

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF SPIDER OF THE GENUS *CASTIANEIRA* KEYSERLING (ARANEAE: CLUBIONIDAE) FROM MADHYA PRADESH

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Abstract

A new species of spider belonging to the genus *Castianeira* Keyserling under family Clubionidae is described from Jabalpur District in the state of Madhya Pradesh.

Keywords

Araneae, *Castianeira adhartali* sp. nov., *Clubionidae*, *Madhya Pradesh*, *spider*,

Introduction

Keyserling established the genus *Castianeira* in 1879. Eight species of this genus are known from India. Simon (1897) first recorded this genus from India by describing the species *Castianeira zetes*. Gravely (1931) gave an account of three species, *Castianeira albopicta*, *C. flavipes* and *C. himalayensis*, while Reimoser (1934) described one species, *Castianeira quadrimaculata*. Patel and Patel (1973) described the species *Castianeira tinae*, Tikader (1981) described *Castianeira indica* and Biswas (1984) described *Castianeira bengalensis*.

Jabalpur District (c. 23°10'N, 79°59'E) lies in the eastern half of Madhya Pradesh. While examining some spiders collected from different areas of Jabalpur district, the author came across a new species of *Castianeira* Keyserling, which has been described herein. The type specimens have been deposited with the National Zoological Collection, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata.

Family Clubionidae

1991. Clubionidae: Majumder & Tikader, *Rec. zool. Surv. India Occ. Pap.* 102: 16.

Type genus

Clubiona Latreille, 1804

Distribution

All tropical parts of the world.

Diagnosis

Cephalothorax longer than wide, ovoid or elongated in shape. Dorsal groove usually distinct, short, shallow, sometimes located on posterior declivity. Eyes eight, homogeneous, arranged in two rows. Chelicerae rather long, outer margin with two to seven small teeth, inner margin with two to four small teeth. Maxillae usually longer than wide. Legs prograde, long and rather stout, tibia and metatarsi provided with long spines on ventral surface, tarsi with two claws. Abdomen is elongate, with variable ornamentation, dorsal scutum also present. Anterior spinnerets close together, not more heavily sclerotized than other spinnerets. These spiders are generally known as sac spiders since they construct silken tubular sac. Some of these are found on the ground among clumps of grass and under stones.

Genus *Castianeira* Keyserling, 1879

1879. *Castianeira* Keyserling, *Ver. Zool.-bot. Ge. Wie.* 29: 334.
1991. *Castianeira*: Majumder & Tikader, *Rec. Zool. Surv. India Occ. Pap.* 102: 130.

