

A revision of the spider genus *Sobasina* (Araneae : Salticidae)

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Introduction

The genus *Sobasina* Simon, 1897 was formerly known only from a single specimen of the type-species *Sobasina amoenula* Simon from the Santa Cruz Islands in the southwest Pacific Ocean. Several new localities reported by Berland (1938) from the New Hebrides are not accepted here as all of his specimens have been misidentified. In this present paper the genus is redefined and five new species are described.

The measurements were made in the manner described by Wanless (1977/8), but for the leg spination, the system adopted is that used by Platnick & Shadab (1975).

Sobasina is comprised of small ant-like spiders whose distribution appears to be restricted to the chain of Pacific Islands extending from the Bismarck Archipelago in the north to the New Hebrides in the south. The genus is not represented in the New Guinea or New Caledonia collections of the British Museum (Natural History). The distribution pattern (Fig. 1) suggests that allopatric speciation may have occurred as some islands have endemic species; however, there are very few records and no firm conclusions can be reached at the present time.

The species are evidently all closely related and appear to form a good monophyletic genus. Most species can be readily distinguished by the form of the carapace, sculpturing, and the presence or absence of ventral tibial fringes on legs I. The genitalia are less useful in this respect as they are small, pale and rather similar. The biology is unknown but two species have been found in litter and the small size of the others suggests that they too may also live in litter, a habitat often overlooked by the early collectors.

Genus *SOBASINA* Simon

Sobasina Simon, 1897 : 275. Type-species *Sobasina amoenula* Simon, by monotypy. Simon 1901 : 512, 513. Petrunkevitch, 1928 : 183. Roewer, 1954 : 957. Bonnet, 1958 : 4090.

DEFINITION. Ant-like spiders ranging from about 2.5 to 3.8 mm in length. Sexes alike in general body form but males sometimes with dorsal and ventral abdominal scuta. Colour markings subdued; not hirsute but carapace usually with marginal white haired patch above coxae I. *Carapace*: shape variable; sculpturing variable, usually a combination of papillae and punctures (Pl. 1a, b, d, e); fovea lacking. *Eyes*: anterior row contiguous with apices strongly recurved; middle row about midway between anterior lateral and posterior lateral eyes or sometimes nearer to anterior laterals; posterior row wider than anterior row; quadrangle length between 49 and 57 per cent of carapace length. *Clypeus*: low, more or less vertical. *Chelicerae*: small to medium; more or less subvertical; promargin with 2 teeth, retromargin with a bicuspid tooth (i.e. in chelicerae examined which do not include all species described here). *Maxillae*: parallel or slightly convergent. *Labium*: subtriangular. *Sternum*: elongate scutiform with scalloped margins. *Pedichel*: long rather stalk-like; anterior dorsal and ventral segments well developed, posterior segment vestigial (Pl. 1c). *Abdomen*: shape variable; constriction and/or scuta sometimes present; spinnerets subequal in length, arranged in two rows, posteriors and medians slender and dorsal to robust anteriors; trachea branched, arising from transverse slit just in front of spinnerets (Fig. 4F); colulus represented by two minute setae. *Legs*: slender but coxae and trochanters I elongate; femora I dorsoventrally enlarged and slightly compressed laterally with tibiae I sometimes slightly enlarged and fringed below with stiff hairs; formula 1432 or 1423; spination: dorsal and lateral

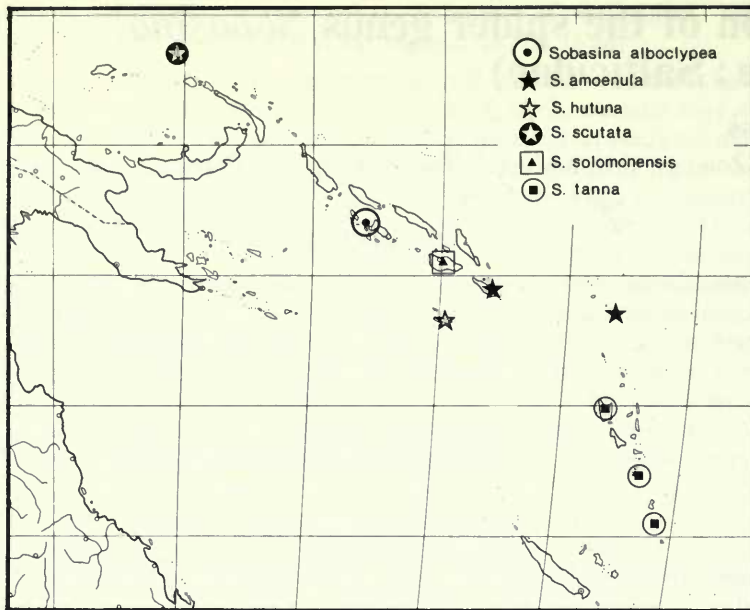


Fig. 1 Distribution of *Sobasina alboclypea* sp. n., *S. amoenula* Simon, *S. hutuna* sp. n., *S. scutata* sp. n., *S. solomonensis* sp. n. and *S. tanna* sp. n.

spines lacking, ventral spines present on metatarsi I–II and tibiae I–II but absent on legs III–IV; claw tufts present, scopula lacking. *Female palp*: general form as in Fig. 2D, G; fringed with preening setae. *Male palp* (Fig. 4A, G): tibial apophysis slender; embolus very short and slender; tegulum with large seminal reservoir; pars pendula, conductor and median apophysis lacking; proximal ectal margin of cymbium sometimes slightly protuberant. *Epigyne* (Fig. 5A–F): openings very indistinct, leading to wide flask-shaped ducts that open into more slender ducts which terminate as spermathecae.

Simon (1901) made *Sobasina* the nominate genus of the suprageneric group Sobasineae, and included two other ant-like genera, *Fluda* Peckham & Peckham and *Keyserlingella* Peckham & Peckham, from the Neotropical region. *Fluda*, a senior synonym of *Keyserlingella* (Galiano, 1971), does not appear to be closely related to *Sobasina*. The elongate coxae and trochanters of legs I suggest that the affinities of *Sobasina* may lie with the Oriental Diolenieae but on the other hand the form of the carapace, sometimes narrowed posteriorly (presumably to increase the apparent length of the pedicel), indicates affinities with the Neotropical genus *Synemosyna*. However, the genitalia of *Synemosyna* (Galiano, 1966) are quite different from those of *Sobasina* and similarities in the form of the carapace are probably the result of convergence. Unfortunately, genital structures in the Diolenieae are poorly known and *Sobasina* must therefore retain its somewhat isolated position until additional genera have been revised.

DIAGNOSIS. *Sobasina* is distinguished from other Oriental ant-like Salticidae by the structure of the genitalia, the strongly recurved (in frontal view) anterior row of eyes, the scalloped sternum and the elongate coxae and trochanters of legs I.

List of species in the genus *Sobasina* Simon, 1897

- Sobasina alboclypea* sp. n.
- S. amoenula* Simon, 1897
- S. hutuna* sp. n.
- S. scutata* sp. n.
- S. solomonensis* sp. n.
- S. tanna* sp. n.

