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Character assassination: a personal witness account with a taxonomic note on the genus *Laufeia* s. lat. (Araneae: Salticidae)

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The paper comments discussion on how to delimit taxa of Salticidae, initiated by *Kropf et al*. (2019). It discusses a number of important general issues, including the relative value of precise diagnostic drawings and photos compared to verbal definitions of taxa, which is relevant to hundreds of current taxonomic publications. To illustrate key principles, the paper also analyses the validity of the recent synonymization of the genera *Junxattus*, *Lechia* and *Orcevia*, evaluating the sufficiency and relevance of previously published morphological and molecular data.

On the basis of the above (documented on Figs 1-4 below), **the following momenclatural changes are introduced**:

Gen. *Junxattus* Prószyński & Deeleman-Reinhold, 2012 - revalidated - (type species *Junxattus daiqini*);

Gen. *Lechia* Zabka, 1985 - revalidated - (type species *Lechia squamata*);

Gen. *Orcevia* Thorell, 1890 - revalidated - (type species *Orcevia keyserlingii*).

The placement of female of *Laufeia concava* and male (only!) of *Laufeia squamata* are erroneous and require generic transfer. *Lechia minuta* (Prószyński, 1992) is misplaced too, belonging neither to *Laufeia* nor to *Euoprys*, it should be provisionally listed as *Lechia* (according to latest documented reference) until revisionary research of fauna of its area yields additional material to clarify its correct placement.

I was victim of a character assassination[1] attempt on January 18th, 2919. *Kropf et al*. (2019) - a highly prestigious group of 13 editors, employees and associates of the World Spider Catalog (quoted as WSC further in the text) have published article in *Zootaxa* **4545**(3): 444-446 on my alleged grave errors. The article contains recommendation that my papers "…**should be ignored by the community**" because *"*... **brings nothing but chaos in salticid systematics***"* and *"*...**this is nothing but scientific malpractice**". After such summary of 60 years of research, the only action remaining to an honorable scientist is to commit suicide.

[1] Character assassination is an intentional attempt to influence the reputation of someone in such a way as to cause others to develop an extremely negative or unappealing perception of him. It typically involves deliberate exaggeration or manipulation of facts and deliberate misinformation to present an untrue picture of the targeted person, and unwarranted and excessive criticism (WIKIPEDIA)

I was resuscitated by a single, righteous man, a person whom I never know before - *Rainer Breitling*. He has asked me whether I read *Kropf et al* (2019) paper - I did not. So he has sent me PDF of it, and let me read his article written out of compassion and in my defense, which later, after biased delaying tactics of *Zootaxa,* had to be published in other journal and has finally appeared on May 7th, 2019 in *Ecologica Montenegrina* 21: 62-69. That was an outstanding, exemplary text, motivated by professional ethics in defense of hapless victim, pointing at logical faults and groundless accusations. I have promptly sent both articles to my correspondents, to let them draw their own conclusion. But I feel, that being the only witness knowing what really happened, I should give my testimony on this case.

Kropf and his 12 remaining co-signatories, acted undoubtedly in the best intention - to prevent innocent readers-arachnologists from becoming victims of a chaos caused by my papers on taxonomy of Salticidae, which are, according to them, "**nothing but scientific malpractice**". Somewhat disproportional emotions, if really caused by my sins, enumerated by *Kropf et al*. (readers are requested to read what *Kropf* et al. actually wrote). Their reaction would be more understandable if caused by feelings of public humiliation and personal insult. Have I insulted Kropf & his 12 co-signatories? Not intentionally, and I never attacked majority of co-signers. But a few WSC editors could feel so by my corrections of obvious errors in their extremely valuable WSC. To add emotional weigh, they have mustered accompanying chorus of innocent bystanders, like in ancient Greek comedy.

How came that I committed so many sins? I have been revising taxonomy of Salticidae for sixty years, I am still active in that and I have developed tools permitting to check identification and classification of ca. 4800 recognizable species (in fact I have memorized diagnostic drawings of majority of them). So having encountered wrong synonymy I corrected them. Traditionally, authors finding identity of two different nominal species communicate that in publication by writing two words: "**synonym new**" or "**combination new**", which are duly accepted by editors of the WSC, without asking any question, no documentation is needed. Even if introduced changes turned upside down large part of the system of Salticidae. Owing to editorial faults there are hundreds of falsely synonymized species, even genera, in the WSC. In difference to editorial welcome to unconfirmed synonyms, correcting of such errors is very unwelcome. I have been trying to notify editors by letters, to spare public humiliation to authors of erroneous data, but editors refused to consider them, so I had to write corrections in a publication, but single publication was often not enough - I had to publish it again, often only to get evasive answer, so had to publish that again. It just happened that in case of erroneous removal of the genus *Emertonius* Peckham & Peckham, 1892 from the records - I had to write letters, and publish notes - five times. FIVE! So finally I described my futile efforts in a large publication, including documentation (see Prószyński, J. (2018). Review of genera *Evarcha* and *Nigorella*, with comments on *Emertonius*, ... *Ecologica Montenegrina* **16**: 160-162*[2]).

