

This is a PDF version of PECKHAMIA 2(1): 9-10, December, 1980. Pagination of the original document has been retained. Editor's note (43.1): *Ballus youngii* is now known as *Attidops youngi* (Edwards, G. B., 1999, J. Arachnol. 27(1): 7-15), and *Pellenes rutherfordi* as *Habronattus texanus* (Griswold, C. E., 1987, Univ. Calif. Publ., Entomol. 107: i-ix, 1-344).

9

THE OCCURRENCE OF NOTCHED TROCHANTERAL LIMULI IN JUMPING SPIDERS (ARANEAE: SALTICIDAE).

Bruce Cutler

In a paper on the comparative structure of the spider trochanter, Roth (1964) discussed the significance of the limulus. This is the most distal part of the trochanter, and lies on the ventral part of the leg. This is the sclerite that may be notched and forms an integral part of most keys to spider families as the "notched trochanter" in the Lycosidae and Pisauridae. Roth (1964) quotes Petrunkevitch as stating that the anterior trochanters may be slightly notched in some species of salticids. In representatives of 10 North American genera examined by Roth, none had notched limuli, and he suggested a further study of salticid genera to determine which genera have representatives with notched limuli. I recently had an opportunity to examine representatives of some genera and species of salticids not examined by Roth. This is not meant to be an exhaustive study, and the future holds promise for further work in

10

the structure of salticid trochanters, as other modifications of the salticid trochanter occur (*Chirothecia* and *Cylistella*). Notched trochanteral limuli were found in *Ballus youngii* Peckham and Peckham - leg 4, slightly notched, more pronounced in female; *Pellenes rutherfordi* Gertsch and Mulaik - male only, legs 3 and 4, slightly notched, leg 3 more pronounced; *Plexippus paykulli* (Audouin) - males, all limuli notched, especially on leg 3, females, most pronounced on legs 2 and 3, legs 1 and 4 almost straight; *Plexippus* sp. from INDIA: Kerala - as in *Plexippus paykulli*; *Zuniga magna* Peckham and Peckham from PANAMA: Canal Zone - male, leg 3 has strong notch; *Zuniga* sp. from MEXICO: Nayarit - penultimate male, slight notch on leg 3, stronger notch on leg 4. As can be seen, there are representatives from presumably phylogenetically distant genera represented. The notched trochanteral limulus may represent an adaptation of some sort, though of what is not clear. A final note of caution, when examining limuli for notches, one must be sure that the intersegmental membrane between the trochanter and femur is completely pulled away from the limulus, since if it overlaps the limulus it may cause the limulus to appear notched.

REFERENCES

Roth, V. 1964. The taxonomic significance of the spider trochanter. Ann Entomol. Soc. Amer. 57: 759-766.