Key to species of *SOBASINA*

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 Tibiae I with ventral fringes (Fig. 4B) | 2 |
| – Tibiae I without ventral fringes (Fig. 2F) | 4 |
| 2 Eye region finely rugulose anteriorly to papillate posteriorly; thoracic sides papillate | |
| | <i>hutuna</i> sp. n. (p. 253) |
| – Eye region papillate; thoracic sides irregularly punctured | 3 |
| 3 Thoracic 'hump' high (Fig. 3C, D); thoracic punctures very numerous | <i>tanna</i> sp. n. (p. 251) |
| – Thoracic 'hump' low (Fig. 3B); thoracic punctures less numerous (Pl. 1e) | |
| | <i>solomonensis</i> sp. n. (p. 248) |
| 4 Eye region finely rugulose anteriorly to papillate posteriorly | <i>amoenula</i> Simon (p. 247) |
| – Eye region entirely papillate | 5 |
| 5 Thoracic sides punctured; abdomen with dorsal and ventral scuta | <i>scutata</i> sp. n. (p. 253) |
| – Thoracic sides punctured in postocular region to papillate elsewhere; abdominal scuta lacking | |
| | <i>alboclypea</i> sp. n. (p. 254) |

Sobasina amoenula Simon

(Fig. 2A–H)

Sobasina amoenula Simon, 1897 : 276, ♀. LECTOTYPE ♀ (here designated) Santa Cruz Islands, Vanikoro Island (MNHN, Paris) [Examined]. Simon, 1901 : 512, 513, 515, figs 613–615. Roewer, 1954 : 957. Bonnet, 1958 : 4090. Prószyński, 1971 : 475.

[*S. amoenula*: Berland, 1938 : 151, fig. 56. Misidentification]

Berland (1938) records two males and two females of *S. amoenula* Simon, from various localities in the New Hebrides. The female from Erromango is a juvenile *Myrmarachne* and the male from Malekula belongs in the genus *Efate*. The specimen from Tanna Island is male and not female as indicated; it agrees very well with the figures presented by Berland (p. 151, fig. 56) and is conspecific with the male from Efate Island. They are very similar in general appearance to *S. amoenula* but they are not conspecific and represent a new taxon described elsewhere in this paper (p. 251).

DIAGNOSIS. *S. amoenula* is closely related to *S. solomonensis* sp. n. and *S. tanna* sp. n., but may be distinguished by the absence of ventral fringes on legs I.

MALE. Unknown.

FEMALE LECTOTYPE. *Carapace* (Fig. 2A, C): eye region finely rugulose anteriorly to papillate posteriorly; thoracic part smooth dorsally to papillate laterally but with irregular punctures in lower part of postocular region; orange to light orange with scattered long white hairs and with a white haired patch above level of coxae I. *Eyes*: with black surrounds, anteriors fringed with white hairs. *Clypeus*: orange with blackish margin and with several long stiff light yellowish hairs. *Chelicerae*: light orange; promargin with 2 teeth, retromargin with a wide bicuspid tooth. *Maxillae and labium*: light orange to yellowish orange. *Sternum* (Fig. 2B): light orange, shiny. *Abdomen*: whitish yellow with blackish markings, shiny; with scanty white haired bands in constriction. *Legs*: legs I (Fig. 2F): lacking ventral tibial fringes. Generally light yellow-orange to orange but with black streaks along inside of tibiae and patellae I. Spination: tibiae: I V 4–3–1; II V 0–1–0; metatarsi: I V 2–2–2; II V 0–1–1. *Palp* (Fig. 2D, G): yellowish orange, shiny. *Epigyne* (Fig. 2E, H): small and pale.

Dimensions (mm): total length 3.28; carapace length 1.50, breadth 0.80; abdomen length 1.50; eyes anterior row 0.72; middle row 0.68, posterior row 0.82; quadrangle length 0.78. *Ratios*: AM : AL : PM : PL :: 6.5 : 3 : 1 : 4; AL–PM–PL: 5.5–7.5.

VARIATION. Female total length varies from 3.24 to 3.28 mm, carapace length 1.5–1.52 mm (three specimens). Two females from San Cristobal are regarded as being conspecific with *S. amoenula* although they are darker. The abdomens are brown-black and the legs have black streaks along the insides of the tibiae and patellae, and also on femora III–IV.

DISTRIBUTION. Santa Cruz Islands; Solomon Islands.

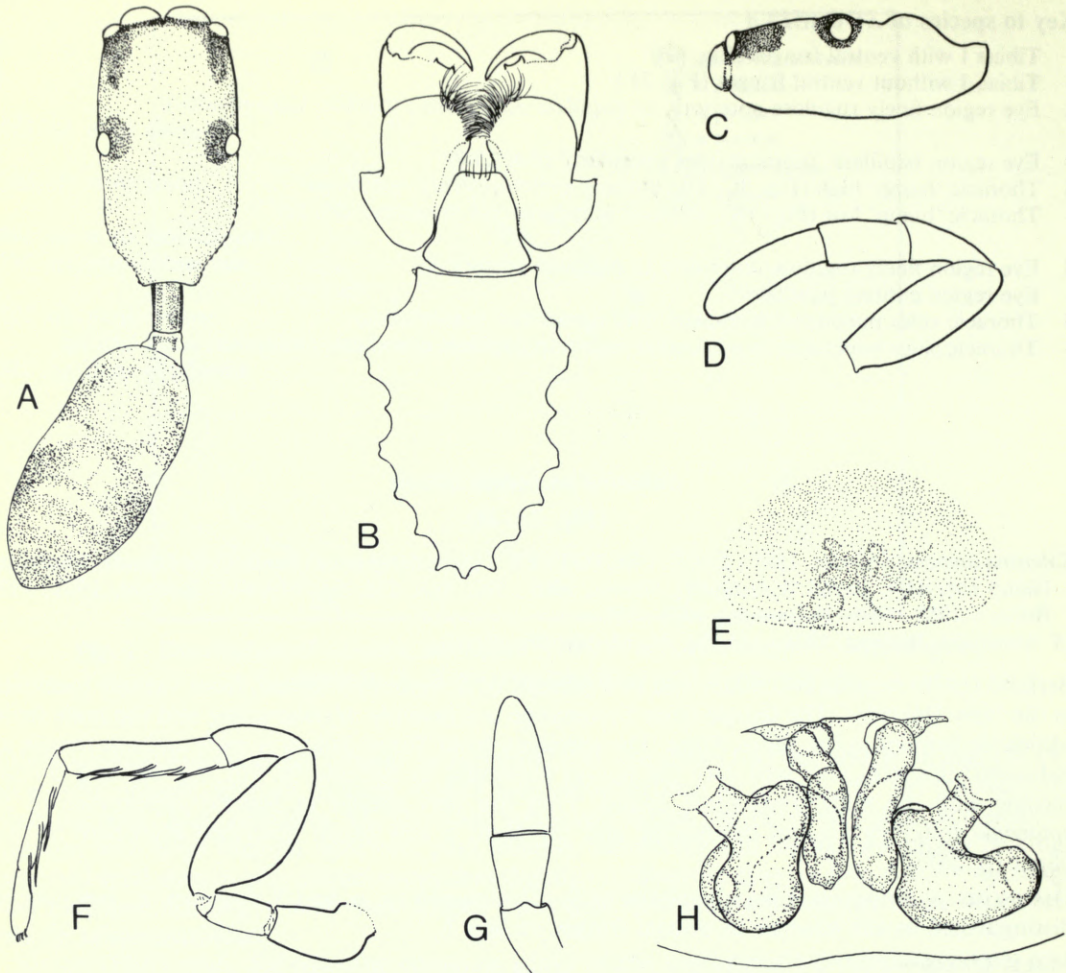


Fig. 2 *Sobasina amoenula* Simon, lectotype ♀: (A) dorsal view; (B) sternum, maxillae and labium; (C) carapace lateral view; (D) palp, lateral view; (E) epigyne; (F) leg I; (G) palp, dorsal view; (H) vulva, ventral view.

