



## New records of spiders of the family Thomisidae (Arachnida: Araneae) from the Caucasus

### Новые находки пауков из семейства Thomisidae (Arachnida: Araneae) для фауны Кавказа

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**Abstract.** New records of two crab spider species, *Bassaniodes ovadan* (Marusik et Logunov, 1995) and *Runcinia tarabayevi* Marusik et Logunov, 1990, from Azerbaijan are presented. Both species are recorded from the Caucasus for the first time.

**Резюме.** Представлены новые находки из Азербайджана двух видов пауков-крабов – *Bassaniodes ovadan* (Marusik et Logunov, 1995) и *Runcinia tarabayevi* Marusik et Logunov, 1990. Оба вида впервые отмечены на Кавказе.

**Key words:** crab spiders, spiders, fauna, Nakhchivan, Araneae, Thomisidae, new records

**Ключевые слова:** пауки-крабы, пауки, фауна, Нахичевань, Araneae, Thomisidae, новые находки

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Of all spider families, the Thomisidae is the seventh largest in terms of species diversity, accounting for 2172 species in 171 genera (World..., 2024). In the Caucasus, 82 thomisid species in 19 genera have been recorded/described (Otto, 2022), of which 64 species in 19 genera are known from Azerbaijan (Khasayeva & Huseynov, 2015; Otto, 2022; Nuruyeva, 2022; Nuruyeva & Snegovaya, 2024).

This article presents two new findings of the spiders collected by the second author in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic (Azerbaijan) during the summer of 2011. Both species are recorded for the first time from the Caucasian region. The aim of this paper is to provide a brief illustrated account of these findings.

The specimens examined are housed in the collection of the Institute of Zoology of the Ministry of Education and Science of Azerbaijan (IZBA). Images were taken by means of a Nikon SMZ 1270 microscope equipped with a Sony DSC-P8 camera.

