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***NESTICELLA MOGERA* (YAGINUMA, 1972)  
(ARANEAE: NESTICIDAE) IN POLAND**

**Abstract**

In this paper is presented first information on the discovery in Poland of the *Nesticella mogera* (Yaginuma 1972). This east-Asiatic spider species has been discovered in Europe in only one locality – Berlin.

**Key words:** *Nesticella mogera*, introduced spiders, Poland.

**Introduction**

*Nesticella mogera* (Yaginuma 1972) is a small nesticid spiders (ca 2,0 –2,6 mm) described in Japan (Yaginuma 1972). In recent years, this species has been discovered in some countries of south-eastern Asia (Kim et al. 1999, Song et al. 1999), Hawaii Islands (Gertsch 1973), Fiji Islands (Lehtinen & Saaristo 1980) and south-eastern Azerbaijan (Marusik & Guseinov 2003). In 2009 Kielhorn (2009) discovered this spider species at the Zoo-Aquarium in Berlin. In this paper authors presents the first informations about localities of *N. mogera* in Poland.

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### Material examined

1 ♀ – 25.08.2009; Lublin, Chemiczna 2, building-garden centre “OBI”; on *Kalanchoe* sp. (hybr.) imported from Holland (leg. and det. R. Rozwałka) (specimen cultivated in laboratory, molt as 29.08.2009);

10 ♀, 6 juv. – 25.09.2009; Wrocław, Wróblewskiego 1, Zoo, under mahogany wood and large scarp bark in the Butterfly Park (leg. P. Bielak-Bielecki, det. R. Rozwałka).

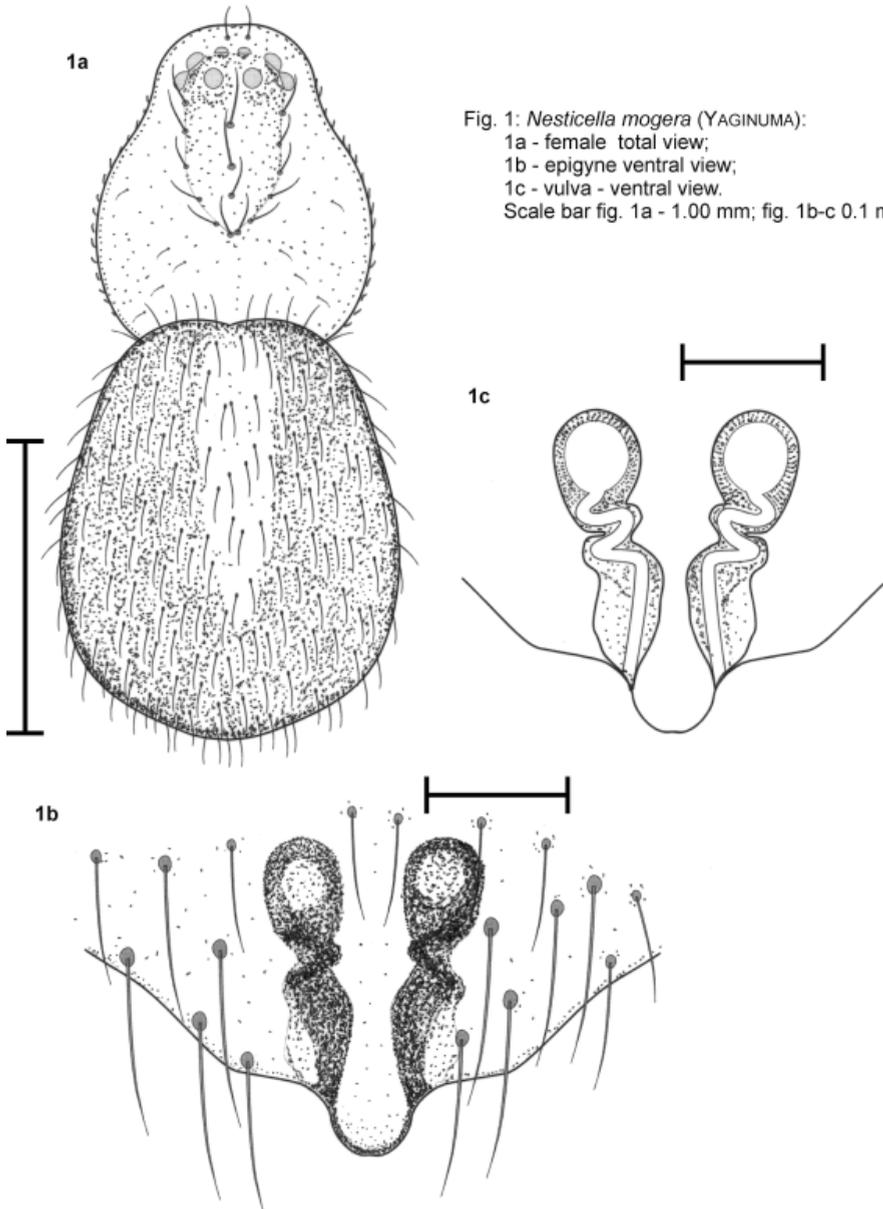
### Description (♀)