MATERIAL EXAMINED. Lectotype ♀, data given in synonymy. SOLOMON ISLANDS, San Cristobal, Wainoni, in coconut litter, 2 ♀, 21.vii.1965 (*P. N. Lawrence*) Royal Society Expedition 1965 (BMNH).

Sobasina solomonensis sp. n.

(Figs 3A, B, F; 4A, D, C, F, G; 5A-C; Pl. 1a-e)

DIAGNOSIS. *S. solomonensis* is closely related to *S. tanna* sp. n. and *S. amoenula* Simon, but may be distinguished by the following combination of characters. Legs I with ventral tibial fringes (Fig. 4C); carapace with low thoracic 'hump' (Fig. 3B) and scattered thoracic punctures (Pl. 1e).

MALE HOLOTYPE. *Carapace* (Fig. 3A, B): eye region papillate; thoracic part irregularly papillate dorsally with scattered punctures laterally; orange grading to blackish in anterior part of eye region; clothed with fine whitish hairs with light yellowish ones on the head. *Eyes*: with black surrounds; anteriors fringed with fine whitish hairs but with fine yellowish ones in dorsal vortex

between AM. *Clypeus*: orange with several stiff white hairs. *Chelicerae*: yellowish orange, shiny; promargin with 2 teeth, retromargin with a small wide bicuspid tooth. *Maxillae and labium*: light orange. *Sternum*: light orange with darker margins, shiny. *Abdomen*: with dorsal and ventral scuta more or less as in *S. hutuna* sp. n. (Fig. 6B); yellowish orange with darker markings; clothed with fine whitish hairs and scattered light orange ones. *Legs*: legs I with ventral tibial fringes composed of stiff brownish hairs (Fig. 4C). Light orange to orange with faint sooty streaks on femora IV. Spination: tibiae: I V 3-4-2; metatarsi I V 2-2-2; II V 0-1-0. *Palp* (Fig. 4A, G): light orange.

Dimensions (mm): total length 2.4; carapace length 1.28, breadth 0.8; abdomen length 1.12; eyes anterior row 0.70, middle row 0.65, posterior row 0.80; quadrangle length 0.74. *Ratios*: AM : AL : PM : PL :: 6.5 : 4 : 1 : 4.5; AL-PM-PL: 6.5-5.5.

FEMALE. Colour and body form similar to ♂. *Carapace* (Pl. 1a, b, d, e): thorax with more distinctive smooth dorsal area and fewer papillae. *Sternum* (Fig. 4D): as in ♂. *Pedichel* (Pl. 1c): as in ♂. *Abdomen*: without scuta. *Legs*: as in ♂ but spination of tibiae II: V 0-1-0. *Epigyne* (Fig. 5A-C): small and pale, and very similar to that of *S. amoenula*.

Dimensions (mm): total length 2.92; carapace length 1.40, breadth 0.82; abdomen length 1.46; eyes anterior row 0.74, middle row 0.68, posterior row 0.84; quadrangle length 0.76. *Ratios*: AM : AL : PM : PL :: 6.5 : 4 : 0.75 : 4.3; AL-PM-PL: 6-6.

VARIATION. Total length of males varies from 1.88 to 2.60 mm, carapace length 1.24-1.38 mm (three specimens). Female total length varies from 2.52 to 2.80 mm, carapace length 1.32-1.44 mm (eight specimens).

The majority of specimens examined did not show significant variation but one pale coloured

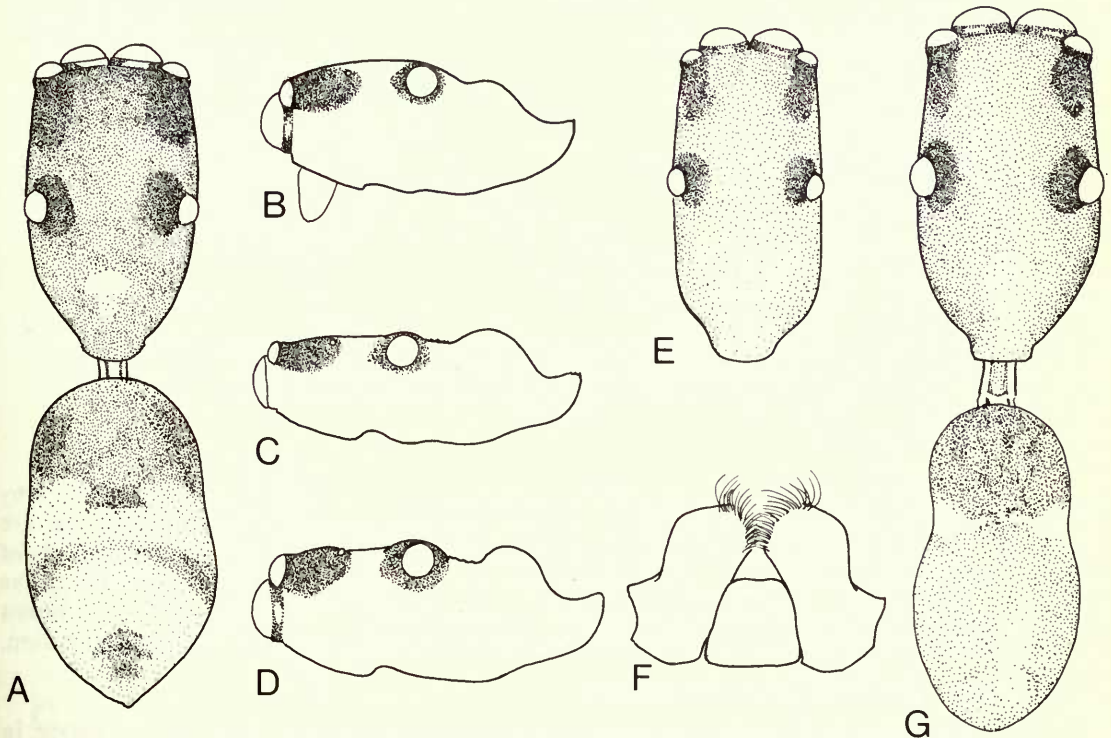


Fig. 3 (A, B, F) *Sobasina solomonensis* sp. n., holotype ♂: (A) dorsal view; (B) lateral view; (F) maxillae and labium. (C-E, G) *Sobasina tanna* sp. n., ♀: (C) carapace, lateral view; (E) carapace, dorsal view; holotype ♂: (D) carapace, lateral view; (G) dorsal view.