I was careful to avoid any derogatory comments, but the WSC editors were apparently afraid that readers may comment themselves - and HIER LIEGT DER HUND BEGRABEN!
How the WSC editors reacted to the description of their conduct? First of all, they at last corrected misunderstanding about genus *Emertonius* and it is now listed where it belongs, right from the beginning. So they accepted that I was right the whole time - why then I had to repeat five times my intervention! Secondly - they censored out that publication from WSC records for 10 months - simply such paper never existed and, as they recommended latter, in their memorable article, that paper "…**should be ignored by the community**". Sure, should - because community could draw erroneous conclusions about the competence of the WSC editors.

Furthermore, they have organized justified reaction of the indignant peoples, in a form of "**intense discussion of the World Spider Catalog editorial team ... with taxonomist from all over the world, including Prószyński himself**". Just concerning that body of illustrious disputants, I am wondering what their competence was. Four leading specialists of taxonomy of Salticidae are notably absent among authors of the paper, the 13 authors have either no documented knowledge of Salticidae worldwide, or limited to local faunae. As for **"... including Prószyński himself"** I was never contacted, what more, during 10 months of boycott of my paper, I wrote to the WSC editors - but have not received any answer. I was even not

[2] I will be pleased to send PDF of that paper, and any other relevant, to the readers willing to check the details.

notified that such article has appeared. So I have reasons to believe that the "intense discussion" was rather a world wide conspiracy of a few arachnologists, considering themselves competent, but devoid of any good will.

The descriptions of my publications in the *Kropf* et al. paper is rather disappointing, the co-signatories attack theses I never wrote, my statements were taken out of their context, or simply misunderstood, generally they failed even to read papers I wrote.

To illustrate fallacy of accusations by 13 taxonomic wizards, I must recollect here some details of my life research program. It started precisely 59 years ago, when, after five years of preliminary faunal research, I begin PhD project. It was to be taxonomic revision of the genus *Sitticus* (later switched to less speciose *Yllenus*) on the background of the whole subfamily Sitticinae (as it was then understood). Nobody has guided me, the existing literature appeared useless, and so I had to invent my own methods. The research consisted of preparation of very precise diagnostic drawings (made with removable microscope ocular grid on paper with hand made grid of various size) initially 30 x 30 cm total size (later reduced to 15 x 15 cm), the drawings were later transferred onto tracing paper (later drawn directly on *coquille paper*) and published reduced to the 5 x 5 cm dimensions. I based my research on revision of type specimens of species and type species of genera to get data of true representatives of taxa; I added later type genera of all, then recognized, subfamilies. I documented details of standard diagnostic characters: palpal organs, epigyne and internal structures of epigyne, when ever possible also external appearance of body and somatic characters (often deeply changed after 100 years of preservation in alcohol). Type specimens were scattered among many collections (until now I used them from some 59 museums) so I had access to each taxon only once, but I preserved results as archive of diagnostic drawings - which were the real paradigms of my research. I dutifully described appearance of studied specimens and measured them (over 20 direct measurements and ratios per specimens) and included them into my publications for over 30 years, but almost never used them later for my taxonomic considerations. Peoples are apt to believe in something, so arachnologists believe in detailed descriptions and measurements, one should not ridicule somebody's beliefs, but that does not mean that should follow them blindly. I may add that my last word about valid diagnostic characters, a little bit revolutionary, is given in *Prószyński, J., Lissner, J. & Schäfer, M.* (2018). Taxonomic survey of the genera *Euophrys*, ... *Ecologica Montenegrina* **18**: 27-28. I used that methodology in all my papers in years 1962-2018, it was used also by my students and collaborators. I am particularly happy that latest papers of the most prominent arachnologists, previously lukewarm to my methodology, employed it with excellent results (for instance *Logunov, D. V.* (2019), *Maddison, W. P. & Szűts, T.* (2019).

I would quietly pass out, like majority of decent taxonomist do, were it not for my ambitions to advance project begun, and to help young arachnologists. I was depressed by the enormous task of work to complete my project - the amount of non recognizable genera and species awaiting revision and weakness of my research possibilities. I insisted that each studied specimen was to be thoroughly documented, compared with relevant taxa, every publication had to cover complete problem. With difficulties in getting necessary species, my progress was generally slow: I used to delay publications until exhausted the problem - studied all relevant genera, complementary material. My access to types in collections abroad was rare and uncertain because of political obstacles and lack of moneys, so working in foreign collections I always tried to make drawings of all types, which could be later useful. Usually it took me some 20 years to publish a paper, so I worked on several papers simultaneously. I felt obliged to produce comparative drawings of all types of relevant species. For two decades I have been doing revisionary research single handed, and while I managed to revise and redefine types (mainly) of 1,557 nominal species (ca. 5,060 drawings) until 1987, but there are now 6,156 nominal species, divided into 640 nominal genera, awaiting study (all figures approximate, taken from WSC and my Salticidae Database). Solution would be inviting young students by popularizing taxonomy of Salticidae. The results were relatively good - I have formatted in my Department of Zoology in Siedlce 5 salticidologists (among them such leading, world wide recognized specialists as *W. H. Wesołowska* and *M. Żabka,* the whole productions of our group of taxonomists related to my Department of Zoology in Siedlce amounts to 289 taxonomic papers). I compiled keys to Salticidae of Central Europe (1991) and Internet keys to several countries (including Poland, European Russia, Ukraine, Israel, Turkey and recently India - the latter with J. Caleb). I was also in touch with young arachnologists - the correspondence involved advising on identification and sharing my unpublished drawings. In practice, I influenced research of

majority of saltidcidologists around the world of the 1980ties publishing generation. I have been still doing that, even now.

