5.1; Tarsus, 2.3-2.2; Anterior median eye diameter, 0.33-0.29; Anterior lateral eye diameter, 0.29-0.23; Posterior lateral eye diameter, 0.59-0.56; Posterior median eye diameter, 0.33-0.29.

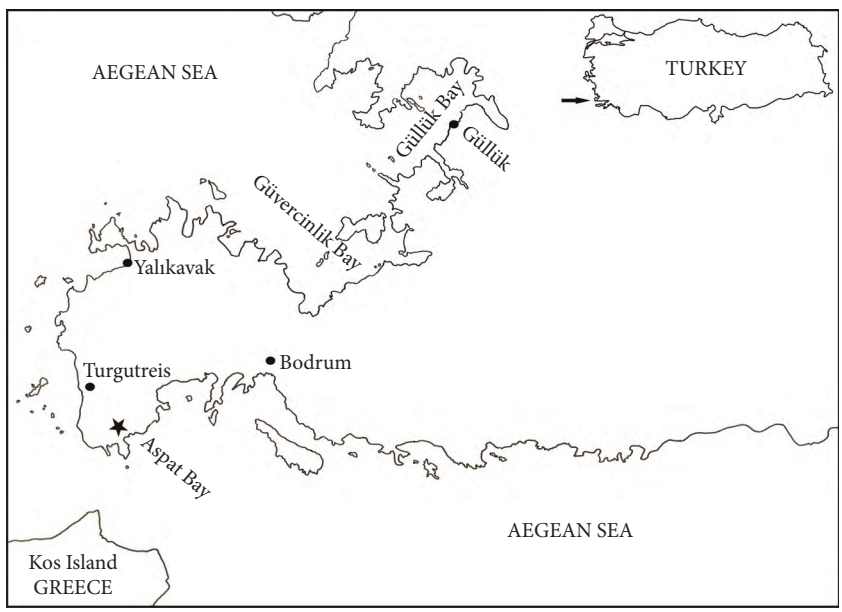


Figure 1. Sampling locality, with an asterisk to represent Aspat Bay, Bodrum district, Muğla Province.