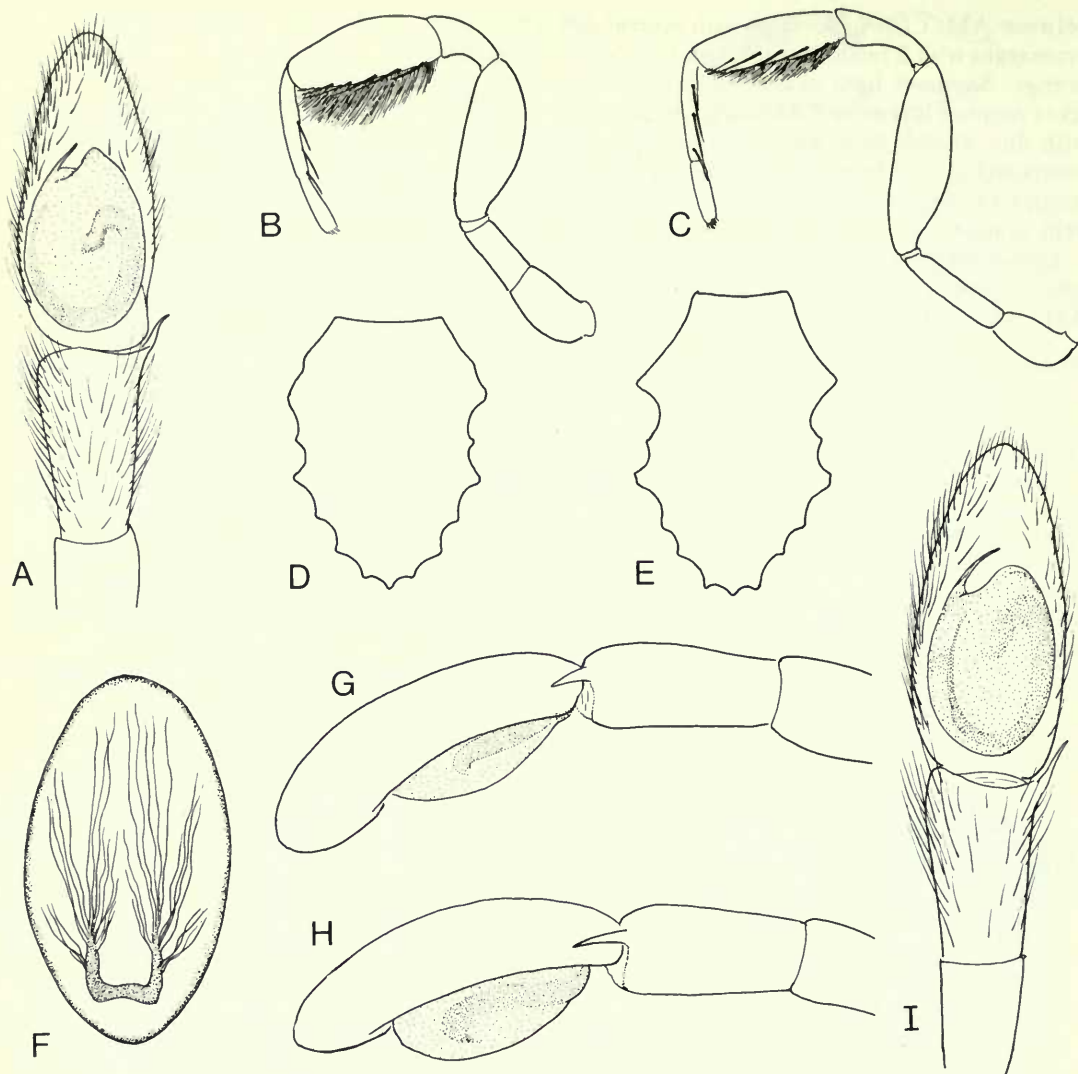


Fig. 4 (A, C, D, F, G) *Sobasina solomonensis* sp. n., holotype ♂: (A) palp, ventral view; (G) palp, lateral view; ♂: (C) leg I; ♀: (D) sternum; (F) tracheal system, schematic. (B, E, H, I) *Sobasina tanna* sp. n., holotype ♂: (B) leg I; (E) sternum; (H) palp, lateral view; (I) palp, ventral view.

male appears to lack abdominal scuta. Another specimen, a female from Guadalcanal, differs by having the carapace shiny dark mahogany and the abdomen shiny brown-black. The legs are yellowish brown except for legs I which have the femora, patellae and proximal two thirds of tibiae dark mahogany. The thorax has fewer punctures but this may not be significant as the number and arrangement of thoracic punctures is slightly variable. The specimen may represent a new closely related taxon, but additional material is necessary to reach a satisfactory conclusion.

DISTRIBUTION. Solomon Islands, Guadalcanal.

MATERIAL EXAMINED. Holotype ♂, SOLOMON ISLANDS, Guadalcanal, S.W. end Monitor Creek, in litter on forest root mat, 5.vii.1965 (*P. N. Lawrence*, 49-60) Royal Society Expedition 1965 (BMNH reg. no. 1977.4.21.25). Paratypes: SOLOMON ISLANDS: Guadalcanal, Mt Austin, 1 ♀, ii.1961, 3 ♂♂, 8 ♀♀, ii-xii.1963 (*P. J. M. Greenslade*) (BMNH).

Sobasina tanna sp. n.

(Figs 3C–E, G; 4B, E, H, I; 5D–F)

DIAGNOSIS. *S. tanna* is closely related to *S. solomonensis* sp. n. and *S. amoenula* Simon, but may be distinguished by the following combination of characters. Tibiae I with ventral fringes (Fig. 4B), carapace with high thoracic 'hump' (Fig. 3C, D) and numerous thoracic punctures.

MALE HOLOTYPE. *Carapace* (Fig. 3D, G): eye region papillate; thoracic part smooth dorsally with numerous punctures laterally; reddish orange, thoracic 'hump' a shade lighter; rubbed but a white haired marginal patch above level of coxae I. *Eyes*: with black surrounds except AM; anteriors fringed with white hairs. *Clypeus*: fringed with long white hairs especially below AL. *Chelicerae*: orange-brown; promargin with 1 tooth, retromargin with a bicuspid tooth. *Maxillae*

