

## ***Uloborus walckenaerius* Latreille 1806 (Araneae, Uloboridae), A Spider New to Turkish Fauna**

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**Abstract:** The morphological characteristics of *Uloborus walckenaerius* Latreille, 1806, which is recorded for the first time in Turkey, are given in this study.

**Key Words:** *Uloborus walckenaerius*, *Araneae*, *Uloboridae*, Systematics, New record, Turkey

### **Türkiye İçin Yeni Bir Örümcek Türü: *Uloborus walckenaerius* Latreille 1806 (Araneae, Uloboridae)**

**Özet:** Bu çalışmada Türkiye'den ilk kez kayıt edilen *Uloborus walckenaerius* Latreille, 1806 'nin morfolojik özellikleri verilmiştir.

**Anahtar Sözcükler:** *Uloborus walckenaerius*, *Araneae*, *Uloboridae*, Sistematik, Yeni kayıt, Türkiye

#### **Introduction**

Uloborid spiders are unique among spiders in lacking poison glands. They are cribellate orb weavers, and spin geometrical orb webs or sectors of orbs, similar to those of Araneidae, Tetragnathidae and the other related families. They are distributed in all parts of the world but are abundant in the tropics. In Uloboridae, more than 200 species belonging to 23 genera have been described (1-3). So far, only one species (*Uloborus plumipes* Lucas, 1846) of this family has been recorded in Turkey (4).

This paper deals with the characteristic features of *Uloborus walckenaerius* Latreille, and adds a species to the spider fauna of Turkey.

#### **Materials and Methods**

A total of three female specimens were investigated in the study. One specimen from a vineyard in Ahmetli town, Saruhanlı, Manisa, on 01.06.1998, and two specimens from an orchard in Didim, Aydın, on 25.06.1998, were

collected. The specimens were preserved in 70% ethanol. The identification and drawings were carried out by means of a SMZ10A Nikon stereo microscope with a camera lucida. The keys of Heimer and Nentwig (5), Roberts (6) and Tyschchenko (7) were used.

#### **Results**

##### **Genus: *Uloborus* Latreille, 1806**

In *Uloborus*, the cephalothorax is oval, and is longer than wide. They have two eye rows about the same length, and the eyes are subequal. Leg I is obviously longer than the others. Tarsus IV is more than half as long as metatarsus IV. Also, the abdomen is oval, and longer than wide. In alive females, the abdomen has tufts of white hairs arranged linearly. The anal tubercle is prominent, especially in the females. The members of *Uloborus* spin a complete orb, almost in a horizontal plane, about 100 to 150 mm in diameter. They do not build a retreat but strengthen the web with a stabilimentum or a sheeted hub.

*Uloborus walckenaerius* Latreille, 1806

Description

Cephalothorax: Length: 1.33 mm, width: 0.95 mm.

Abdomen: Length: 2.47 mm, width: 1.61 mm.

Total length: 3.82 mm

**Carapace:** Oval, brown, with lighter median and lateral bands covered thickly with light or white hairs (Fig. 1A). **Eyes:** The eyes are in two rows. The second row is slightly longer and more curved than the first row. The anterior median eyes are larger than the posterior median eyes. The distance between the posterior median eyes is slightly larger than that between the anterior eyes (Fig. 1A). **Sternum:** It is chocolate brown and triangular, and is narrow and pointed between the fourth coxa. The

border lines are dark brown and prominent. **Legs:** The first pair of legs is the longest and is twice as long as the second. The legs have joints light in colour in the middle and brown at the ends, except the first leg. Femur I is brown, femora II, III and IV are brown only at the tips, and the rest is yellowish. The fourth metatarsus is slightly curved in the dorsum where the calamistrum is placed. The calamistrum does not reach the tip of the tarsus (Fig. 1C). **Abdomen:** Oval, whitish, with a darker grey-yellow median and two lateral longitudinal stripes. It is mottled on the sides. Ventrally, the abdomen is covered with an oblong chocolate brown area. The cribellum is oval and complete. The anal tubercle is prominent, relatively long and articulated (Fig. 1B). **Epigyne:** Whitish, in a finger or fork shape, partly obscured by light hairs (Fig. 1D).

