

**ISCHNURA ARALENSIS REVISITED:
I. HARITONOV NOM. NOV.
PRO I. ARALENSIS SENSU DUMONT, 1996
(ZYGOPTERA: COENAGRIONIDAE)**

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Received and Accepted July 1, 1996

I. aralensis Haritonov, 1979 is a valid sp., but presently known from the ♀ holotype and 2 ♀ from Lake Balkash only. The ♂ associated with it by Haritonov, 1988 belongs to a different sp., described in both sexes (and incorrectly under *I. aralensis*), by Dumont, 1996. This taxon is here renamed *I. haritonovi* nom. nov.

INTRODUCTION

In a recent note, I redescribed what I believed to be *Ischnura aralensis* Haritonov, 1979, based on a matching pair made available to me by its describer himself. The redescription was prompted by a record of two ♀ of *I. aralensis*, from Lake Balkash, Kazakhstan, by REINHARDT (1995), which I rejected on evidence of the morphology of the female before me. I assumed this female to be true *aralensis*, and the original description not to render its characteristics well.

There followed a lively correspondence with Mr K. Reinhardt (Oberlichterñau) and Mr R. Seidenbusch (Sulzbach-Rosenberg); in the course of events, Mr Seidenbusch obtained a second couple of *I. aralensis* from Dr A. Yu. Haritonov, this time containing the female type. This specimen was made available to me for examination. All elements are now in place to finally resolve what had become an *I. aralensis*-puzzle, and lay the matter to rest.

This odonatological detective-story may best be summarised as follows (chronologically):

1979: HARITONOV describes *Ischnura aralensis*, based on a single female (the holotype).

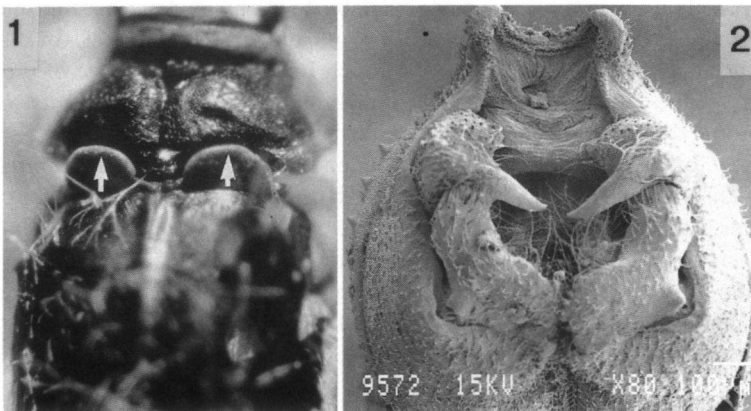
- 1988: HARITONOV discusses the genus *Ischnura* in the former USSR. He now lists *I. aralensis* from a number of localities, whence he reports males as well as females. He now also figures the terminalia of the male, which are extremely distinctive, but does not give new illustrations of the female.
- 1995: REINHARDT lists two females from Lake Balkash, supported by a photograph of the laminae and hind ridge of pronotum.
- 1996: DUMONT questions the status of the Balkash females, and redescribes the two sexes, without having seen the type of *I. aralensis*.

THE TRUE *ISCHNURA ARALENSIS*

Having now examined the type of *I. aralensis*, I come to the conclusions that Haritonov's figure of it was correct. The hind ridge of the pronotum is medially depressed and without any median lip, which excludes confusion with *I. fontaineae* or *evansi*, in spite of the superficially similar nature of their laminae mesostigiales; the two females from Lake Balkash are exactly conforming to this morphology. They are true *I. aralensis*, a species of which the male is, however, still undescribed.

ISCHNURA HARITONOV NOM. NOV. PRO *ISCHNURA ARALENSIS* SENSU DUMONT, 1996

The couple referred to under the name *I. aralensis* by DUMONT (1996) is an unnamed species, of which the male was first figured (terminalia only) by HARITONOV (1988), and incorrectly associated with the female of *I. aralensis*. This male and the matching female (of which Haritonov had material which he did not describe) are distinct by the simple but distinctly medially pointed hind ridge



Figs 1-2. *Ischnura haritonovi*, male: (1) pronotum and (arrows) laminae mesostigiales [photo R. Seidenbusch]; – (2) posterior view of the terminalia [SEM].

of the pronotum, and especially by the leaflike hind margins of the laminae mesostigmales (Fig. 1). The app. sup., which have an enormous claw on their lower inner angle (Fig. 2), likely become associated with this lam. mes. during mating; although the details of their interlocking are not obvious, one possibility is that the claws hook around the sides and their tips lie in the anterior hollow of the lamina. This distinctive morphology, on top of the dark colour (*I. aralensis*, in contrast, is a very light animal), immediately separates the species from all its congeners, which are particularly numerous in this area of middle Asia.

I here rename this taxon *Ischnura haritonovi* nom. nov., in honour of Dr A. Yu. H a r i t o n o v from Novosibirsk. The types are the couple from DUMONT (1996), and the male is selected as the holotype. Both specimens are in the author's collection, but will be transferred, at a later date, to the collection of the Koninklijk Instituut voor Natuurwetenschappen, Brussels.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A word of appreciation for the persistence of Mr. K. REINHARDT (Oberlichtenau) and Mr. R. SEIDENBUSCH (Sulzbach-Rosenberg) in clearing up the status of *I. aralensis*. Mr Seidenbusch kindly made available photograph 1 and the type of *I. aralensis*. I also thank Dr A. Yu. HARITONOV for donating the couple of *I. haritonovi* to me.

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