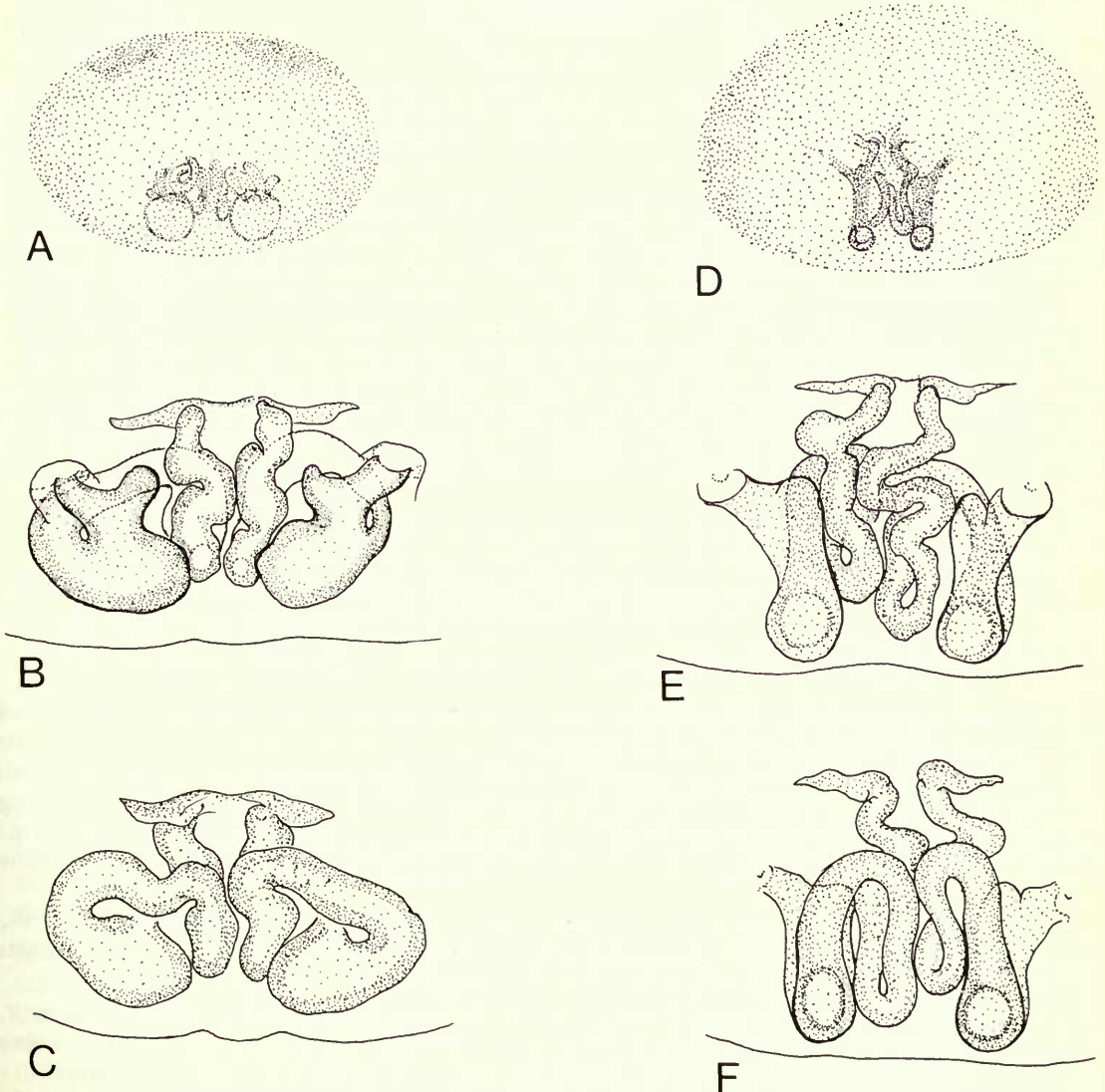


Fig. 5 (A–C) *Sobasina solomonensis* sp. n., ♀: (A) epigyne; (B) vulva, ventral view; (C) vulva, dorsal view. (D–F) *Sobasina tanna* sp. n., ♀: (D) epigyne; (E) vulva, ventral view; (F) vulva, dorsal view.

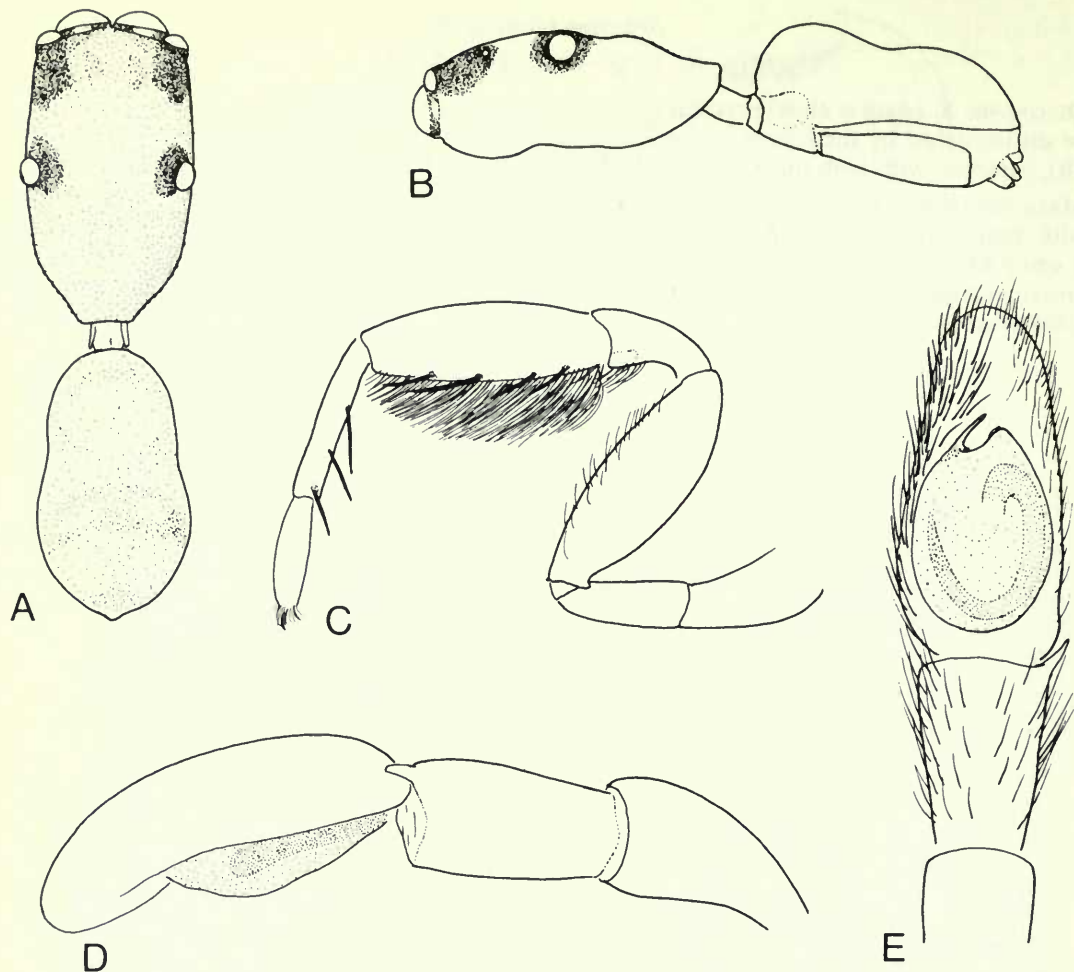


Fig. 6 *Sobasina hutuna* sp. n., holotype ♂: (A) dorsal view; (B) lateral view; (C) leg I; (D) palp, lateral view; (E) palp, ventral view.

and labium: orange-brown. Sternum (Fig. 4E): yellow-brown with faint blackish mottling and with broad clear orange margins, shiny. Abdomen: scuta not evident; slightly constricted; pale yellowish with faint blackish mottling and with yellowish bands in constriction. Legs: legs I with ventral tibial fringes composed of orange-brown hairs; whitish yellow to yellow. Remaining legs whitish yellow with greyish black markings around the ends of patellae III and IV. Spination: tibiae: I V 4-4-5 or 3-4-3; metatarsi: I V 0-4-2. Palp (Fig. 4H, I): pale yellow to whitish yellow with sooty markings.

