

## Gricenkovia, a new genus of Phalangiidae (Opiliones) from Kyrgyzstan

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A new monotypic genus of Phalangiidae is established for the species *Opilio potanini* Gricenko, 1979. The diagnosis of the new genus and a description of the species based on new material is given.

**Key words:** Gricenkovia; new species; *Opilio potanini*; Kyrgyzstan

### Introduction

While working with the arachnological collections from the Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences (St. Petersburg, Russia), we found a test tube full of Opiliones from the former Russian territory of Kirghizia. This region is where the species *Opilio potanini* was described by N.I. Gritsenko (1979, 1980). In general, the specimens found coincide with those of *Opilio potanini* Gricenko, 1979 according to the description, however the apical part of the glans of penis does not completely match with the figures by Gritsenko. Nevertheless, I believe that this is the same species, and refer it to a new genus. Like Gritsenko noted (1979, 1980), "the unusual structure of the stylus and glans of the penis separates this species from all known species of the genus *Opilio*".

Abbreviations used: ZIN – Zoological Institute of Russian Academy of Sciences in Saint-Petersburg. BLI – index of legs length [proportion of femur I length to width of cephalothorax (Staręga, 1972)].

### Description

#### *Gricenkovia* gen.n.

**Diagnosis.** 1. Body quadrangular in form, coloration dorsally dark-brown with small, silver colored, spots; ventrally and laterally with silver colored sides. 2. The ocular tubercle is low, round, distant from the anterior margin of the cephalothorax at a distance of approximately one diameter. 3. Chelicera not sexually dimorphic, not enlarged or ornamented. 4. Pedipalps normal, segments with setae, only tibia ventrally with small denticles. 5. Legs long, I and III pair shorter, but not thickened, with transversal rows of denticles, round in cross-section. 6. Penis long; glans narrow, elongated, curved, with 2 pairs of setae; stylus long. Subdistal end of the penis truncus with lateral pterygoid outgrowths starting from the middle of the penis body and not reaching the penis glans. 7. The anterior margin of the cephalothorax in front of the ocular tubercle with small groups of black-topped denticles (4 on each side).

**Relationships.** The new genus *Gricenkovia* gen.n. is nearest to *Opilio* Herbst, 1798 and *Homolophus* Banks, 1893, but differs from them by the structure of the penis and pedipalps: penis stylus narrow, long and curved, apical end of the penis with lateral pterygoid outgrowths starting from the middle of the penis body and not reaching the penis glans. Segments of pedipalps with setae, only tibia (in males) ventrally with small denticles.

**Type species:** *Gricenkovia potanini* (Gricenko, 1979).

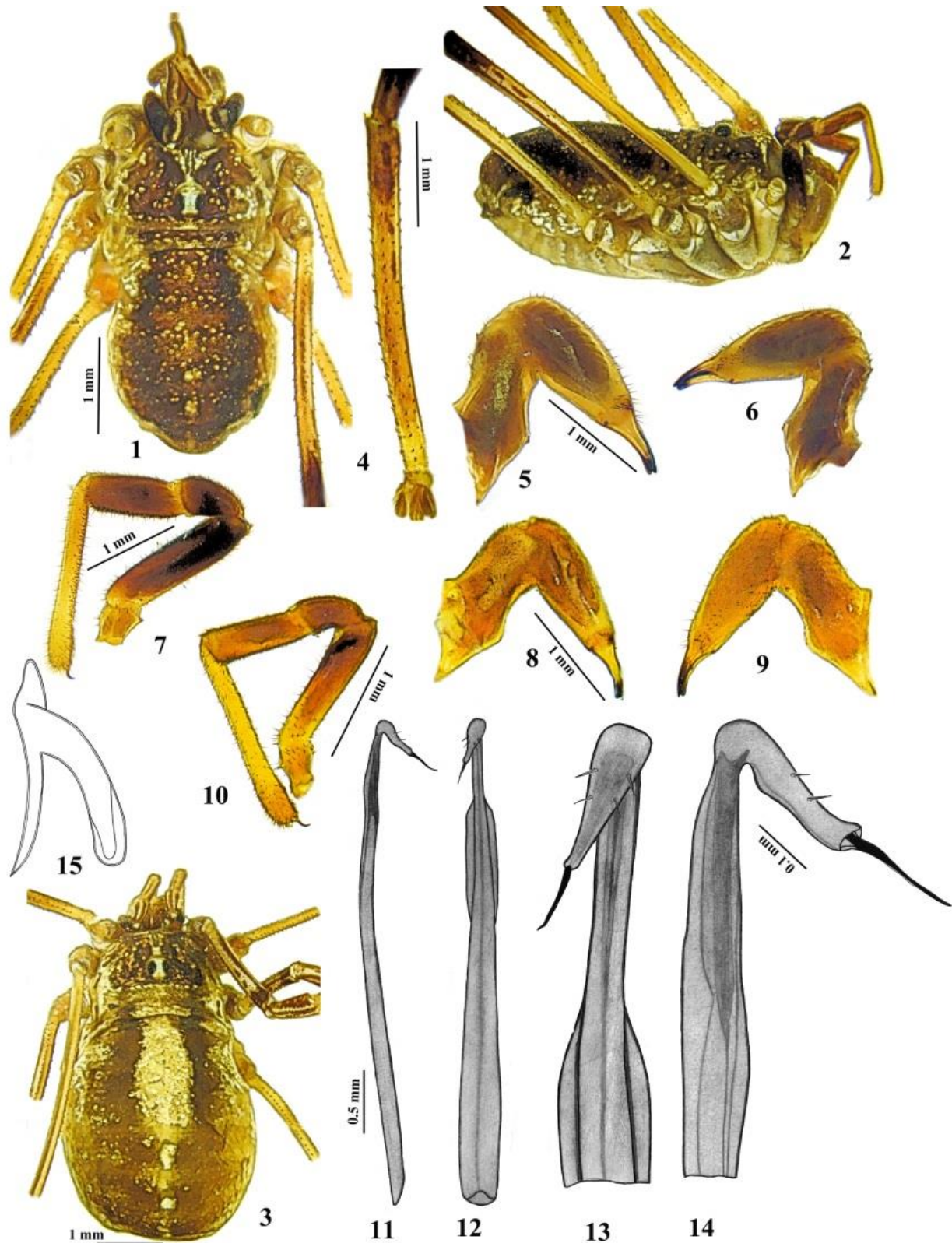
**Etymology.** The new genus is named in honor of the Kazakhstan opilionologist Nikolay I. Gritsenko, author of many works on Opiliones. The grammatical gender of the name is feminine.

