

Differentiation between
Cheiracanthium erraticum and *Cheiracanthium pennyi*

Some Central European species of *Cheiracanthium* (Araneae: Clubionidae), in particular the female, are difficult to distinguish. Especially *Cheiracanthium erraticum* (Walck., 1802) and *Cheiracanthium pennyi* O.P.-Cambr., 1862 are often confused (Braun & Rabeler, 1969). These two sympatric spiders can be found together in the same habitat, but they probably differ in their habitat preference: in contrast to *Ch. erraticum* which is an eurytopic species, *Ch. pennyi* seems to be a syntopic one. Both reach maturity in May / June (*Ch. erraticum* a little earlier than *Ch. pennyi*). During investigations in the southwest of the FRG (Wolf, in prep.) I collected several specimens of both species. These spiders, together with further examples from the Senckenberg Museum in Frankfurt, were examined.

The poster shows a comparison of their coloration, size, and spines. However, a clear determination requires the examination of the genitalia (cp. Clark & Locket, 1964 and Clark & Jerrard, 1972). The structure of the male palp, epigynum, and vulva is shown in photographs (scanning electron microscopy) and drawings.

References

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