

The lateral plates are mostly thin and partially transparent, the result often being an appearance confusing to one not understanding their structure, especially so when the epigynum is examined in a liquid medium. Various published drawings of epigyna represent the septum as narrowest at the free surface and gradually broader and broader toward the base or dorsal part in cases where the free edge in reality is widely extended horizontally over the basal portion.

The function of the median body, or variously termed "process," "ovipositor," "finger," etc., seems clearly to be that of a guide to the male embolus, controlling the course of the latter and facilitating its entrance to the spermatheca. Intimately associated with specific and generic differences in the epigynum are naturally corresponding differences in the male palpus. The unusual structure of epigynum in *Lycosa pulchra*, Keys (= *L. Kochii*, Keys, of Em., Banks, etc., but nec., Keys; = *L. Purcelli*, Montg., the true *Kochii* being a western species), is matched by an equally, if not more, peculiar palpus in the male. The characteristic epigyna of *L. ocreata*, *gracilis* (= *verisimilis*, Montg.), *bilineata* and their allies (group *Schizogyna*), are likewise associated with correspondingly peculiar palpal organs.

The epigyna in the genus *Pardosa* agree in having the depressed area relatively large and deep on each side adjacent to the opening of the receptaculum, the depression anteriorly becoming narrower and shallower, usually strongly so. The depression in front, in fact, is often but slightly indicated, although ordinarily more developed at its extreme anterior end than in the region immediately posterior to that part. The guide frequently quite fades out in front of the middle, leaving the depression anteriorly undivided (*P. lapidicina*), and in other cases it is relatively but weakly indicated in that region. Sometimes the depth and width of the furrows increase very gradually from in front posteriorly, as they do in *P. nealota* (an undescribed Texan species allied to *littoralis*), but leaving the guide narrower anteriorly. In other forms the deeper posterior areas or foveæ may be formed abruptly, as is very conspicuously the case, for example, in *P. sternalis* and *P. atra*. The posterior foveæ may be relatively very large, with the shallower front region much reduced (*Groenlandica*, *brunnea*) or relatively small (*sternalis*, *atra*). In *xerampelina*, Keys (= *tachypoda*, Th., and *Montana*, Em., etc.) the transverse arms of the guide are but weakly developed, and the median septal part widens conspicuously anteriorly.

In *Lycosa*, conditions as to the median depression are nearly the reverse of those found in *Pardosa*, the furrows being deepest and widest at