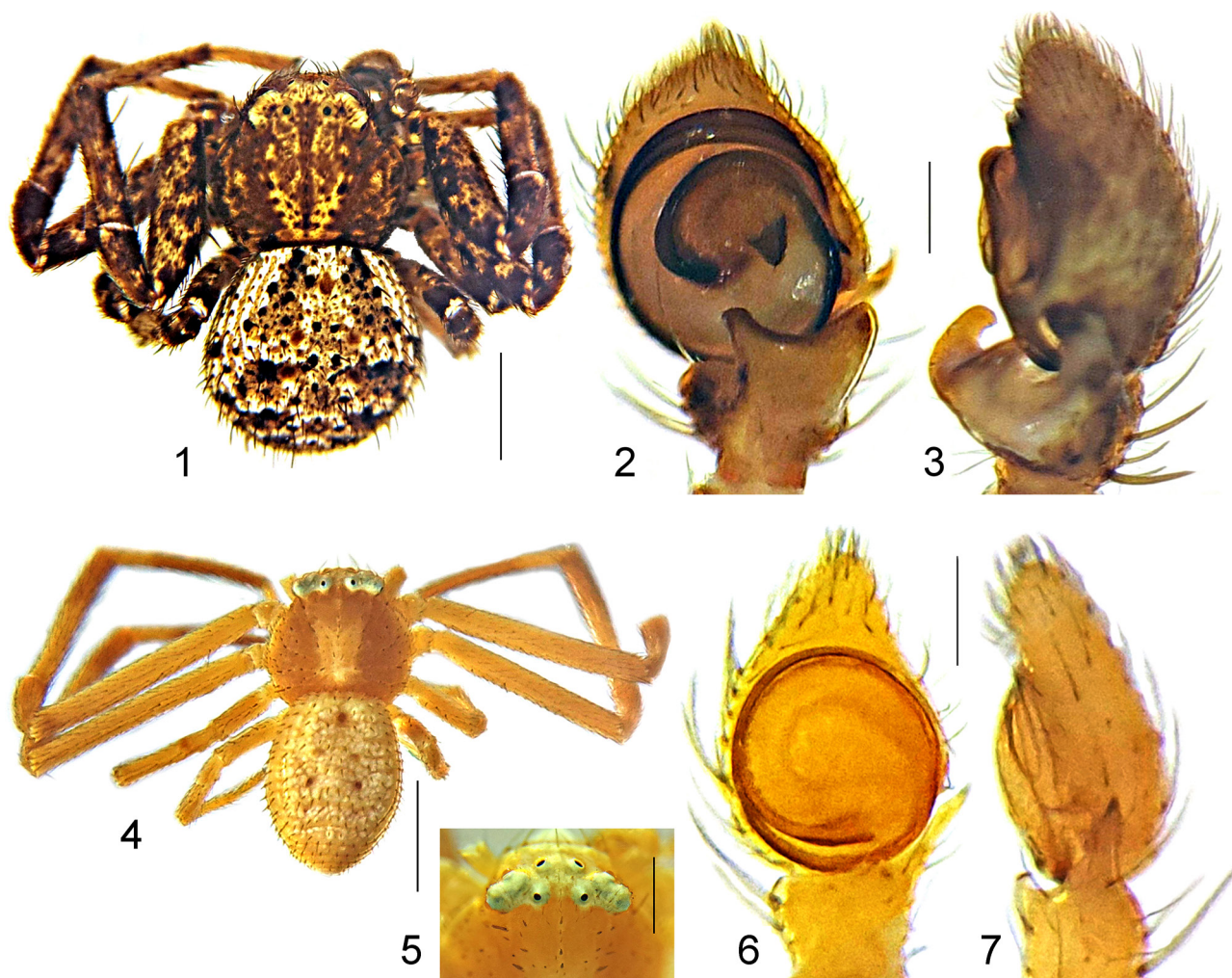
#### Family Thomisidae

Genus *Bassaniodes* Pocock, 1903

*Bassaniodes ovadan* (Marusik et Logunov, 1995) (Figs 1–3)

*Xysticus ovadan* Marusik et Logunov, 1995: 146, figs 24–25 (male).

*Material examined.* Azerbaijan, Nakhchivan, Shakhbuz Distr., Batabat, 39°32'52.45"N 45°47'22.91"E,



**Figs 1–7.** *Bassanioides ovadan* (Marusik et Logunov, 1995), male (1–3) and *Runcinia tarabayevi* Marusik et Logunov, 1990, male (4–7). 1, 4, body, dorsal view; 2, 6, palp, ventral view; 3, 7, palp, retrolateral view; 5, eye field, dorsal view. Scale bars: 1 mm (1, 4), 0.2 mm (2, 3), 0.5 mm (5), 0.1 mm (6, 7).

2127 m a.s.l., on ground, 23.VI.2011, 1 male, N.Yu. Snegovaya leg. (IZBA).

**Distribution.** To date, this species has been known only from the type locality in Turkmenistan (Marusik & Logunov, 1995); it is the first record after the original description (Fig. 8).

Genus *Runcinia* Simon, 1985

*Runcinia tarabayevi* Marusik et Logunov, 1990 (Figs 4–7)

*Runcinia tarabayevi* Marusik et Logunov, 1990: 33, figs 1–5 (male); Lehtinen, 2004: 175, figs 4, 46 (male); Zamani et al., 2019: 242, figs 1E–G (male).

**Material examined.** Azerbaijan, Nakhchivan, Sharrur Distr., Akhura Vill., 39°34'40.02"N 45°09'06.86"E,

1203 m a.s.l., on ground, 22.VI.2011, 1 male, N.Yu. Snegovaya leg. (IZBA).

**Distribution.** The species is known from Kazakhstan (Marusik & Logunov, 1990; Zyuzin & Tarabae, 1993; Ponomarev, 2008), Kyrgyzstan (Marusik & Logunov, 1990), Tajikistan (Marusik & Logunov, 1995), Mongolia (Marusik & Logunov, 1999) Iran (Zamani et al., 2019), and Russia: Astrakhan Province (Ponomarev, 2022) and Chelyabinsk Province (Esyunin et al., 2024) (Fig. 8).