At the age of 70 I had to interrupt my work with microscope, due to health conditions, including heavy diabetes and both eye lenses replacement. But I still had unpublished drawings, so have been publishing papers on new material until 2013. In addition, in 1995-2016, I made final and the most important of works of my life - compilation of relational Internet Dadatabase of Salticidae of the World (entitled somewhat pompously "Monograph of Salticidae (Araneae) of the World 1995-2016") containing most usable graphic diagnostic data to ca. 4,800 recognizable species out of 6,156 nominal species (large part of which unrecognizable) listed in the records of WSC. The main body of the Database Part II *http://www.peckhamia.com/salticidae/* contains 2,162 accepted species (that is having diagnostic drawings for both sexes) and 2,616 known from one sex only. I conscientiously disregarded 925 unrecognizable species (until revised) and 572 *nomina dubia*. That work is documented by 13,754 diagnostic drawings and 8,027 photos. The most important and useful is Part I of the Database *http://www.peckhamia.com/salticidae/0-Foreword-INDEX-2014.html* displaying, upon a click, diagnostic characters of all recognizable species - WITHIN SECONDS. Creation of that database was possible owing to kind permission of my colleagues, and other authors and copyright holders, to copy and use their diagnostic drawings and photographs. In particular, I am indebted to helpful advices from *W. P. Maddison*, who introduced me into usage of *html* database in the Internet and taught to insert illustrations into it. Part I of the Database appeared extremely useful in identification, checking and comparing of ca. 4,800 recognizable species worldwide, and checking their synonyms - all within seconds. Unfortunately, it has been not used by my friends, who have been thinking that they will manage their work without it, what worse, database irritated some authors by allowing comparison of quality of their drawings, and by displaying a few of their errors in identification, which my colleagues detested. That resulted in partial boycott of the Database, which is not quoted in references to some papers.

There is a danger that Part I of the Database (that is the most effective part of it) may be erased entirely in a case of failure of a server it is written on, so immense help of Database could possibly be lost to the next generation. To save some experience, embedded in the Database, I decided desperately to publish parts of it in Internet journals. At my current age of 83 I could not be sure that I will manage even to publish paper just in preparation, or the next one, or the next planned. As a matter of fact I have managed to publish eight papers during years 2016-2019, owing to kind attitude of my editor and referees. Have I done preparation to print sufficiently well? Single handed? Of course not. The condition of publishing papers in the Internet journals is preparation of manuscript in a final, exact form, so both editor and referees called my attention to necessary editorial corrections, but, in spite of efforts, I was unable to do that sufficiently well. The faults are mine and so they gave *Kropf* and his 12 co-signatories occasion to ridicule me.

Is there anything more ridiculous than efforts to write scientific paper by an octogenarian dotard, with heavy diabetes, occasional losses of mental concentration, with dyslexia hampering to notice typing errors? Half blind, half deaf, with short time memory gone, hitting wrong letters on keyboard and unable to discern typing errors. I had to put much more efforts, than other authors do, to produce understandable manuscript, and then suddenly, when tired, after a few hours of work, come a spell of blackout of diabetic hypoglycemia and unnoticeably my control over a text disappeared. Fragments of text became a mess - that happens at any stage of work, even during last correction. Editors of WSC ridicule my clumsy editing, probably right, but I came from a country where elderly peoples are being spontaneously assisted at every occasion, I receive that assistance myself, but I behaved also that way myself, whenever it was possible, and my children display the same attitude. It is difficult to get accustomed to habits of peoples brought up in different cultures.

What makes me to believe that I am fit, none the less and in certain conditions, to write on taxonomy of Salticidae even now? I believe my unique property is a long term memory bank, owing to which I remember almost all diagnostic drawings I have drawn during 60 years, or if forgotten, then have ability to recollect quickly where I seen them and check. I feel a higher calling to save my experiences expressed in Database because it may help beginners in Salticidae taxonomy of the next generation, when infatuation with tree drawings will be gone, but also nobody knowing morphological diagnostics of Salticidae will remain available.

Am I wrong? Perhaps! But when *Kropf* & co write that "*Prószyński* [suddenly!] creates a number of new genera in a series of papers (e.g. *Prószyński* 2016a, 2018)" I must object. These new ideas of ordering diversity were worked out during the 20 years of creating Database of Salticidae, and some, like *Evalba albaria*, even as early as in 1960ties, when I worked on identification of Japanese Salticidae for professor *Takeo Yaginuma*. I delayed that publication on *Evalba albaria* waiting for rearrangement of remaining 80 species of *Evarcha* s. l. until learned where to place it.

I will not deal with "dictionary" of what I have been thinking because illustrious authors could non know what I have really thought, so they failed to understand what they have been attempting to explain. All their comments on that make no sense.

But I have to correct some generalizations. Dear critics do not spare efforts to show that they are smart. For instance they **appreciate importance of the International Code on Nomenclature** (ICZN further in the text) like myself. But lawyers applying law always consider whether interpretation of law does fit to particular cases. Species having thousand records (like some beetles or butterflies) are subjected to different interpretations than other, quoted two times during hundred years. Genus consisting of related, confirmed species (so called "*natural*"), is different from incidental assemblage of unrelated species (as in many Salticidae). These are reasons for procedural errors in WSC. But editors of WSC did not understand that in a number of cases.