Dimensions (mm): total length 3.24; carapace length 1.60, breadth 0.85; abdomen length 1.46; eyes anterior row 0.80, middle row 0.74, posterior row 0.92; quadrangle length 0.80. Ratios: AM : AL : PM : PL :: 7.5 : 4.5 : 1 : 5, AL-PM-PL: 6.5-6.2.

FEMALE ALLOTYPE. Poorly preserved but colour, sculpturing and body form very similar to ♂. Carapace (Fig. 3C, E): slightly narrower in dorsal view. Legs: as in ♂ but spination of tibiae I V 4-3-4. Epigyne (Fig. 5D-F): openings obscure, flask shaped ducts relatively narrow.

Dimensions (mm): total length 3.2; carapace length 1.46, breadth 0.72; abdomen length 1.48; eyes anterior row 0.66, middle row 0.62, posterior row 0.74; quadrangle length 0.72. Ratios: AM : AL : PM : PL :: 6.5 : 3 : 1 : 3.5, AL-PM-PL: 5.5-6.

VARIATION. A male from Efate Island measures 2.4 mm total length, 1.3 mm carapace length. The thoracic 'hump' is slightly lower than that of the holotype and resembles that of the female (Fig. 3C); it is possibly more pronounced in larger individuals. Female total length varies from 2.56 to 3.28 mm, carapace length 1.42–1.52 mm (three specimens). The females, all from Espiritu Santo Island, are slightly more slender than the holotype from Tanna Island, about 300 miles southeast of Espiritu Santo. The difference may be the result of sexual dimorphism or geographical variation. It is also possible that the females are not conspecific with the male in spite of the fact that they are very similar in other respects.

DISTRIBUTION. New Hebrides: Espiritu Santo Island; Efate Island; Tanna Island.

MATERIAL EXAMINED. Holotype ♂, NEW HEBRIDES, Tanna Island, 1930 (*L. E. Cheeseman*) (BMNH reg. no. 1932.9.12.56). Paratypes: NEW HEBRIDES: Espiritu Santo Island, Hog Harbour, 3 ♀♀, vii.1925 (*P. A. Buxton*) (BMNH); Efate Island, Port-Vila, 1 ♂, 1933 (*M. Risbec*) (MNHN, Paris).

Sobasina hutuna sp. n.

(Fig. 6A–E)

DIAGNOSIS. *S. hutuna* is readily distinguished from other species of *Sobasina* by the combination of ventral tibial fringes on legs I (Fig. 6C), abdominal scuta and thoracic papillae.

FEMALE. Unknown.

MALE HOLOTYPE. *Carapace* (Fig. 6A, B): finely rugulose in eye region to densely papillate on thoracic part; orange, shiny; sparsely clothed with whitish hairs. *Eyes*: with black surrounds; anteriors fringed with white hairs. *Clypeus*: with several stiff whitish hairs. *Chelicerae*: pale orange; teeth not examined. *Maxillae and labium*: pale orange. *Sternum*: more or less as in *S. solomonensis* sp. n., orange suffused with some black, shiny. *Abdomen*: with dorsal and ventral scuta; slightly constricted; light orange with blackish markings and with scanty white haired bands in constriction. *Legs*: legs I with ventral tibial fringes composed of grey-black hairs; light yellowish orange but tibiae, metatarsi distally and tarsi proximally orange. Remaining legs yellowish orange but with sooty lateral streaks on legs III and IV. Spinination: tibiae: I V 1–4–1; II V 0–1–0; metatarsi: I V 0–2–4. *Palp* (Fig. 6D, E): light orange with yellowish cymbium, clothed with fine whitish and coarser light orange hairs.

Dimensions (mm): total length 2.52; carapace length 1.28, breadth 0.86; abdomen length 1.36; eyes anterior row 0.78, middle row 0.70, posterior row 0.88; quadrangle length 0.80. *Ratios*: AM : AL : PM : PL :: 7 : 4 : 0.75 : 4.2; AL–PM–PL: 6–7.

DISTRIBUTION. Rennell Island.

MATERIAL EXAMINED. Holotype ♂, RENNELL ISLAND, Hutuna, 16.iii.1965 (*Torben Wolff*) (BMNH reg. no. 1977.4.21.30).

Sobasina scutata sp. n.

(Figs 7A, B; 8C, E, F)

DIAGNOSIS. *S. scutata* is very similar to *S. alboclypea* but can be distinguished by the presence of abdominal scuta and absence of thoracic papillae.

FEMALE. Unknown.

MALE HOLOTYPE. *Carapace* (Fig. 7A, B): eye region papillate; thoracic part dorsally smooth, with sides irregularly punctured; dark orange-brown with an iridescent sheen on the head and sooty thoracic markings; clothed with long recumbent white hairs (mostly rubbed). *Eyes*: with black surrounds; anteriors fringed with white hairs. *Clypeus*: thickly white haired. *Chelicerae*: dark orange-brown; teeth not examined. *Maxillae and labium*: dark orange-brown, labium a shade lighter. *Sternum*: mahogany brown, shiny. *Abdomen* (Fig. 7A, B): with dorsal and ventral scuta; dark orange-brown with blackish markings; clothed with fine white hairs. *Legs*: legs I (Fig. 8C): lacking ventral tibial fringes; femora and metatarsi orange-brown remaining segments pale

