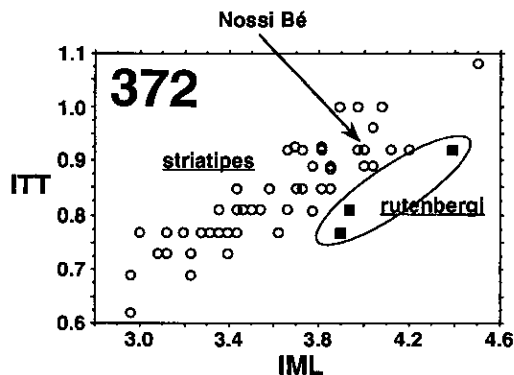
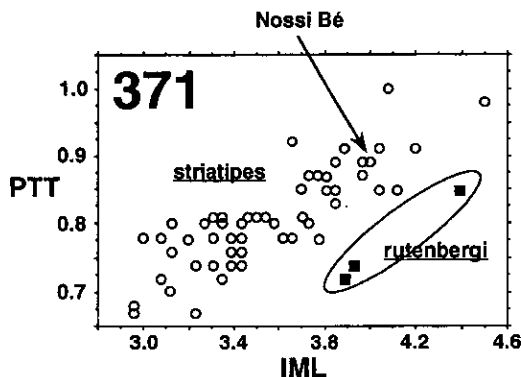


Coyle, F. A. 1995. A revision of the funnelweb mygalomorph spider subfamily Ischnothelinae (Araneae, Dipluridae). Bull. Am. Mus. nat. Hist. 226: 116-117. [Reproduced with permission from Dr. Frederick Coyle].

Thelechoris rutenbergi Karsch, 1881



Figs. 371, 372. Scattergrams of male characters that help distinguish *Thelechoris rutenbergi* from *Thelechoris striatipes*. Measurements in mm. Arrows point to data points for *T. striatipes* lectotype from Nossi Bé. 371. PTT plotted against IML. 372. ITT plotted against IML.

Thelechoris rutenbergi Karsch

Figures 371-387; Map 4

Thelechoris rutenbergi Karsch, 1881: 196, figs. C-C2 (female holotype from Madagascar, in ZMB, no. 3687, examined). - Simon, 1892: 187. - Benoit, 1964: 424. - Raven, 1983a: 347; 1983b: 553.

Ischnothele rutenbergi: Simon, 1902: 513. - Strand, 1907: 263 (in part); 1908: 456.

DIAGNOSIS: The two species of *Thelechoris* are very similar and may eventually prove to be one (see "Remarks" section under *T. striatipes*). The three *T. rutenbergi* males I have examined have proportionally thin palpal and leg I tibiae and proportionally long leg I articles, so that they have lower PTT(100)/IML (18.5-19.4 [18.9 ± 0.4]) and ITT(100)/IML (19.8-21.0 [20.5 ± 0.6]) values (figs. 371, 372) than do all (or most) known *T. striatipes*

males [PTT(100)/IML = 20.6-26.0 (22.7 ± 1.2); ITT(100)/IML = 20.9-25.7 (23.2 ± 1.1)]. The tibia I mating apophyses of these *T. rutenbergi* males (figs. 374-377) are rougher and more wrinkled than those of the great majority of *T. striatipes* males (figs. 391-402). I have discovered only two female characters that help distinguish these species. The 10 examined females of *T. rutenbergi* have proportionally longer lateral spinneret articles (especially LSL2), a proportionally narrower OQW, and proportionally fewer maxillary cuspules than most or many of the *T. striatipes* females examined; consequently, 90% of all *T. striatipes* females examined have larger OQW(100)/LSL2 values (69-95 [80 ± 6]) than do the *T. rutenbergi* females (59-72 [66 ± 4]) (fig. 373), and 62% of the *T. striatipes* females have higher MC/LSL2 values

