

# Bugs & ALL

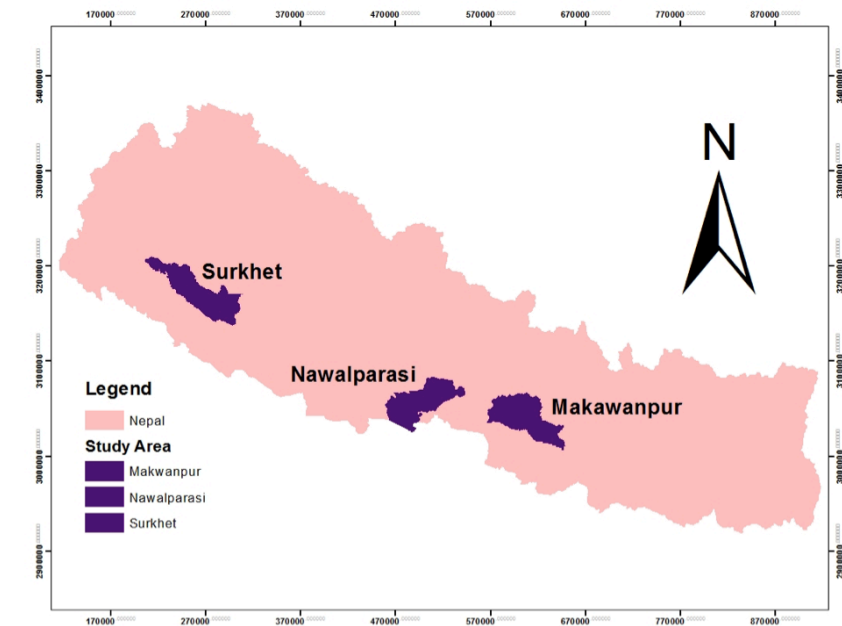
Newsletter of the  
Invertebrate Conservation & Information Network of South Asia (ICINSA)

## New additions to the Nepalese spider checklist

Spiders are one of the most diverse terrestrial predators in the world. Globally, over 48,000 species are described (WSC 2021) of which 276 species of 106 genera in 24 families are so far reported from Nepal (Magar et al. 2020; WSC 2021).

The present study was conducted in western, central, & Terai regions of Nepal. The study was conducted in five different locations in three districts (Table 1) during 2018–2020. Most of the study sites fall under tropical climate zone.

Live specimens were photographed using a Nikon D5300 DSLR camera. Spiders were collected and preserved in 70% alcohol. Adult specimens were identified up to species level



with the help of available taxonomic literature and keys as well as general morphological illustration papers (Tikader & Malhotra 1980; Tikader 1982; Pocock 1901; Gravely 1921, 1924; Proszynski & Caleb 2015; Caleb 2020a,b). The nomenclature follows the World Spider Catalog (2021). Specimens are deposited in biology lab of Siddhartha Secondary School, Nawalparasi.

A total of 16 genera and 20 species belonging to six families (Table 2) were recorded of which 18 species belonging to 14 genera are new for Nepal. *Phintella vittata* and *Telamonina dimidiata* are reported from new localities (Magar et al. 2020). Araneidae was the dominant family constituting nine species under eight genera and followed by Oxyopidae with five species under two genera. Similarly,



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guild structure analysis revealed four feeding guilds: orb-web weavers, stalkers, ground runners, and foliage runners (Table 2) (Uetz et al. 1999).

In Nepal, the Terai and the western regions are underexplored. Literally there is no evidence of presence of families Araneidae, Oxyopidae, and Tetragnathidae from Nepal. Except for *Phintella vittata* and *Telamonia dimidiata* all other species are recorded for the first time from Nepal.

This new records of species adds their gap of global distribution. Records of new species are not surprising in Nepal as they are reported from neighboring countries. However, this is not final as there are many species which still await to be discovered.

### Family Araneidae Clerck

1. ***Argiope aemula* (Walckenaer, 1841):** 4♀, Locality: C, Habitat: web created in bushes, coll. BRO.
2. ***Argiope anasuja* Thorell, 1887:** 6♀, Locality: A, B, C, Habitat: paddy plants, web in forest, coll. MS.
3. ***Cyrtophora moluccensis* Doleschall, 1857:** 3♀, Locality: C, Habitat: branch of tree, coll. BRO.
4. ***Macracantha hasselti* (C.L. Koch, 1837):** 6♀, Locality: B, C, Habitat: web in forest, high density, coll. MS.

5. ***Gea spinipes* C.L. Koch, 1843:** 1♀, Locality: B, Habitat: leaf of sal tree (*Shorea robusta*), coll. MS.
6. ***Herennia multipuncta* (Doleschall, 1859):** 1♀, Locality: E, Habitat: bark of tree, camouflage, coll. MS.
7. ***Nephila pilipes* (Fabricius, 1793):** 9♀, Locality: B, C, D, E, Habitat: web created in bushes, coll. MS.
8. ***Parawixia dehaani* (Doleschall, 1859):** 1♀, Locality: B, Habitat: web created in sal forest, on ground under fallen dry leaves, coll. MS.
9. ***Trichonephila clavata* (L. Koch, 1878):** 1♂, 1♀, Locality: E, Habitat: web created in Kuro plant (*Cyathula capitata*), coll. MS.

### Family Lycosidae

1. ***Hippasa agelenoides* (Simon, 1884):** 2♀, Locality: C, Habitat: web created in open grassland, coll. BRO.