Data on Thomisidae of Azerbaijan is scattered in numerous works by Dunin, Huseynov, Khasayeva, Nuruyeva, Marusik, and other authors. The best studied regions of Azerbaijan include the Sheki-Zakatala area in the north (Dunin, 1989),

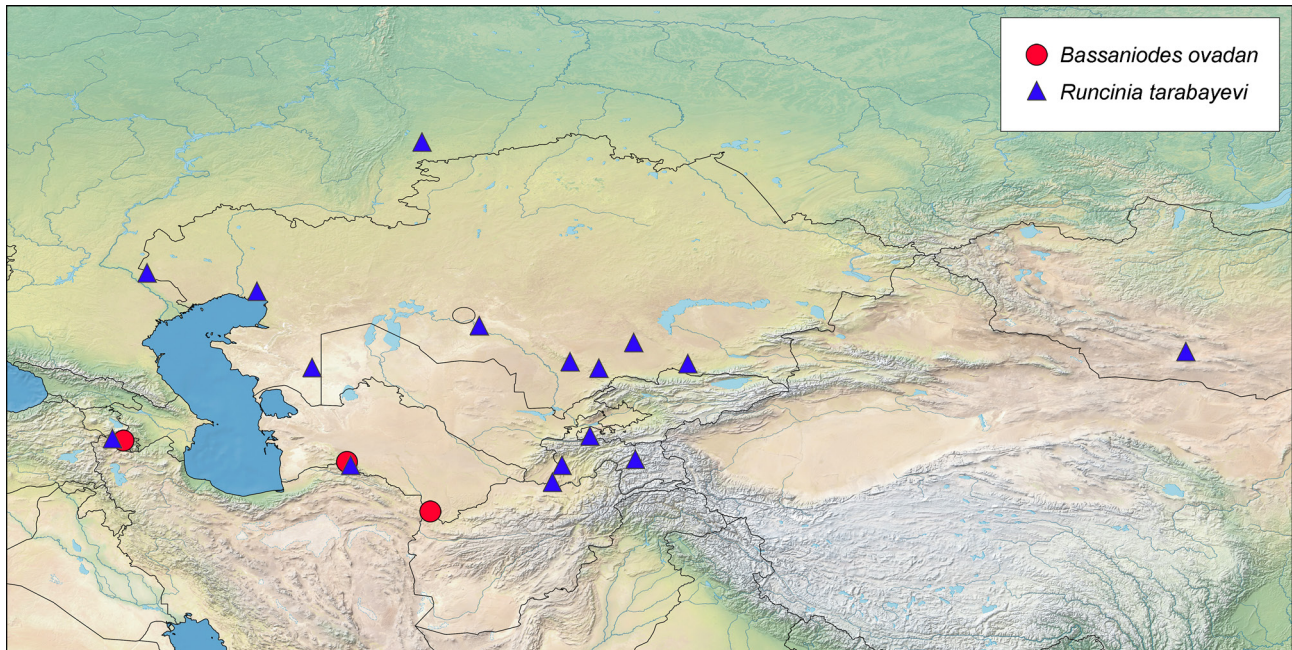


Fig. 8. Collecting localities of two species of Thomisidae in Central Asia and the Caucasus.

the Absheron Peninsula and Gobustan in the east (Dunin, 1984; Guseinov, 1999; Nuruyeva, 2022), the Ganja-Gazakh area in the west (Khasayeva, 2021) and the Lankaran area in the south (Guseinov, 1999). At the same time, the central, northeastern and southwestern parts of the country, including Nakhchivan, remain insufficiently or extremely poorly studied. To date, eight species of Thomisidae have been recorded from Nakhchivan (Marusik et al., 2005). With the present data, their number has increased up to ten. The genera *Bassaniodes* and *Xysticus* C.L. Koch, 1835 are most speciose, each accounting for three species. The genera *Ozyptila* Simon, 1864, *Synema* Simon, 1864, *Thomisus* Walckenaer, 1805, and *Runcinia* each includes one species recorded. The above numbers undoubtedly do not reflect the true richness of the thomisid fauna of Nakhchivan, indicating the need for further study of the Thomisidae of this region.

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