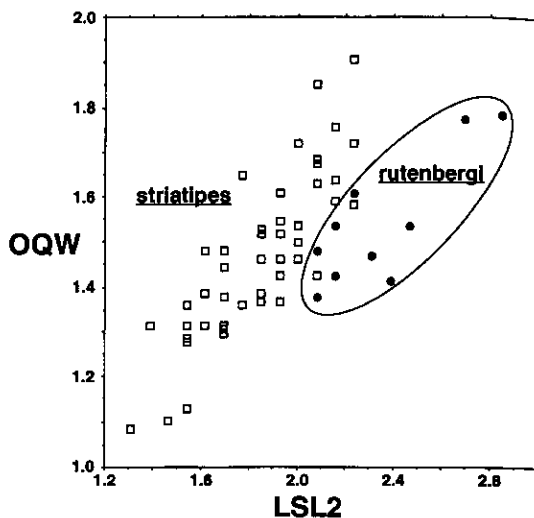


Fig. 373. Scattergram of OQW plotted against LSL2 for *Thelechoris rutenbergi* and *Thelechoris striatipes* females. Measurements in mm.

(44–136 [86 ± 19]) than do the *T. rutenbergi* females (24–82 [63 ± 17]).

MALES: Table 5. Palpal tibia, cymbium, palpal organ, and leg I articles as in generic description, except tibia I apophysis consistently rough and wrinkled (figs. 374–381). One pair of foveal bristles. Carapace with pars cephalica red-brown, pars thoracica orange to tan, lateral edges dark gray, dark brown to black around AMEs and between PME and lateral eyes. Chelicerae colored like pars cephalica; pedipalps and legs like pars thoracica. White hairs on carapace and patellae, as in females. Abdominal dorsum medium gray-brown with pale markings as described for females; abdominal venter as in females.

FEMALES: Tables 6 and 7. Spermathecal stalks (figs. 382–387) long, narrow, and usually with regular tight spirals; median stalk usually with fewer spirals (1.5–3.5) and slightly narrower than its lateral partner (2–4 spirals). Spermathecal bulbs roughly spherical to elongate-oval; median bulb usually a little larger than lateral bulb. Two or 3 foveal bristles. Carapace with pars cephalica orange to orange-tan, pars thoracica lighter orange to pale tan, lateral edges dark gray, dark brown to black around AMEs and between PME and lateral eyes. Chelicerae moderate to dark orange, pedipalps and legs orange-tan to pale tan. Fragile white hairs (many have probably worn off) clustered on lateral carapace and distal end of patellae. Abdominal dorsum with