Cephalothorax pale yellow to yellow orange, without pattern, with somewhat darker eye region. In the cephalic region with tree lines of long dark bristles (Fig. 1a), in the thoracic region with a few smaller bristles. The edge of the cephalothorax with rare smaller stubbles (Fig. 1a). Eye lightsome, relatively large, the distance of PME = ca diameter PME. Chelicerae orange yellow, with no particularly marks. Cephalothorax length 0.90–1.10 mm ( $_{\text{mid.}} 0.98_{(n=5)}$ ); width 0.80–0.97 mm ( $_{\text{mid.}} 0.92_{(n=5)}$ ). Abdomen of immature specimens and young (next to molt) females round oval, pale grey; of elder females – grey to dark-grey with pale central area (Fig. 1a). Abdomen length: 1.10–1.65 mm ( $_{\text{mid.}} 1.42_{(n=5)}$ ). Epigyne with long, protruding, trapezoidal scape (Fig. 1b). Fertilisation duct and receptacle seminis strongly sclerotized, visible through the body shields. Vulva illustrated on Figure 1c. Female legs yellow to orange-yellow, (of immature specimens, pale yellow). Legs formula: I, IV, II, III. Leg length: L-I: 5.20–5.42; Fe-I ( $_{\text{mid.},n=5}$ ) = 1.60; L-II: 3.26–3.50; Fe-II ( $_{\text{mid.},n=5}$ ) = 1.05; L-III: 2.92–3.07; Fe-III ( $_{\text{mid.},n=5}$ ) = 0.90; L-IV: 4.20–4.44; Fe-IV ( $_{\text{mid.},n=5}$ ) = 1.22.

### Habitat

The natural habitat of *Nesticella mogera* is not conclusively known. In Japan this species has been found mainly in litter and in burrows, but rarely in caves (Yaginuma 1970, 1972). In South Korea, it was recorded in a paddy field (Kim et al. 1999) and in ruderal vegetation in agricultural, industrial and residential areas (Jung et al. 2008a, b). Gertsch (1973) reported this species in caves on the Hawaiian Islands. On the Fiji Islands *N. mogera* has been collected in bush near a mangrove swamp and it was occasionally found in jungle litter (Lehtinen & Saaristo 1980). Marusik & Guseinov (2003) collected *N. mogera* in Azerbaijan among the litter on the edge of a relic forest. In Europe a population (which was

introduced) of this spider species was observed in very warm and high-humidity environments: in the Zoo-Aquarium in Berlin (Kielhorn 2009) and in Butterfly Park in Zoo in Wrocław. Perhaps *N. mogera* is thermophilous and hygrophilous species, preferring a deep litter and places under stones.



## Conclusions

*Nesticella mogera* at the Zoological Garden in Wrocław is a permanent and large population. In addition to the 16 collected specimens numerous further ones have been observed, including females with cocoon (obs. P. Bielak-Bielecki). The presented locality is currently the second, after the Zoo-Aquarium Berlin, place of occurrence of this species Europe. By contrast, specimen of *N. mogera* collected in Lublin came with imports from the Netherlands. Presumably, therefore, in Europe, apart from Poland and Germany, it lives also in the Netherlands, but the exact manufacturer of the potted plants in which this species was collected has not been determined.

A large population of *N. mogera* found in Wrocław, the occurrence of this species in Berlin (and presumably in the Netherlands), already allow this species to become an established part of the European synanthropic araneofauna. Probably this spider species will continue to spread, e.g. with the transport of plants.

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