Some other accusations.

Disregard of ICZN rules - was answered adequately by *Rainer Breitling* (2019) - I advise readers to read that article.

Disregard of the need to explain evidence - I wrote my papers to competent readers, who are able to interpret diagnostic drawings themselves. Apart from hundreds of drawings in my latest publications, all evidences quoted by me, standard ones used in hundreds of papers for 150 years, are backed up by comparative plates of ca. 4,800 species, available within seconds in my Salticidae Database. What more, half of co-signatories of the Kropf's article have been using them routinely in their publications (*Dupérré, Haddad, Marusik*), the true author of the discussed text could ask them for explanation.

Violation of the basic principle of objectivity in natural sciences - well illustrate natural cravings for using great words the speaker does not understand. Mentioning name of *Mayr* in this context provokes doubts whether author really read any book of *Mayr*.

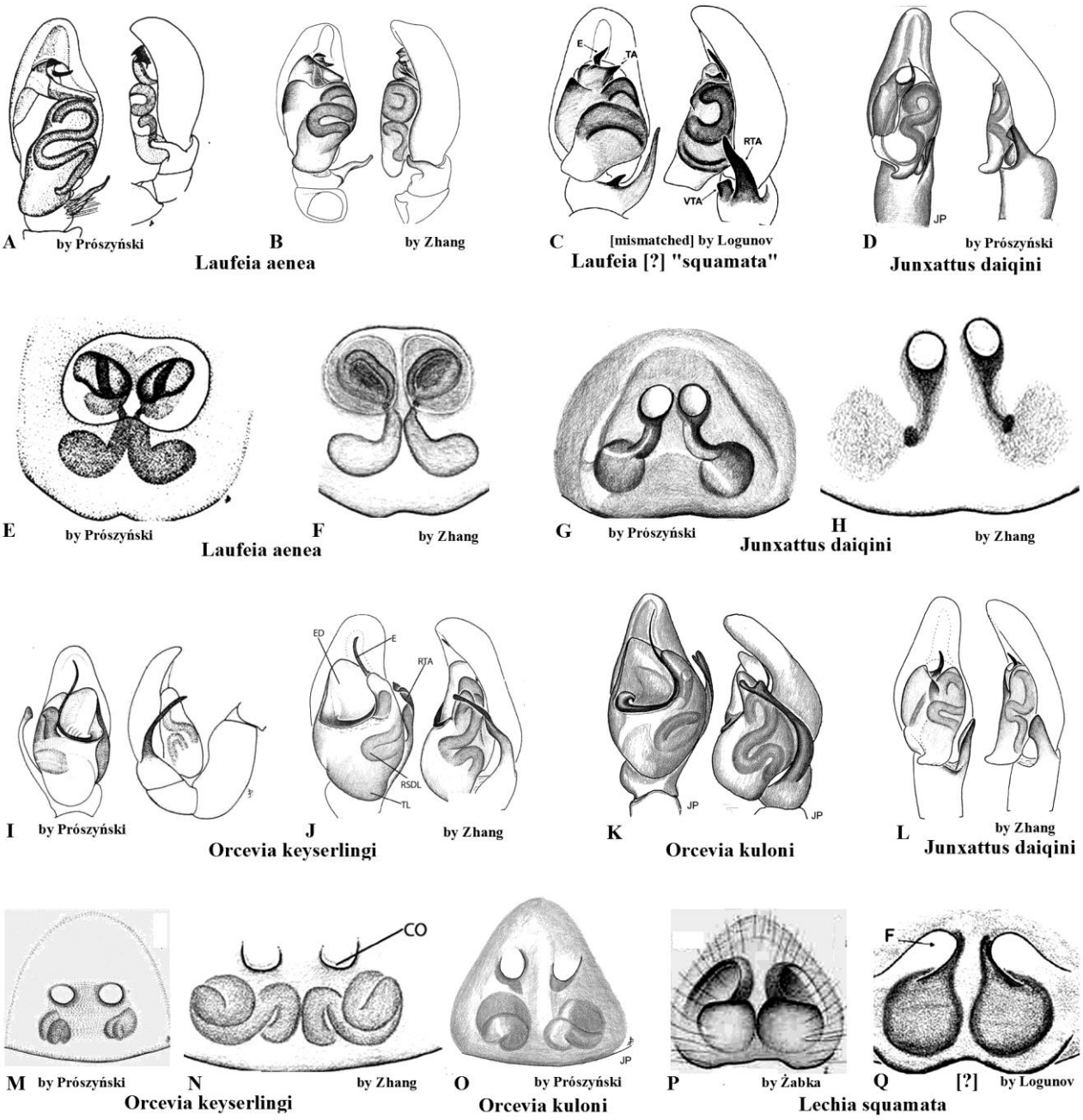
Disregard of modern scientific methods. There was a war between Lilliput and Blefuscu on which end of an egg a person should cracks (see "Gulliver's travels" by Jonathan Swift). I believe that selection of methods is a privilege of a researcher and no business of WSC editors.

