

## The first record of *Gibbaranea gibbosa* (Walckenaer, 1802) (Araneae: Araneidae) in Finland

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The araneid spider *Gibbaranea gibbosa* (Walckenaer, 1802) is reported from Finland for the first time, based on a single male specimen collected in Oriketo, Turku, June 2022. The new finding represents the northernmost record of the species in its whole known range.

Ristihämähäkkilaji *Gibbaranea gibbosa* (Walckenaer, 1802) ilmoitetaan uutena Suomen faunalle; yksittäinen koirasyksilö löydettiin Turun Orikedolta kesäkuussa 2022. Tämä on pohjoisin havainto lajin koko tunnetulta esiintymisalueelta.

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### Introduction

According to the most recent version of the national checklist, there are 647 species of spiders known from Finland (Koponen *et al.* 2016). Although the araneofauna of the country is considered relatively well-studied, several new records have been reported over the past few years.

Araneidae Clerck, 1757 is the third largest family of spiders, currently comprising 3093 extant species in 184 genera (WSC 2022). Thanks to the large size, high abundance and extensive dispersal ability of many species, as well as to the publication of numerous regional surveys (e.g. Šestáková *et al.* 2009), Araneidae remains among the best-studied families of spiders in Europe with 115 species in 25 genera reported from the region, including 37 species of 16 genera known from Finland (Nentwig *et al.* 2022; Koponen *et al.* 2016). Nevertheless, new records of some of the rarer and more inconspicuous species of the family are reported occasionally, especially from less explored countries (e.g. Šestáková & Krumpál 2013).

*Gibbaranea* Archer, 1951 is a relatively small genus of medium-sized araneids, currently comprising 13 species primarily distributed in the Palaearctic (WSC 2022). Two species, *G. bituberculata* (Walckenaer, 1802) and *G. omoeda* (Thorell, 1870), are currently known from Finland (Koponen *et al.* 2016). Recently, the second author collected a male specimen of *G. gibbosa* (Walckenaer, 1802) in Turku, southwestern Finland, which represents the first record of the species for this country. The find is reported herein.