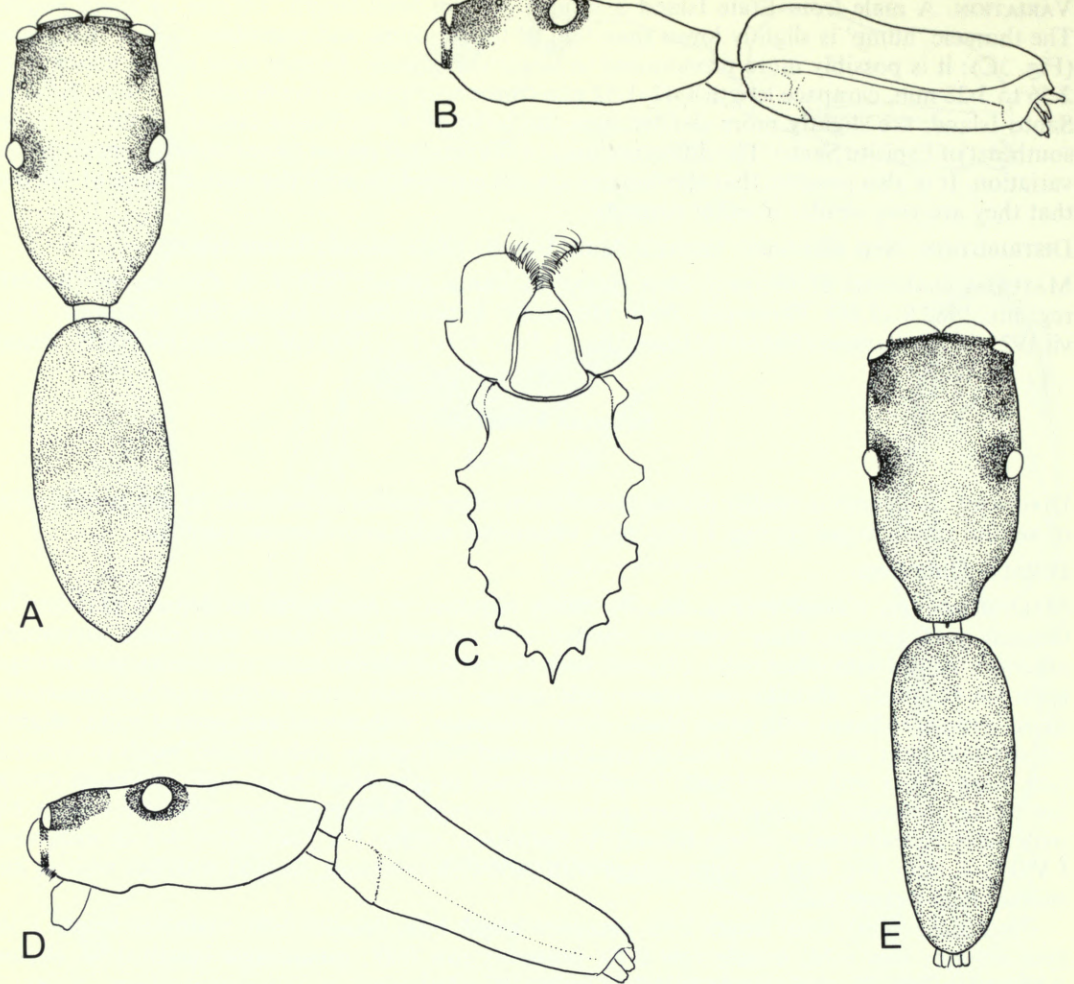


Fig. 7 (A, B) *Sobasina scutata* sp. n., holotype ♂: (A) dorsal view; (B) lateral view; (C–E) *Sobasina alboclypea* sp. n., holotype ♂: (C) sternum, maxillae and labium; (D) lateral view; (E) dorsal view.

yellow. Legs II–III pale yellow. Legs IV pale yellow but coxae, trochanters and femoral sides dark brown. Spination: tibiae: I V 0–2–2; II V 0–1–0; metatarsi: I V 2–2–2 or 2–0–2; II V 0–1–1. *Palp* (Fig. 8E, F): femora and tibia brown, patella and cymbium yellow-brown.

Dimensions (mm): total length 3.24; carapace length 1.48, breadth 0.85; abdomen length 0.76; eyes anterior row 0.76, middle row 0.72, posterior row 0.87; quadrangle length 0.76. *Ratios*: AM : AL : PM : PL :: 6.5 : 3.5 : 0.6 : 4.0; AL–PM–PL: 6–6.

DISTRIBUTION. Bismarck Archipelago, Mussau Island.

MATERIAL EXAMINED. Holotype ♂, BISMARCK ARCHIPELAGO, Mussau, Talumalaus, 20.i.1962 (Noona Dan Expedition 1961–62) (BMNH. reg. no. 1977.4.21.29).

Sobasina alboclypea sp. n.

(Figs 7C–E; 8A, B, D)

DIAGNOSIS. *S. alboclypea* is very similar to *S. scutata* sp. n. but may be distinguished by the absence of abdominal scuta and the presence of thoracic papillae.

FEMALE. Unknown.

MALE HOLOTYPE. *Carapace* (Fig. 7D, E): eye region papillate; thoracic part dorsally smooth, with sides punctured anteriorly to papillate posteriorly; dark brownish orange with an iridescent sheen under some angles of illumination; very sparsely clothed with fine brownish hairs and with a white haired patch above coxae I. *Eyes*: with black surrounds except AM; anteriors fringed with white hairs. *Clypeus*: thickly white haired. *Chelicerae*: dark brownish; teeth not examined. *Maxillae and labium*: dark brownish. *Sternum* (Fig. 7C): dark brownish orange tinged with blackish with clear dark brownish orange margins, shiny. *Abdomen* (Fig. 7D, E): mottled brownish black with a blackish crease along each side; sparsely clothed with short, fine clear hairs and longer fine blackish ones. *Legs*: legs I (Fig. 8A): lacking ventral tibial fringes; coxae, patellae, femora and tarsi yellow-brown, remaining segments dark brown. Legs II yellow-brown but femora and coxae