Suprageneric names ending with - INES. This is a total misinterpretation of my courteous avoiding heated quarrels with *Maddison* and his believers on the matters insufficiently understood (at least by myself, I hope editors of WSC know more). As *Maddison* explained himself (2015) his system is based in part on gene sequencing, in part on traditional taxonomy and in part on his intuition - I suppose each of these parts may concern one third of genera in each clade. As far as I checked, the two last parts are based in part on misidentifications and/or procedural neglecting. Which does not mean that the system, as a whole, must be untrue. I simply do not know and *Maddison's* believers are not able to check that. In that situation I concentrate on practical matters, which could be useful in any system. Which names should I use to label studied groups of genera: those invented by Simon in 1901-1903? Their amendments sacralized by *Maddison*? Choice involves not only mere labeling of genera, but also accepting underlying philosophy, and a lot of taxonomic consequences. Responsible author should limit himself to statements he fully understands, he cannot promote uncertain matters - until remove doubts, no matter whether ridiculed by some peoples. So usage of temporary, informal names which can easily be translated into finally confirmed system, seems to be practical and honest solution.

In view of all the above, the final compliment of *Kropf* et al.: "**... we consider *Prószyński*'s lifework as truly exceptional and we feel a deep respect for it**" sounds rather ironical. Let me "**requiescat in pace**".

Revalidation of genera *Junxattus*, *Lechia*, *Orcevia* and their separation from genus *Laufeia*,
comparative chart of main diagnostic characters of type specimens
(for taxonomic references see World Spider Catalog)

To help readers not practicing taxonomy of Salticidae to visualize what is the whole affair about, I enclose below examples of my working method on comparative morphology, compared with an example of description in words, advocated by WSC editors and written by the most respected arachnologists. It is a case of actual controversy on lumping several genera into *Laufeia*, and efforts to restore biologically meaningful genera, previously reported but still blocked by WSC editors.



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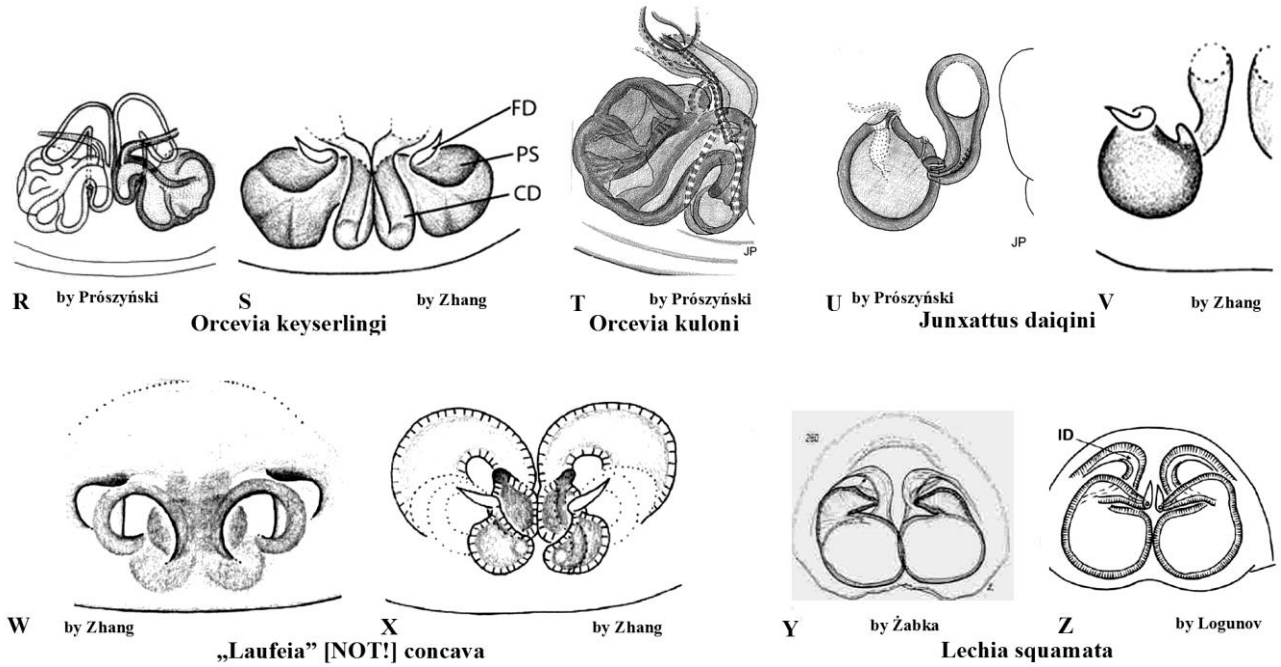


Figure 1. **Simultaneous observation of diagnostic characters is necessary for assessment of morphological similarities and differences**: five different genera lumped by WSC into single genus *Laufeia*. Palps, ventral view of epigyne and internal structure of epigyne in: **A** - *Laufeia aenea* - type specimens by Prószyński, **B** - *Laufeia aenea* - type specimens by Zhang, **C** - *Laufeia* [?] *"squamata"* [mismatched] by Logunov, **D** - *Junxattus daiqini* - type specimens by Prószyński, **E** - *Laufeia aenea* - type specimens by Prószyński, **F** - *Laufeia aenea* - type specimens by Zhang, **G** - *Junxattus daiqini* by Prószyński, **H** - *Junxattus daiqini* by Zhang, **I** - *Orcevia keyserlingi* - type specimens by Prószyński, **J** - *Orcevia keyserlingi* by Zhang, **K** - *Orcevia kuloni* - type specimens by Prószyński, **L** - *Junxattus daiqini* by Zhang, **M** - *Orcevia keyserlingi* - type specimens by Prószyński, **N** - *Orcevia keyserlingi* by Zhang, **O** - *Orcevia kuloni* - type specimen by Prószyński, **P** - *Lechia squamata* - type specimen by Zabka, **Q** - *Lechia squamata* by Logunov, **R** - *Orcevia keyserlingi* - type specimens by Prószyński, **S** - *Orcevia keyserlingi* by Zhang, **T** - *Orcevia kuloni* - type specimen by Prószyński, **U** - *Junxattus daiqini* - type specimen by Prószyński, **V** - *Junxattus daiqini* by Zhang, **W**, **X** - *"Laufeia"* [NOT!] *concava* by Zhang, **Y** - *Lechia squamata* - type specimen by Zabka, **Z** - *Lechia squamata* by Logunov.