#### *Gricenkovia potanini* (Gricenko, 1979) (Fig. 1-15)

**Material.** 7 ♂♂, 11 ♀♀ (ZIN), Kyrgyzstan, Kugart river, Taran-Bazar, under stones on wet places, 7.08.1895, S.I. Korzhinskiy leg., № 137-95.

**Description.** Male. Body quadrangular in form, length 4.8 mm, width 2.2 mm. Body surface with transverse single-double rows of small dark denticles - the first and last tergite of the abdomen with 1 row of denticles, the remaining tergites of the abdomen have double rows of such denticles. Coloration dorsally dark-brown with small, silver colored, spots; ventral and lateral sides silver colored. The anterior margin of the cephalothorax in front of the ocular tubercle with small groups of black-topped denticles (4 on each side). Ocular tubercle low, round, with 5-6 denticles on each side. Legs long, I and III pairs shorter, but not

thickened, with transversal rows of denticles (BLI 1.909). Legs brown with dark-brown oval spots. Pedipalps normally structured dark-brown, all segments with setae, tibia ventrally with small denticles. Chelicera normally structured, dark-brown, basal segment dorsally with some denticles and setae, distal segment with setae only. Basal segment length 1.75 mm, distal segment 1.75 mm. Penis long (4.0 mm), glans of penis narrow, long (0.3 mm) and curved with 2 pairs of setae; stylus long (0.25 mm). Apical end of the penis with lateral pterygoid outgrowths starting from the middle of the penis truncus and not reaching the penis glans.



**Figs. 1-15.** *Gricenkovia potanini* (Gricenko, 1979): 1 - male body, dorsal view; 2 - male body, lateral view, 3 - female body, dorsal view; 4 - male femur I, dorsal view; 5 - male right chelicera, ectal view; 6 - male right chelicera, mesal view; 7 - male right pedipalp, ectal view; 8 - female right pedipalp, ectal view; 9 - female right chelicera, mesal view; 10 - female right chelicera, mesal view; 11 - penis, lateral view; 12 - penis, dorsal view; 13 - glans of penis, dorsal view; 14 - glans of penis, lateral view; 15 - female seminal receptacle.

**Table 1.** Lengths in mm of palp and leg segments: male (female).

	Femur	Patella	Tibia	Metatarsus	Tarsus	Total
Palp	1.5(1.3)	0.6(0.5)	1.0(0.9)	---	1.7(1.8)	4.8(4.5)
I	4.2(4.0)	1.2(1.4)	3.5(3.2)	4.4(4.0)	7.5(7.6)	20.8(20.2)
II	8.5(7.0)	1.8(1.6)	6.4(6.6)	6.0(6.6)	14.0(15.6)	36.7(37.4)
III	4.5(4.0)	1.2(1.5)	3.4(3.0)	5.0(4.6)	7.0(7.6)	21.1(20.7)
IV	7.6(6.0)	1.5(1.5)	4.5(4.7)	7.0(7.2)	11.0(10.4)	31.6(29.8)

Female differs from the male by larger size, rounded body form, shorter legs, pedipalps and chelicera with setae only. Female body length 6.2 mm, width 3.4 mm. Basal cheliceral segment 1.6 mm, distal segment 1.8 mm. BLI 1.176.

**Distribution.** At the present time this species is known only from Kyrgyzstan.

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