

Forster, R. R. & N. I. Platnick. 1984. A review of the archaeid spiders and their relatives, with notes on the limits of the superfamily Palpimanoidea (Arachnida, Araneae). Bull. Am. Mus. nat. Hist. 178: 24-25.

*AFRARCHAEA*, NEW GENUS

Figures 1, 3, 8, 11, 18, 26, 30-33,  
36, 37, 53, 54, 58, 59

TYPE SPECIES: *Archaea godfreyi* Hewitt (1919).

ETYMOLOGY: The generic name refers to its African distribution and is feminine in gender.

DIAGNOSIS: *Afrarchaea* can be distinguished from the fossil *Eoarchaea* by the more marked elevation of the pars cephalica and from both *Archaea* and *Austrarchaea* by the lack of a strongly constricted "neck" and the different form of the female genitalia.

DESCRIPTION: Pars cephalica raised but little higher than width of carapace (fig. 1); portion of carapace between caput and thorax strongly developed, not markedly differentiated from head; slope from posterior margin of head indented at junction with pars thoracica; lateral eyes much closer to medians than in *Archaea* or *Austrarchaea* (figs. 3,

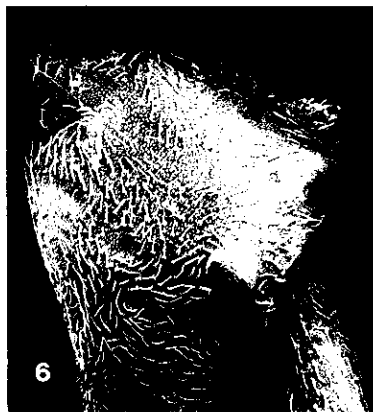
8). Carapace with numerous closely spaced tubercles, each bearing relatively short, finely ciliate procumbent hair; tubercles fewer dorsally, where with longer hairs (fig. 11). Furrow down midline of carapace below cheliceral foramen very narrow. Chelicerae (figs. 36, 37) apparently lacking true teeth on retromargin. Sternum distinctly longer than wide, not as narrow as in *Archaea*, covered with prominent pustules. Abdomen without dorsal scute in males. Female genitalia with anterior poreplate as in *Archaea* but relatively smaller, with secretory pores localized within four depressions; prominent sclerotic structure above plate consisting of broad thin horizontal plate from which prominent keel arises down center line (figs. 58, 59). Male bulb (figs. 53, 54) ovoid, similar to that of *Archaea*. Female palpal claw weakly developed (fig. 26).

INCLUDED SPECIES: Only the type species.

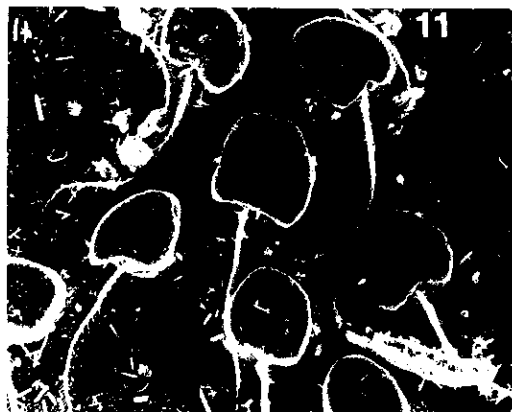
DISTRIBUTION: South Africa and Madagascar.



FIGS. 1-5. Archaeidae: carapace and chelicerae; arrows indicate the position of the cheliceral stridulatory ridges. 1, 3. *Afrarchaea godfreyi* (Hewitt). 2. *Archaea gracilicollis* Millot. 4, 5. *Austrarchaea nodosa* (Forster).



FIGS. 6-8. Archaeidae: head, showing the grouping of the eyes. 6. *Austrarchaea nodosa* (Forster). 7. *Archaea gracilicollis* Millot. 8. *Afrarchaea godfreyi* (Hewitt).



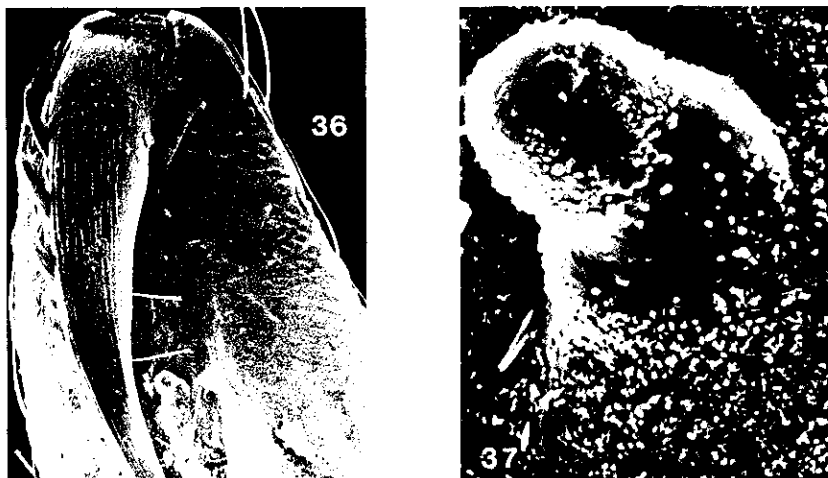
FIGS. 9-12. Archaeidae: setose pustules on the carapace. 11. *Afrarchaea godfreyi* (Hewitt). 12. *Archaea gracilicollis* Millot.



FIGS. 18–26. Archaeidae. 18, 26. *Afrarchaea godfreyi* (Hewitt). 19. *Austrarchaea nodosa* (Forster). 20, 24, 25. *Archaea gracilicollis* Millot. 21–23. *Archaea vadoni* Millot. 18–20. Bothria. 21. Tarsal organ. 22. Tarsal slit sense organ. 23. Distal portion of tarsus I; note the strong teeth on the ventral surface of the superior claws and the poorly developed onychium. 24, 25. Portion of retrolateral surface of metatarsus I, showing the spatulate hairs arising from elongated pits, and an enlargement of one spatulate hair. 26. Vestigial palpal claw.



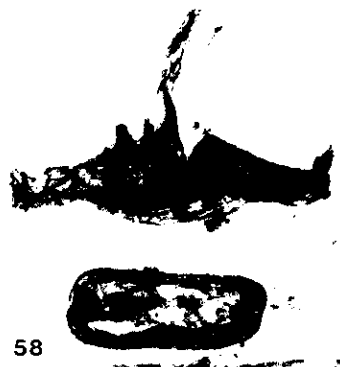
FIGS. 27-33. Archaeidae. 30-33. *Afrarchaea godfreyi* (Hewitt). 30. Endites and labrum, showing paired lateral labral protuberances. 31. Serrula. 32. Metatarsus III, showing the group of serrate hairs on the distal half of the ventral surface. 33. Enlargement of some of the serrate hairs on metatarsus III.



FIGS. 34-39. Archaeidae: chelicerae and cheliceral gland mounds. 36, 37. *Afrarchaea godfreyi* (Hewitt).



FIGS. 51-54. Archaeidae: male palp. 53, 54. *Afrarchaea godfreyi* (Hewitt).



FIGS. 55-59. Archaeidae: female genitalia. 58, 59. *Afrarchaea godfreyi* (Hewitt), posterior view, and ventral view of posterior secretory plate; arrows indicate two of the four secretory pore pouches.