SOURCES: **A, E** - Prószyński in Bohdanowicz & Prószyński (1987) *Annales Zoologici*, 41: 43-151, **B, F, H, J, L, N, S, V, W, X** - Zhang in Zhang & Maddison, (2015): *Zootaxa* 3938 (1): 1-147, © Magnolia Press, **C, Q, Z** - Logunov & Jäger (2015) *Russian Entomological Journal* 24(4): 343-363, **D, G, M, I, K, M, O, R, T, U** - Prószyński in Prószyński & Deeleman-Reinhold, (2012) *Arthropoda Selecta* 21**:** 29-60., **P, Y** - Zabka, 1985: *Annales Zoologici*, **39**: 197-485. SOURCES:.

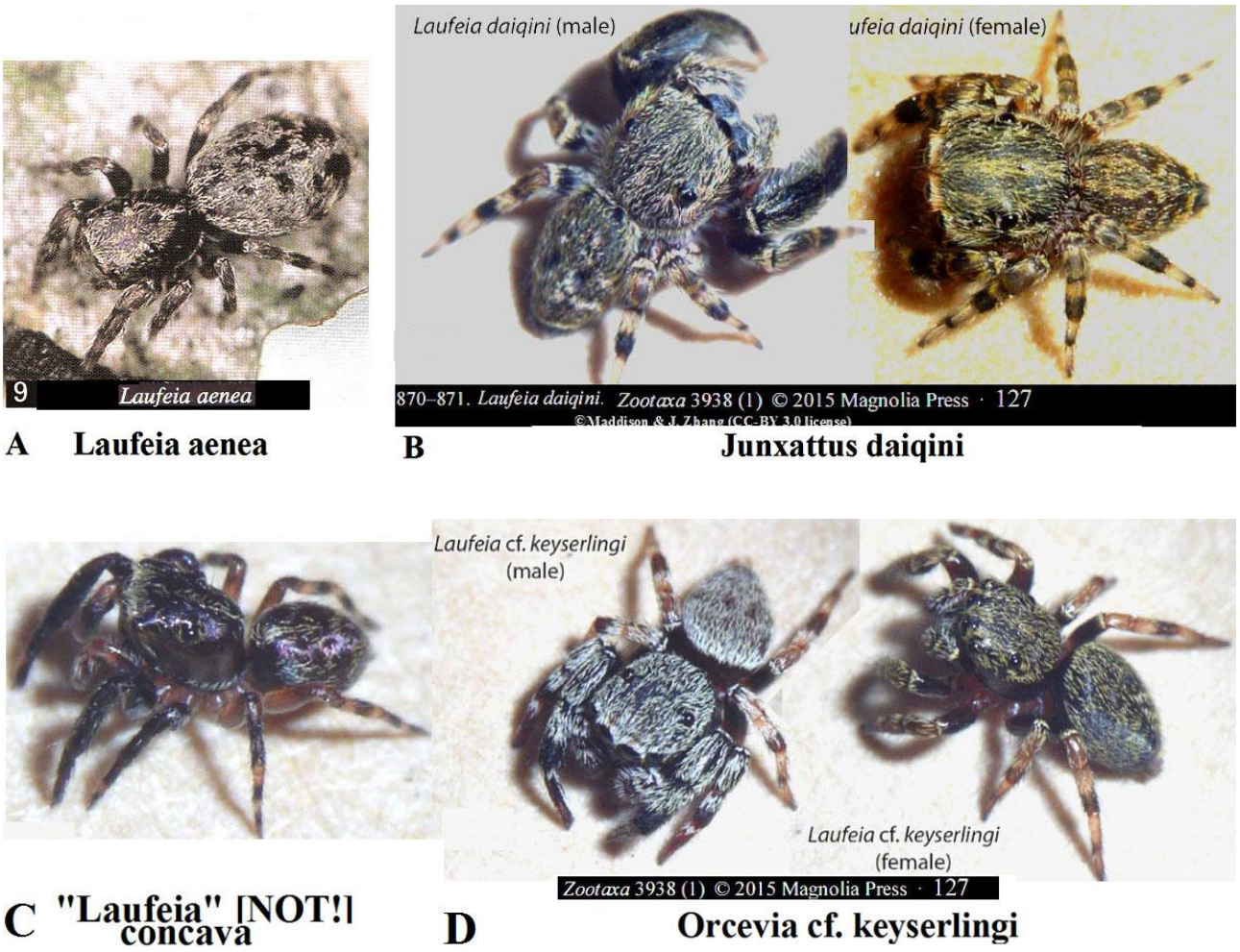
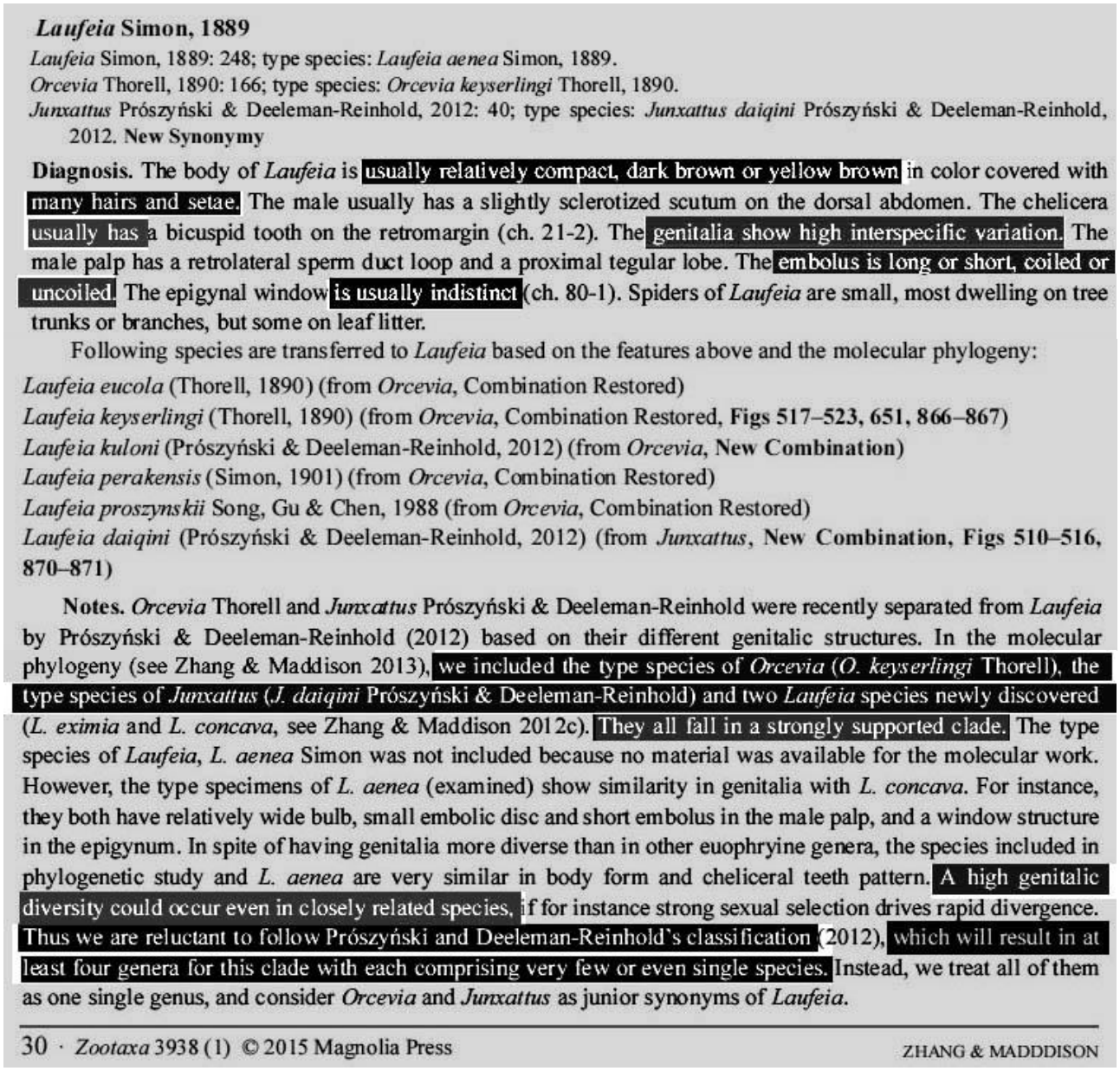


Figure 2. **Photographs of live specimens** of: **A -** *Laufeia aenea*, female, **B -** *Junqattus daiquini*, male and female, **C -** *"Laufeia"* [NOT!] *concava*, male [note proportions of carapace, especially high thorax], **D -** *Orcevia* cf. *keyserlingi*, male and female. COMMENT. External appearance does not support congeneric status of the above specimens, note that identifications are not confirmed by genitalic characters of the specimens.

SOURCES: **A** - © Ono, H., Ikeda, H. & Kono, R. (2009). Salticidae. In: Ono, H. (ed.) *The spiders of Japan with keys to the families and genera and illustrations of the species*. Tokai University Press, Kanagawa, p. 585, p.l. 48m, f. 9, **B-D** -© Maddison in Zhang & Maddison, (2015): *Zootaxa* 3938 (1): 1-147, © Magnolia Press, All ©copyrights are retained by the original authors and copyright holders, used by their courtesy.