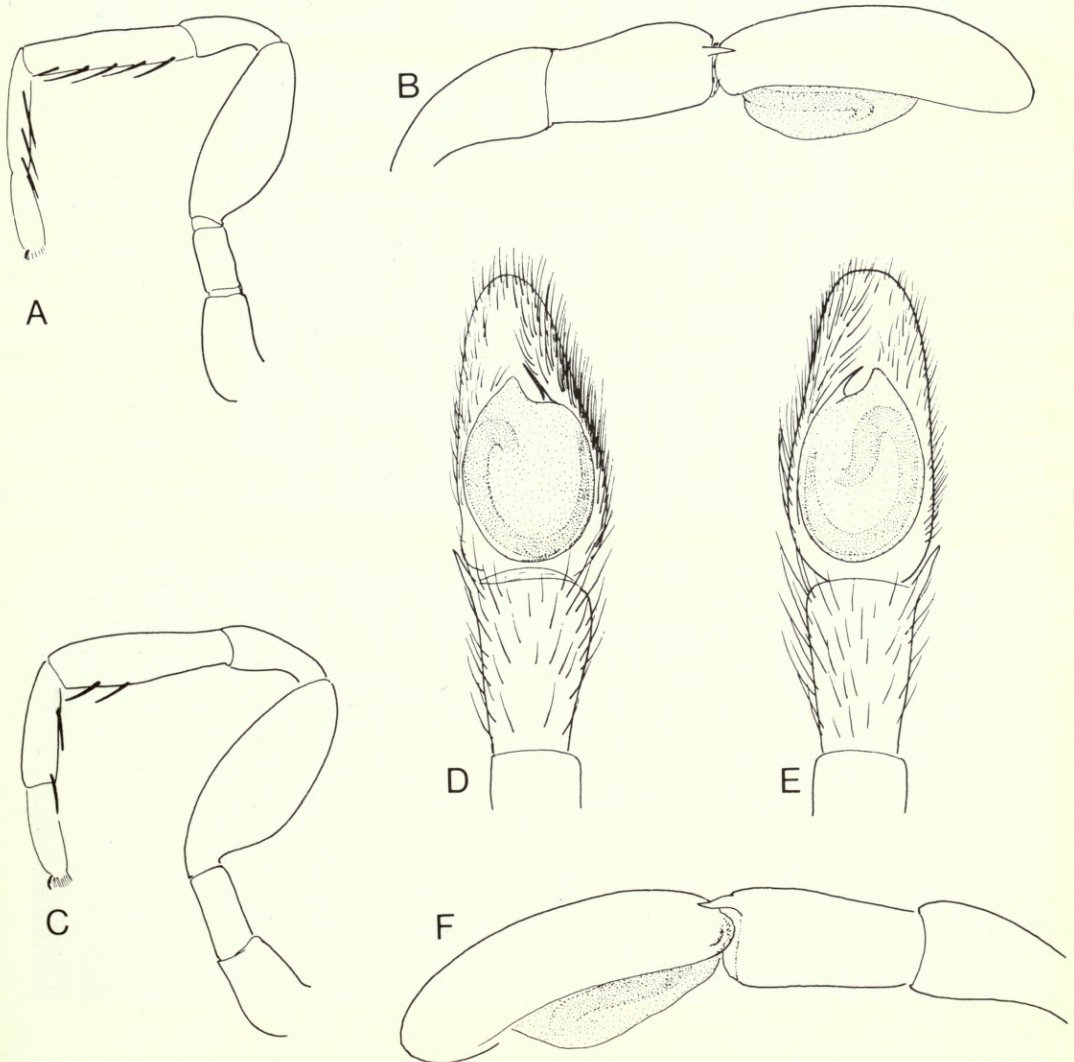


Fig. 8 (A, B, D) *Sobasina alboclypea* sp. n., holotype ♂: (A) leg I; (B) palp, lateral view; (D) palp, ventral view. (C, E, F) *Sobasina scutata* sp. n., holotype ♂: (C) leg I; (E) palp, ventral view; (F) palp, lateral view.

dark brown. Legs III coxae, trochanters and femora dark brown, remaining segments yellow-brown. Legs IV as III but patellae and tibiae dark brown. Spination: tibiae: I V 4-4-2; metatarsi: I V 2-2-2; II V 1-0-1. *Palp* (Fig. 8B, D): dark brown.

Dimensions (mm): total length 3.7; carapace length 1.76, breadth 0.96; abdomen length 1.94; eyes anterior row 0.92, middle row 0.87, posterior row 1.0; quadrangle length 0.88. *Ratios*: AM : AL : PM : PL :: 8 : 4.5 : 1 : 5.5; AL-PM-PL: 6-7.

DISTRIBUTION. Solomon Islands.

MATERIAL EXAMINED. Holotype ♂, SOLOMON ISLANDS, New Georgia Group, Kolombangara, low vegetation, 3000 ft (*P. Naturaga*) Royal Society Expedition 1965 (BMNH reg. no. 1977.4.21.28).

ETYMOLOGY. The specific name refers to the white haired clypeus.

Acknowledgement

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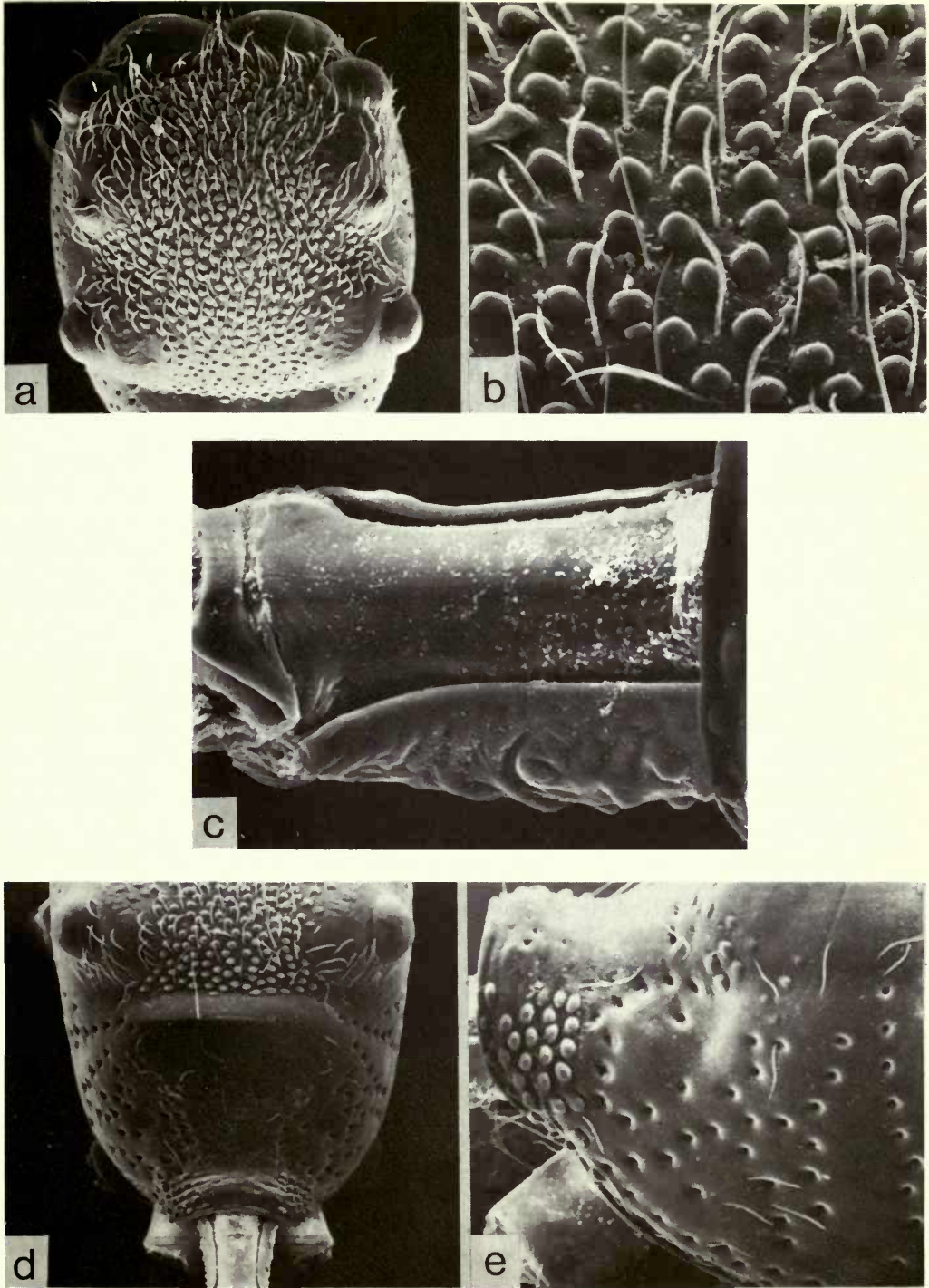


Plate 1 Scanning electron micrographs of *Sobasina solomonensis* sp. n., female. (a, b) Eye region showing papillae, $\times 100$ and $\times 500$. (c) Pedicel, $\times 500$. (d) Posterior part of eye region and thorax showing papillae, smooth areas and punctures, $\times 100$. (e) Posterior part of thorax in lateral view showing punctures and a cluster of papillae, $\times 200$.