### Material and methods

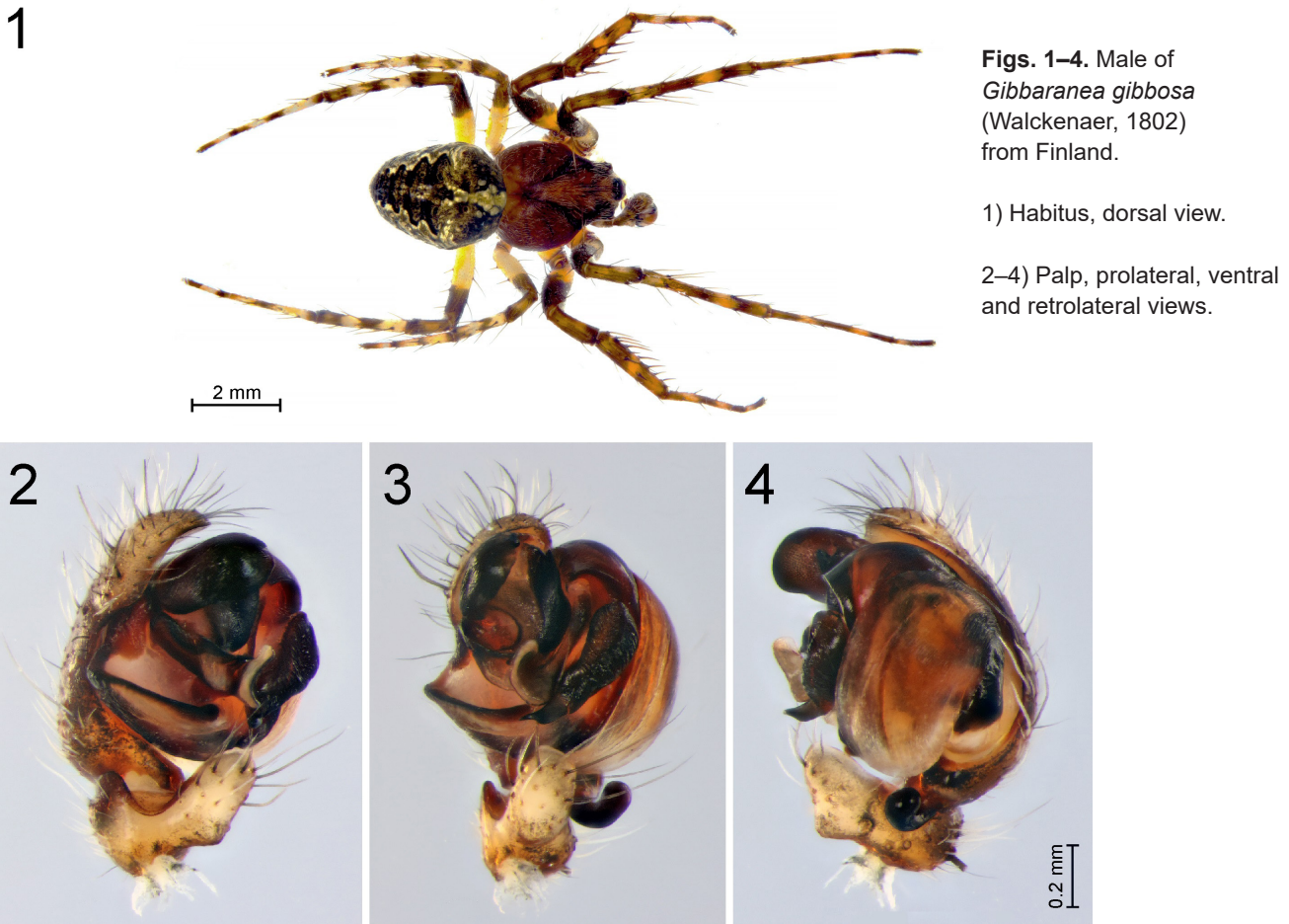
The specimen was hand-collected, preserved in 70% denatured alcohol and photographed using a Canon EOS 7D camera attached to an Olympus SZX16 stereomicroscope. The left palp was separated for photography. Digital images were montaged using CombineZP and edited using Photoshop. The studied material will be deposited in the Zoological Museum of University of Turku (ZMUT).

### Results

*Gibbaranea gibbosa* (Walckenaer, 1802) (Figs. 1–4)

**Material examined.** FINLAND: Varsinais-Suomi: Turku, Oriketo, 1♂ (ZMUT), 60°28' N 22°19' E, 24.VI.2022 (leg. E. M. Österman, det. A. Zamani).

**Habitat.** This species can typically be found on trees and bushes and in orchards, mostly in warmer regions, and is generally considered rare or at least very difficult to find (Rückl 2018). The single adult male specimen reported here was collected on a parked bicycle, next to a building about 20 m from the outer trees and vegetation of the Korkiakallio forest area. Pines (*Pinus sylvestris*) and spruces (*Picea abies*) are dominant in the forest. The edge vegetation, close to the finding locality, consists mainly of the following deciduous trees and knee-high angiosperms: white birch (*Betula pubescens*), goat willow (*Salix caprea*), common mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*), and common



**Figs. 1–4.** Male of *Gibbaranea gibbosa* (Walckenaer, 1802) from Finland.

1) Habitus, dorsal view.

2–4) Palp, prolateral, ventral and retrolateral views.

tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*). There is a large urban industrial area on the opposite side of the finding locality.

**Note.** The male of this species can be distinguished from the two congeners occurring in Finland by the unique shape of the median and terminal apophyses of the palp (Figs. 2–4 cf. Levy 1998: figs 82–84 and Almquist 2005: fig. 169a). The female can be distinguished by the distinct shape of the epigynal scapus (cf. Almquist 2005: figs 167a–b, 168g–h, 169d–e).

**Distribution.** West Palaearctic, east to northern Iran (WSC 2022; Zamani *et al.* 2022). In northern Europe it is known from southern Sweden (Almquist 2005), and according to Nentwig *et al.* (2022) also from Denmark, Lithuania and Estonia; furthermore, there are a few records from western European Russia, although they are unconfirmed (K. G. Mikhailov, pers. comm.). The recent finding in Finland represents the northernmost record of the species across its whole known range.

### Acknowledgements

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