***Laufeia* Simon, 1889**

Laufeia Simon, 1889: 248; type species: *Laufeia aenea* Simon, 1889.
Orcevia Thorell, 1890: 166; type species: *Orcevia keyserlingi* Thorell, 1890.
Junxattus Prószyński & Deeleman-Reinhold, 2012: 40; type species: *Junxattus daiqini* Prószyński & Deeleman-Reinhold, 2012. **New Synonymy**

Diagnosis. The body of *Laufeia* is usually relatively compact, dark brown or yellow brown in color covered with many hairs and setae. The male usually has a slightly sclerotized scutum on the dorsal abdomen. The chelicera usually has a bicuspid tooth on the retromargin (ch. 21-2). The genitalia show high interspecific variation. The male palp has a retrolateral sperm duct loop and a proximal tegular lobe. The embolus is long or short, coiled or uncoiled. The epigynal window is usually indistinct (ch. 80-1). Spiders of *Laufeia* are small, most dwelling on tree trunks or branches, but some on leaf litter.

Following species are transferred to *Laufeia* based on the features above and the molecular phylogeny:

Laufeia eucola (Thorell, 1890) (from *Orcevia*, Combination Restored)
Laufeia keyserlingi (Thorell, 1890) (from *Orcevia*, Combination Restored, **Figs 517–523, 651, 866–867**)
Laufeia kuloni (Prószyński & Deeleman-Reinhold, 2012) (from *Orcevia*, **New Combination**)
Laufeia perakensis (Simon, 1901) (from *Orcevia*, Combination Restored)
Laufeia proszynskii Song, Gu & Chen, 1988 (from *Orcevia*, Combination Restored)
Laufeia daiqini (Prószyński & Deeleman-Reinhold, 2012) (from *Junxattus*, **New Combination, Figs 510–516, 870–871**)

Notes. *Orcevia* Thorell and *Junxattus* Prószyński & Deeleman-Reinhold were recently separated from *Laufeia* by Prószyński & Deeleman-Reinhold (2012) based on their different genitalic structures. In the molecular phylogeny (see Zhang & Maddison 2013), we included the type species of *Orcevia* (*O. keyserlingi* Thorell), the type species of *Junxattus* (*J. daiqini* Prószyński & Deeleman-Reinhold) and two *Laufeia* species newly discovered (*L. eximia* and *L. concava*, see Zhang & Maddison 2012c). They all fall in a strongly supported clade. The type species of *Laufeia*, *L. aenea* Simon was not included because no material was available for the molecular work. However, the type specimens of *L. aenea* (examined) show similarity in genitalia with *L. concava*. For instance, they both have relatively wide bulb, small embolic disc and short embolus in the male palp, and a window structure in the epigynum. In spite of having genitalia more diverse than in other euophryine genera, the species included in phylogenetic study and *L. aenea* are very similar in body form and cheliceral teeth pattern. A high genitalic diversity could occur even in closely related species, if for instance strong sexual selection drives rapid divergence. Thus we are reluctant to follow Prószyński and Deeleman-Reinhold's classification (2012), which will result in at least four genera for this clade with each comprising very few or even single species. Instead, we treat all of them as one single genus, and consider *Orcevia* and *Junxattus* as junior synonyms of *Laufeia*.

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Figure 3. **Facsimile of description of the genus *Laufeia* and synonymy with genera *Orcevia* and *Junxattus***. The description is general, with diagnostic characters meaningless, quoted in general terms, like: usually, relatively, long or short, coiled or uncoiled, usually indistinct, show high interspecific variation [actually belonging to different genera! J. P.]. Note (given by authors) informs of what the authors were thinking, but does not give actual documentation. Authors refers generally to molecular arguments without giving precise and verifiable data (reference Zhang, J. X. & Maddison, W. P. (2013)), so readers are expected to believe but cannot verify these data. Actually a few species tested are insufficient for taxonomic generalizations, some based on misclassified species ("*Laufeia*" *concava* is not congeneric with *L. aenea* - compare figs 1 E-F with 1 W-X, above). HOWEVER, outside the present description, the second author commands too good knowledge of Salticidae to be dismissed without checking each case.

Figure 4. **How to evade correcting of own error?** New trick invented by editors of WSC: Simon erase of the genus *Orcevia* corrected? Yes. Repetition of the same error by Zhang & Maddison corrected? Yes. But "***revalidation***" [whatever that means] of the genus *Orcevia* (of which *O. keyserlingi* is a type species) could always be demanded (see Figs 1I-K, M-O, R-T above). Reminds case of the genus *Emertonius* (above). An additional aspect demonstrated at **B** - clear trespassing of editorial competence (not to forget arrogance): "assigned to *Laufeia"* which, by the way, is not a synonym of *Lechia*.

SOURCE: World Spider Catalog (2019). Version 20.5.

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I wish to express my deep gratitude to the Chief Editor of the *Ecologica Montenegrina*, whose conscientious attitude and allegiance to principia permitted me to share my scientific views with younger generation of salticidologists, in spite of widespread discrimination and rat-race like atmosphere prevailing nowadays among arachnologists.

I wish to stress my deep respect to several prominent and generally respected arachnologists who have agreed to evaluate my manuscripts and to write references.

I am disappointed by lack of independence of thought and of moral courage of the *Zootaxa* editor, who meekly accepted *Kropf* et al. article for print. I watched with sympathy his development as a scientist during last 16 years and evaluate him high, to which, I believe, I contributed by my criticism of his misidentifications and methodological faults. I could support this statement by presenting our correspondence, but do not think that necessary.

I do not disclose names of the persons concerned, every one of them know what I am thinking on him/her.

The rest is silence.

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