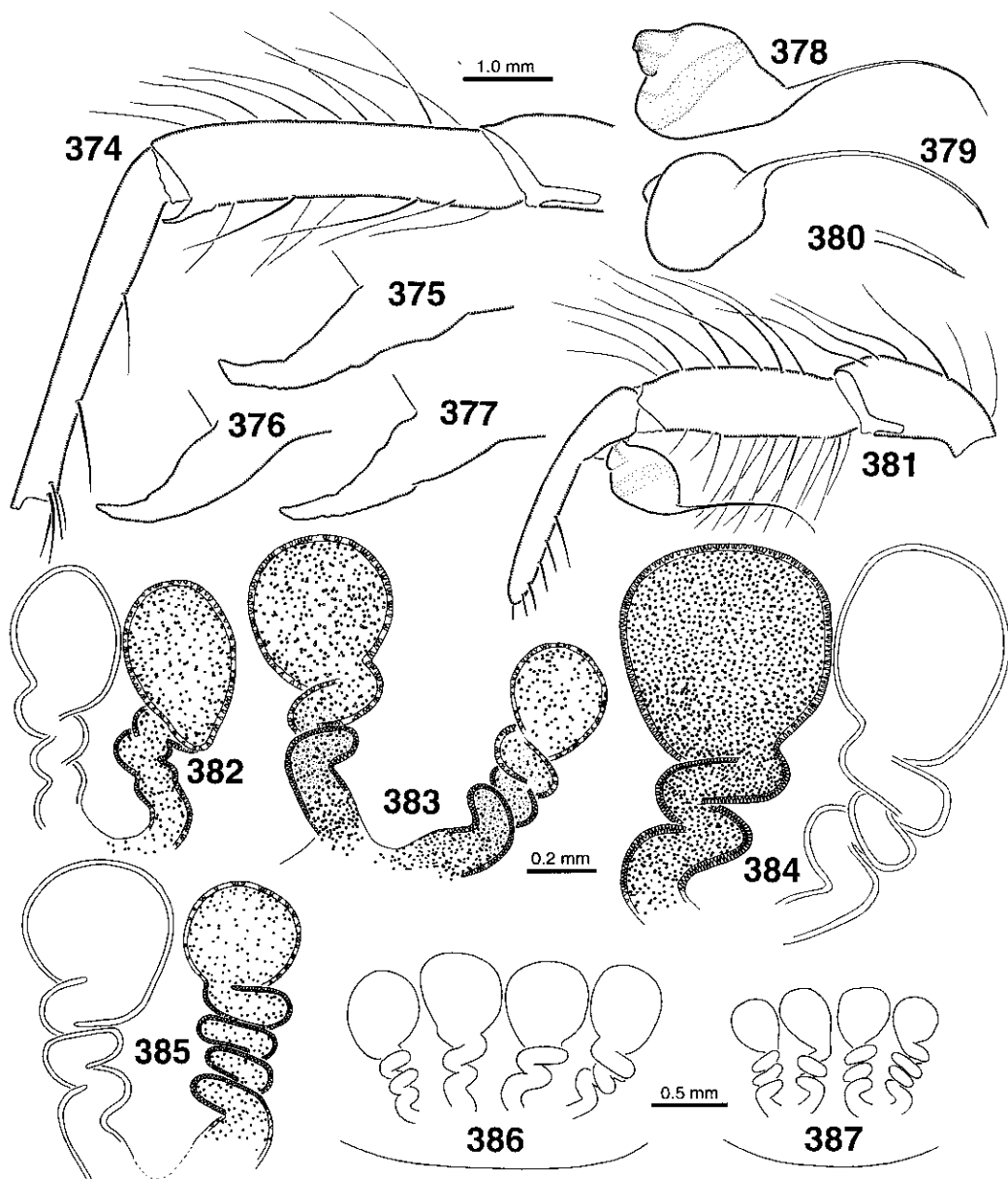
background color of light brown to dark brown spots and mottled areas; anterior pair of pale spots followed by 6–7 pale chevrons, anterior few wider and interrupted in middle, posterior ones thinner and complete. Abdominal venter pale with scattered brown spots; small area of dark brown pigment covers up to the medianmost 25% of each posterior lung cover. The colors of the holotype (Karsch, 1881) have become much lighter after more than 100 years in alcohol; all traces of the “yellow-brown” chevrons (Karsch, 1881) on the abdominal dorsum have disappeared.

VARIATION: One of the three females from Majunga (fig. 382) has spermathecal stalks with much weaker and less regular spirals and bulbs that are more elongate than those of the other *T. rutenbergi* specimens examined (figs. 383–387).