### Family Oxyopidae

1. ***Oxyopes birmanicus* Thorell, 1887:** 15♀, Locality: A, Habitat: leaf of rice plant in agricultural field, coll. MS.
2. ***Oxyopes javanus* Thorell, 1887:** 10♀, Locality: A, Habitat: leaf of rice plant in agricultural field, coll. MS.
3. ***Oxyopes shweta* Tikader, 1970:** 10♀, locality: A, B, Habitat: leaf of Neem tree, Sal tree, coll. MS.

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**Table 1. Details of the study localities.**

	Locality	Code	Habitat
1.	Nawalparasi West District, Nepal		
a.	Swathi (27.650 N & 83.657 E, 132 m)	A	Agricultural field, paddy field
b.	Ramapur (27.623 N & 83.613 E, 148 m)	B	Forest, dominant Sal tree
2.	Surkhet District, Nepal		
a.	Kakrebihar Forest (28.564 N & 81.621 E, 728 m)	C	Forest
b.	Satakhani (28.496 N & 81.747 E, 485 m)	D	Forest
3.	Makwanpur District, Nepal		
a.	Kulekhani (27.623 N & 85.147 E, 1,528 m)	E	Watershed area, shrubs

**Table 2. List of spider species recorded in study areas.**

	Families/Guild	No. of genera	No. of species	Species
1.	Araneidae (Orb-web Builders)	8	9	<i>Argiope aemula</i> , <i>A. anasuja</i> , <i>Cyrtophora moluccensis</i> , <i>Macracantha hasselti</i> , <i>Gea spinipes</i> , <i>Herennia multipuncta</i> , <i>Nephila pilipes</i> , <i>Parawixia dehaani</i> , <i>Trichonephila clavata</i>
2.	Lycosidae (Ground Runners)	1	1	<i>Hippasa agelenoides</i>
3.	Oxyopidae (Stalkers)	2	5	<i>Oxyopes birmanicus</i> , <i>O. javanus</i> , <i>O. shweta</i> , <i>O. sunandae</i> , <i>Peucetia viridana</i>
4.	Salticidae (Stalkers)	3	3	<i>Phintella vittata</i> *, <i>Telamonia dimidiata</i> *, <i>Thiania bharnoensis</i> ,
5.	Sparassidae (Foliage Runner)	1	1	<i>Olios milleti</i>
6.	Tetragnathidae (Orb-web Builders)	1	1	<i>Leucauge decorata</i>
<b>Total</b>		<b>16</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>18 species new for Nepal</b>

**Note: \* indicate new distributional records within country**

**4. *Oxyopes sunandae* Tikader, 1970:**

4♂, 8♀, Locality: A, Habitat: leaf of rice plant, coll. MS.

**5. *Peucetia viridana* (Stoliczka, 1869):**

5♂, Locality: B, Habitat: leaf of plant in forest, coll. MS.

**Family Salticidae Blackwall**

**1. *Phintella vittata* (C.L. Koch, 1846):**

6♂, Locality: B, Habitat: leaf of sal tree in forest, coll. MS.

National distribution: Chitwan National Park (Magar et al. 2020) and this paper.

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*Argiope anasuja*



*Cyrtophora moluccensis*



*Macracantha hasselti*



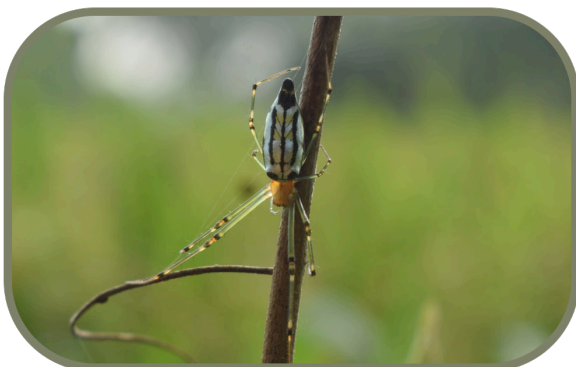
*Gea spinipes*



*Nephila pilipes*



*Parawixia dehaani*



*Leucauge decorata*



*Trichonephila clavata*

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Newsletter of the



*Hippasa agelenoides*



*Oxyopes birmanicus*



*Oxyopes shweta*



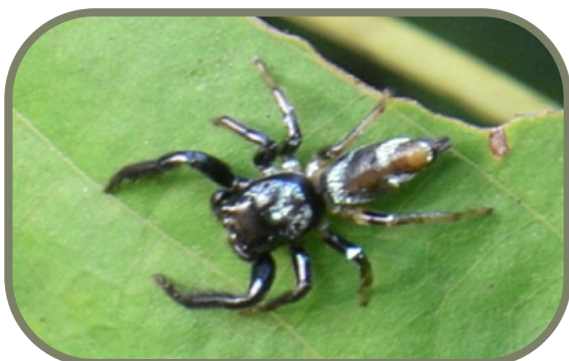
*Oxyopes sunandae*



*Phintella vittata*



*Telamonia dimidiata*



*Thiania bhamoensis*



*Olios milleti*

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- 2. *Telamonia dimidiata* (Simon, 1899):**  
8♀, Locality: B, Habitat: leaf of sal tree in forest, coll. MS.  
National distribution: Chitwan National Park (Magar et al. 2020) and this paper.
- 3. *Thiania bhamoensis* Thorell, 1887:**  
2♀, Locality: B, Habitat: leaf of sal tree in forest, coll. MS.

## Family Sparassidae Bertkau

- 1. *Olios milleti* (Pocock, 1901):** 1♀,  
Locality: A, Habitat: leaf of plant, coll. BRO.

## Family Tetragnathidae

- Leucauge decorata* (Walckenaer, 1842):**  
20♀, Locality: A, B, C, Habitat: leaf of paddy plants, web created in bushes, coll. MS.

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