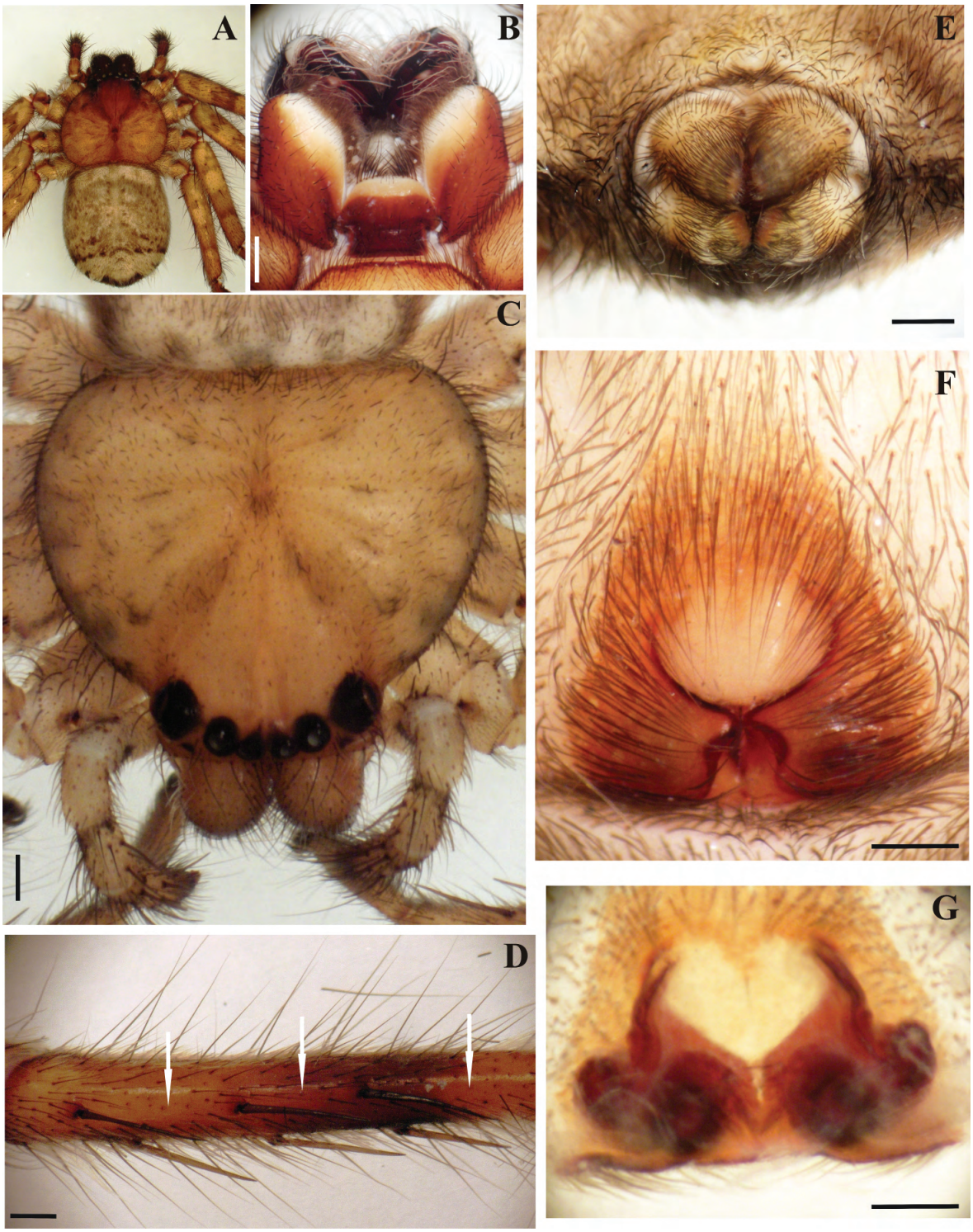


Figure 2. *Selenops radiatus*: A) Habitus, B) Labium and gnathocoxae (scale line: 0.5 mm), C) Eyes (scale line: 0.5 mm), D) Tibia II, ventral spines (scale lines: 0.5 mm), E) Spinnerets (scale line: 0.5 mm), F) Epigynum, ventral view (scale line: 0.25 mm), G) Vulva, dorsal view (scale line: 0.25 mm).

Carapace flattened, light brown, covered with short, thin blackish-brown setae. Carapace wider than long. Chelicerae reddish-brown. Labium and gnathocoxae yellowish to dark brown. Top of the gnathocoxae densely covered with short, thin hairs. Labium wider than long. Total of 8 eyes in 2 rows. Anterior median, posterior median, and anterior lateral eyes are aligned. Posterior median eyes bigger; anterior lateral eyes smaller than others. Abdomen yellowish-pale brown with brownish spots. Coloration of laterigrade legs is brown with blackish-brown spots. Tibiae with 3 pairs of ventral spines. Tarsi with 2 claws with tufts. Spinnerets yellowish-brown, short, in compact group. Epigynal plate longer than wide and with 2 lobes.

The color, design, and epigynum characters of Turkish specimens are similar to those of Afrotropical specimens (see Corronca, 2002) and no significant differences have been determined in epigyne. Selenopid spiders can be confused with members of 2 families occurring in Turkey, Philodromidae and Sparassidae. All 3 families have laterigrade legs, but selenopids can be easily recognized due to having 6 eyes in the first row and a very low clypeus. Philodromids and sparassids both have 4 eyes in the first row and a high clypeus. According to Corronca (2002), selenopid spiders are cryptozoic, nocturnal spiders naturally found on or under rocks and on tree trunks. Corronca (1998) has also reported finding some selenopid spiders under the bark of *Eucalyptus* trees in South America. In the present study, the specimens were collected from under the bark of *Eucalyptus* trees.

Among the described species that have been reported from Asia, only *Selenops radiatus* has a wide distributional range, occurring in Africa, the Mediterranean, India, and Myanmar (Corronca, 2000; Platnick, 2009). In the Mediterranean basin, this species has previously been recorded in Greece and Spain (Helsdingen, 2007). The recording of this species from Turkey widens its distribution range in the Mediterranean region. This species may be more widely present in Turkey and other Mediterranean countries, but the study of spiders is still relatively new in Turkey.

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