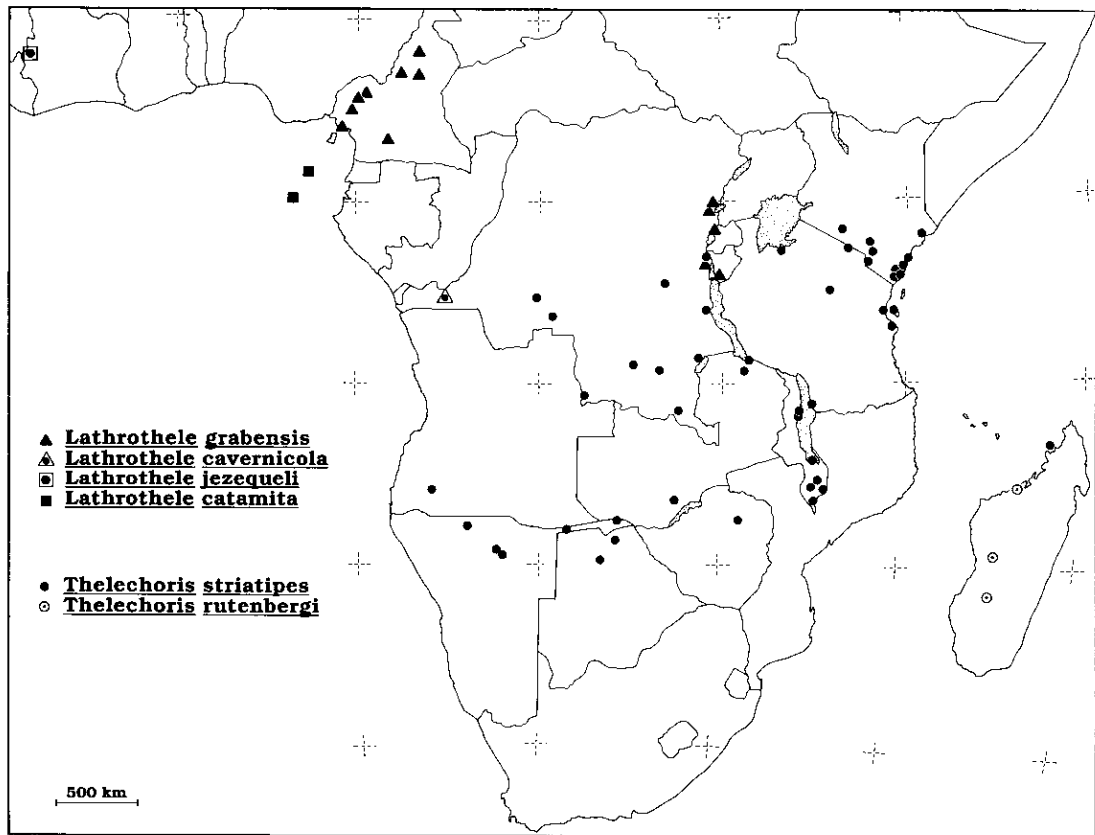
DISTRIBUTION: Madagascar (map 4).

MATERIAL EXAMINED: MADAGASCAR: (Rutenberg, ZMB 3687), 1 ♀ (holotype); Berevo, 21°29'S, 45°29'E, Jan. 1948 (B. Lasne, MRAC 142.969), 3 ♂, 4 ♀, juvs.; central Madagascar (ZMB 9442), 1 ♀; Majunga (= Mojanganga), May 1896 (MNHN), 1 ♀, 1893 (Voeltzkow; ZMB 9440, 9441), 2 ♀, juv.; Manandaza, June 1969 (A. Lambillion, MRAC 142.961), 1 ♀, juv.

NATURAL HISTORY: Strand (1908) reported that females were collected from funnelwebs attached to tree trunks near Marovoay.



Figs. 374–387. *Thelechoris rutenbergi*. 374–381. Males from Berevo. 374. Tibia and metatarsus I, retrolateral view. 375–377. Tibia I apophysis, retrolateral view. 378–380. Palpal organ. 378. Retrolateral-ventral view. 379, 380. Ventral view. 380. Embolus tip magnified 2× fig. 379. 381. Pedipalp, retrolateral view. 382–385. Right spermathecae. 382. Majunga. 383. Berevo, 384. Holotype. 385. Berevo. 386, 387. All spermathecae. 386. Holotype. 387. Berevo. Scale lines: 1.0 mm for figs. 374, 381; 0.2 mm for figs. 375–377, 382–385; 0.5 mm for figs. 378, 379, 386, 387.



Map 4. Africa and Madagascar, showing distribution of *Lathrothele grabensis*, *L. cavernicola*, *L. jezequeli*, *L. catamita*, *Thelechoris rutenbergi*, and *T. striatipes*.