

The vulva is of similar type to that of *M. gracilis*, see Plate. Colour variable: dorsal area yellow, with a dark brown anterior triangular patch, centrally paler, followed by a similar dark patch, with a very distinct small, circular, yellow, central spot; a dull dusky central band runs from this point to meet a dark blotch lying between the posterior spines. Lateral and ventral areas dull brown.

Hab. MEXICO, Omilteme, Amula (*H. H. Smith*).

6. *Micrathena brevipes*. (Tab. L. figg. 8, 8 a, ♂.)

Acrosoma brevipes, O. P.-Cambr. Biol. Centr.-Amer., Arachn. Aran. i. p. 62, t. 8. figg. 10, 10 a-d (♂)¹; Keyserl. Spinn. Amer., Epeiridae, p. 12, t. 1. figg. 9, 9 a, b (♂)².

Type, ♂, in coll. Godman & Salvin. Total length 4.5 millim.

Carapace elongate-oval, with central punctiform fovea and very slight lateral foveæ. Eye-groups more closely situated than in the *M. parallela*-group. Legs entirely devoid of spines, clothed with fine hairs only. Coxa i. without hook, and femur ii. without groove; coxæ iv. closely situate; leg iii. much smaller than the others and isolated, the coxæ iii. being remote from those of ii. and iv. Abdomen narrower in front, dilate behind.

Palpal bulb without a serrated lamella, the tibia having a large bifid spur beneath, see Plate.

Hab. MEXICO, Teapa (*H. H. Smith*); GUATEMALA²; PANAMA, Bugaba (*Champion*¹).

7. *Micrathena obtusospina*. (Tab. L. figg. 9, 9 a-i, ♀.)

Acrosoma obtusospina, Keyserl. Sitzungsber. nat. Ges. Isis, Dresden, 1863, p. 76, t. 2. fig. 9 (♀)¹; Spinn. Amer., Epeiridae, p. 23, t. 1. fig. 20 (♀)².

Acrosoma armatum, McCook, Amer. Spid. iii. t. 21. figg. 5, 5 a (♀)³.

Type, ♀, in Mus. Brit. Total length, ♀, 14-17 millim. (including posterior spines).

♀. Carapace deeply, broadly, and transversely excavate between the cephalic and thoracic areas. Central posterior eyes two diameters, central anteriors one diameter, apart; laterals distinctly separate, about three-fourths of a diameter apart. Sternum more distinctly transversely trilobate than in the other allied species, having a convex boss opposite the coxæ of legs i.-iii. on each side, produced posteriorly between coxæ iv. into a stout, conical, blunt point, its apex lying between the coxæ. Femora of legs studded with numerous granules or small tubercles. Patellæ only very slightly dilate behind. Fang-groove with four teeth above, three below.

The vulval scapus has no transverse cavity in front, but is produced into a bluntly rounded tongue of variable form, sometimes slightly dilate apically; seen from behind, there lies beneath this scapus a transverse oval cavity, into which the lower portion of the scapus descends in the form of an oval plate; on the posterior margin of the cavity lies a central convex boss, with a small carinate sclerite on each side. The exact form of the vulva is, however, very variable in different examples.

The abdomen is triangular, with a pair of long, sharp, divergent spines situated less than the length of one of them apart, on the anterior third of the median dorsal area, usually directed obliquely forwards. The posterior margin is occupied by two long, stout, sharp-pointed spines, one at each angle, divergent, directed straight backwards or slightly obliquely upwards, very variable in form, being sometimes much longer, and often much shorter, than the dorsal area, in the former case gradually attenuated to a sharp point, in the latter abruptly ending in a short point. Immediately in front of the base of these spines, on the dorsal side, lies a sharp cusp or spine of very variable length, erect or directed backwards. In immature examples a second minute cusp lies midway between these and the dorsal spines, while in those still less mature, which are black with white spots, the intermediate lateral spines are slender, sharp, and almost as long as the anterior and posterior spines. The chitinous tube is well-developed, but not so long as in *M. schreibersi*.

Hab. MEXICO², Teapa (*H. H. Smith*); GUATEMALA, Chisec (*Sarg*); COSTA RICA