THE IDENTITY OF *OLPIUM OBSCURUM* (PSEUDOSCORPIONIDA, OLPIIDAE)

WILLIAM B. MUCHMORE

Department of Biology, University of Rochester,
Rochester, New York 14627

ABSTRACT

The holotype, a tritonymph of *Olpium obscurum* Banks, has been re-examined, described in detail, and assigned to the genus *Novohorus* Hoff. It is the first representative of this genus to be recorded from the United States.

The taxonomic status of *Olpium obscurum* Banks (1893) has long remained obscure. Beier (1932) tentatively placed it in *Pachyolpium* and Hoff (1958) followed that assignment. Upon the recent discovery in the Florida Keys of olpiid pseudoscorpions belonging to *Olpiolum* and *Aphelolpium* (unpublished), the correct generic assignment for Banks' species was of interest. The holotype, in the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University, was borrowed through the courtesy of Dr. H. W. Levi. After preparation and mounting on a microscope slide, it was obvious to me that the specimen was a tritonymph belonging to the genus *Novohorus* Hoff (1945). This may represent the third known species of the genus, the others being *N. suffuscus* Hoff from Mona Island and Jamaica, and *N. cinereus* Hoff from Trinidad.

Novohorus obscurus (Banks), NEW COMBINATION

Olpium obscurum Banks, 1893:65.

Pachyolpium? *obscurum* (Banks), Beier, 1932:196: Hoff, 1958:16.

MATERIAL: The holotype (WM 1740.01001), collected at Runnymede, Osceola County, Florida, (no other data indicated); in the Nathan Banks collection of the Museum of Comparative Zoology.

DESCRIPTION: Tritonymph: Generally typical of the genus (see Hoff 1964:29). Carapace and palps light brown, other parts lightly sclerotized and pale in color. Carapace distinctly longer than broad; surface smooth; with 4 corneate eyes, subequal in size and less than half an ocular diameter apart. A total of 22 small, acuminate setae on carapace; 4 at anterior and 2 at posterior margin.

Abdomen long ovate; tergites and sternites entire, surfaces smooth; pleural membranes longitudinally striate. Tergal chaetotaxy 2:4:3:3:4:4:4:4:4:4:2. Sternal chaetotaxy 0:(0)4(0):(0)4(0):6:4:4:4:6:4:6:2. Coxal area typical.

Chelicera less than half as long as carapace; about 1.75 times as long as broad. Palm with 5 acuminate setae, *es*, being much longer than *b* or *sb*. Subapical lobe of movable finger divided; fixed finger with 6 small teeth. Galea long, slender, with 3 short, curved, terminal rami. Flagellum of 3 setae, all serrate along their anterior borders. Serrula exterior with 15 plates.

Palps typical; proportions of segments and positions of trichobothria

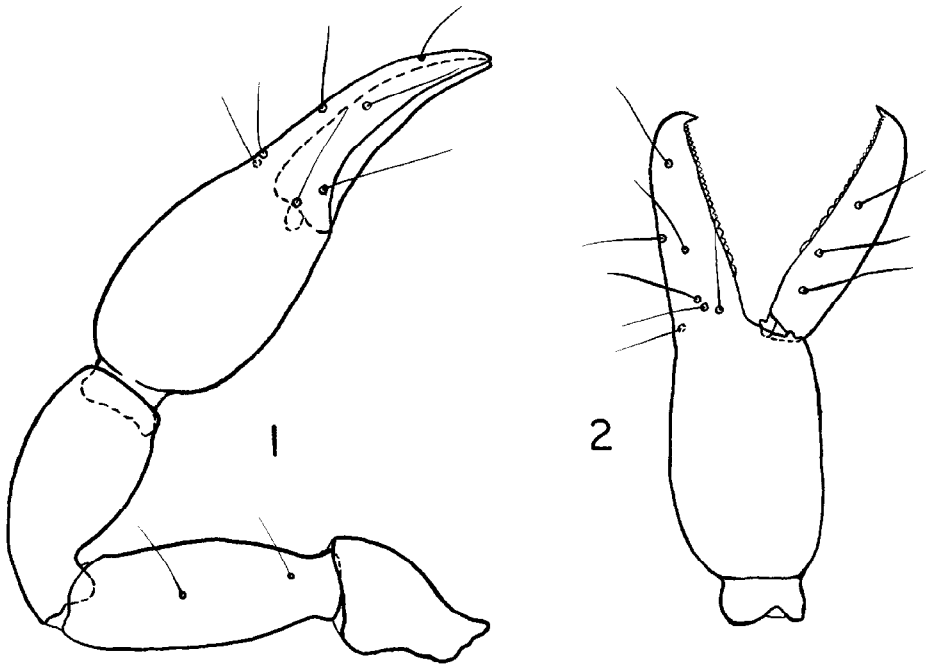

Fig. 1 and 2. *Novohorus obscurus* (Banks), tritonymph holotype (vestitural setae omitted). 1. Left palp, dorsal view. 2. Right chela, lateral view.

of femur shown in Fig. 1; trichobothria of chela as indicated in Fig. 2; all surfaces smooth. Fixed finger of chela with 25 marginal teeth, most with cusps, but those at proximal end becoming low and rounded; movable finger with 23 similar teeth. Apodeme for attachment of adductor muscle to movable finger with a dorsally directed process near proximal end (see Fig. 2).

Legs typical; rather short and stout; leg I with basifemur and telofemur about equal in length. Leg IV with a prominent, large stea on metatarsus 0.20 and a pair of large setae on telotarsus 0.65 the length of the segment from proximal end. Arolia longer than claws.

MALE AND FEMALE: Unknown.

MEASUREMENTS (mm): Tritonymph: Body length 1.76. Carapace length 0.625, greatest breadth 0.49. Chelicera 0.21 long by 0.12; movable finger 0.11. Palpal trochanter 0.27 by 0.16; femur 0.44 by 0.16; tibia 0.39 by 0.185; chela, without pedicel, 0.755 by 0.24; hand, without pedicel, 0.39 by 0.235; movable finger 0.385 long. Leg I: basifemur .016 by 0.105; telofemur 0.155 by 0.105; tibia 0.185 by 0.075; metatarsus 0.08 by 0.06; telotarsus 0.09 by 0.055. Leg IV: entire femur 0.47 long; basifemur 0.17 by 0.13; telofemur 0.37 by 0.19; tibia 0.30 by 0.105; metatarsus 0.125 by 0.075; telotarsus 0.135 by 0.07.

REMARKS: The holotype tritonymph of *Novohorus obscurus* bears considerable resemblance to, but is larger than, the tritonymph paratypes of *N. suffuscus* Hoff from Mona Island (Hoff, 1945, p. 22). However, in the absence of adults from Florida, it is not possible to decide whether or not

the two forms are conspecific. In any event, it is of great interest that this little known genus is represented on the mainland of the United States as well as in the West Indies.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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