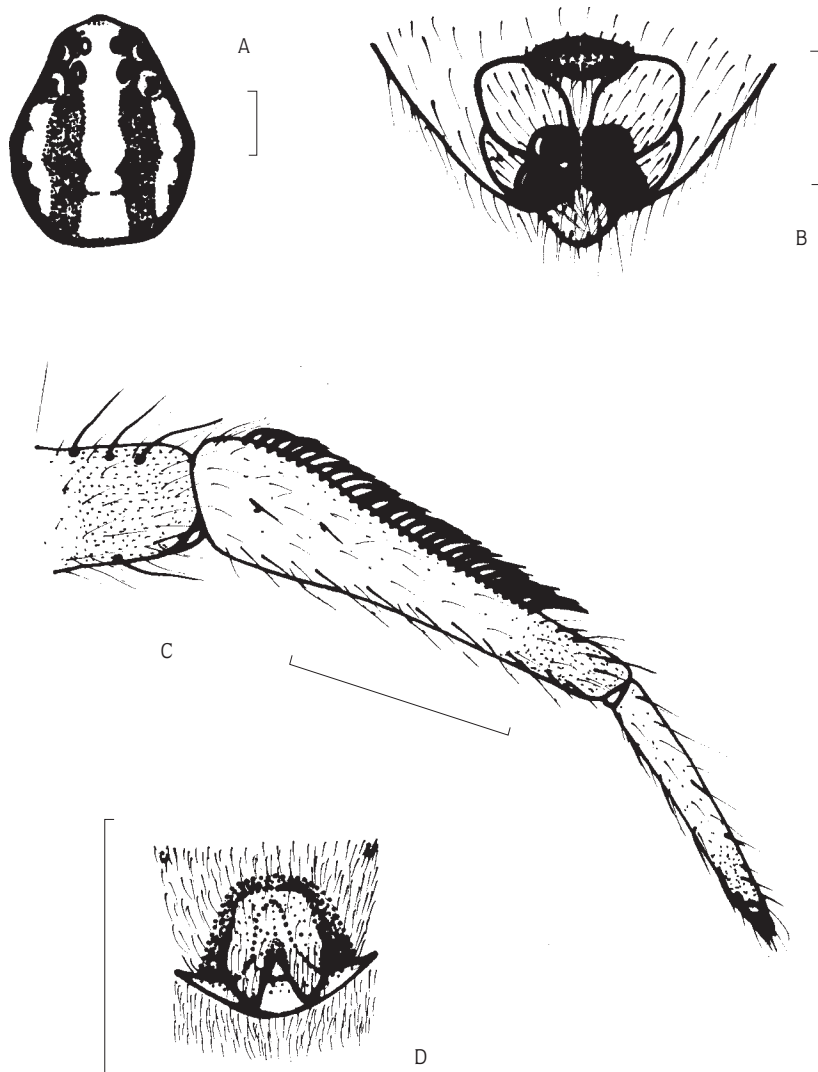


Fig. 1. *Uloborus walckenaerius* Latreille, 1806; Female: A) Carapace, dorsal view; B) Spinnerets, ventral view; C) Calamistrum on metatarsus IV, lateral view; D) Epigyne, ventral view. All scale lines = 0.5 mm.

## Occurrence

*Uloborus walckenaerius* is a palearctic species. Heathlands, grasslands, forests and gardens are the habitat of this spider. It spins a complete and horizontal web on vegetation near to the ground. Generally, one side of the web is attached to a fallen tree or a lower dead branch, and the other side is attached to the upper side of the grasses. The spiral threads are cribellate silk. In many cases, there is a horizontal stabilimentum on the

web. However, sometimes there are zigzag lines of loose silk across the centre or in a middle spiral. *Uloborus walckenaerius* is a common spider.

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