Type species

Castianeira rubicunda Keyserling, 1879

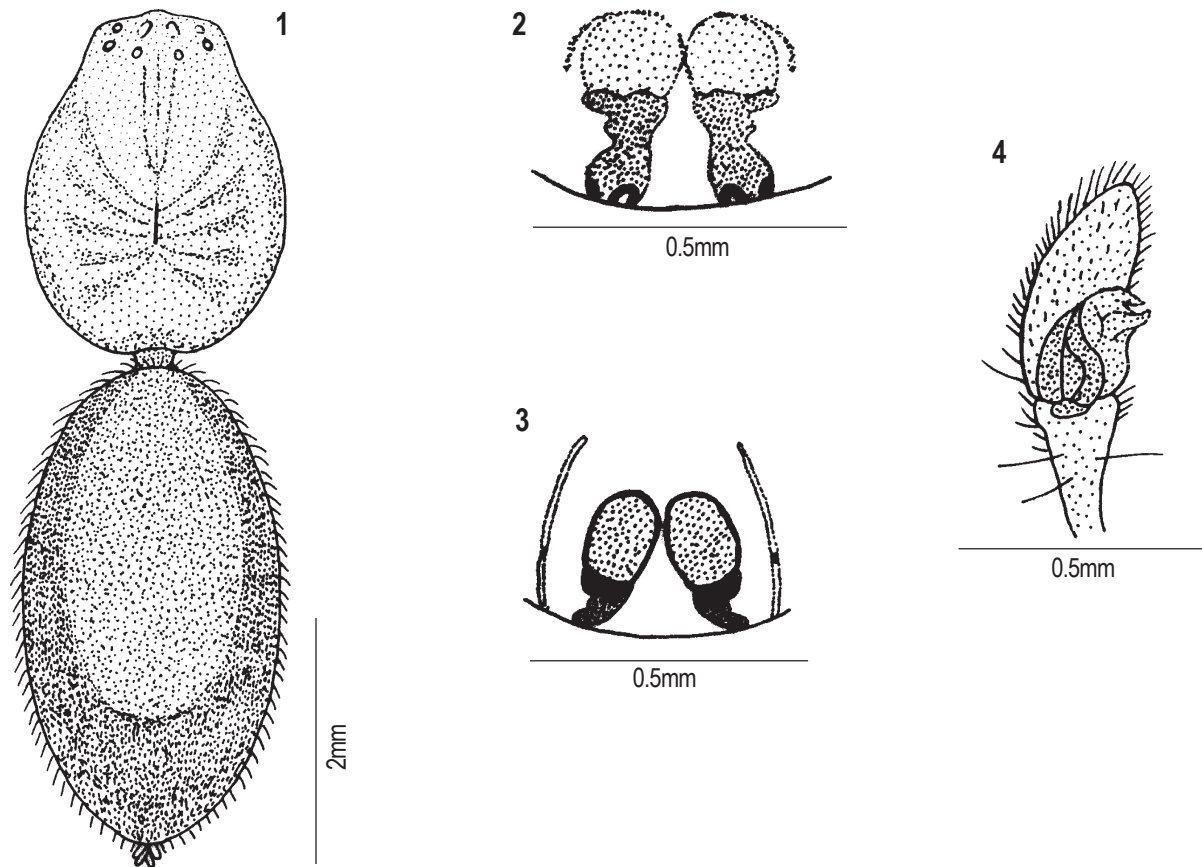
Distribution

Africa, Asia, Malaysia, America, Canada, and India.

Diagnosis

Cephalothorax elongated, ovoid, with prominent cephalic shield

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Figures 1-4. *Castianeira adhartali* sp. nov.
 1. Dorsal view of female, legs omitted; 2. Epigyne;
 3. Internal genitalia; 4. Left male palp, ventral view.

that is usually dark brown in colour, provided with median fovea, short sparse scale-like recumbent setae and with few longer setae in front of carapace. Eyes arranged in two rows, the anterior row slightly recurved and the posterior row distinctly procurved. Chelicera moderately long and stout with rarely 3 teeth on retromargin. Maxilla not constricted at the middle, more or less convex on its outer side. Legs rather long and slender, orange to dark brown to black in colour. Abdomen elongated, ovoid, often with transverse band.

***Castianeira adhartali* sp. nov.**
 (Figs. 1-4)

Type specimens

Holotype: Female, 5.x.1997, Adhartal, Jabalpur District, Madhya Pradesh, India, coll. Pawan Gajbe, ZSI Kolkata.

Allotype: Male, 5.x.1997, Adhartal, Jabalpur District, Madhya Pradesh, India, coll. Pawan Gajbe, ZSI Kolkata.

Etymology

The specific name refers to the type locality Adhartal, which is a large water tank in the northern part of Jabalpur City.

Diagnosis

General features: Cephalothorax and abdomen dark brown, legs light brown. Total length 7.3mm. Carapace 2.9mm. long, 2.7mm. wide; abdomen 4.2mm. long, 2.2mm. wide.

Cephalothorax: Longer than wide, narrowing in front, clothed with fine pubescence, few hair in the cephalic region, thoracic region provided with a conspicuous fovea from which faint lines radiate toward the sides. Eyes pearly white, in two rows, anterior row slightly recurved, posterior row procurved, as in fig. 1. Anterior median eyes larger than others, lateral eyes nearly contiguous. Sternum heart-shaped, pointed behind, dark brown with three blackish spots laterally. Labium longer than wide with basal excavation prominent. Maxillae with pale distal margin and provided with distinct scopulae. Chelicerae strong, dark brown, fangs long. Legs long and stout, clothed with hair and spines. Male resembling female in general appearance but slightly larger in size. Male palp clothed with hair, basal portion of tarsus with few long hair, copulatory organ swollen, covering just a little over half the portion of tarsus, paracymbium short, as in fig. 4.

Abdomen: Longer than wide, elliptical, clothed with fine hair, dorsum with dark brown oval scutum, dorso-laterally and posteriorly blackish with numerous greyish dots, as in fig. 1. Ventral side lighter than dorsal. Epigyne consisting of a sclerotised plate with the margins of spermathecae visible on it, as in fig. 2. Internal genitalia consisting of a pair of dumb-bell shaped spermathecae, as in fig. 3.

Remarks

Castianeira adhartali sp. nov. resembles *Castianeira indica* Tikader but can be distinguished from it as follows:

1. Cephalothorax and abdomen dark brown, legs light brown but in *C. indica*, cephalothorax dark brown, abdomen brown and legs reddish-brown.
2. Sternum laterally provided with three blackish spots but such spots absent in *C. indica*.
3. Dorsum of abdomen with dark brown oval scutum, which is shorter in *C. indica*.
4. Lateral and posterior region of abdomen blackish with numerous greyish dots but this region is lighter in colour in *C. indica*.
5. Epigyne with a pair of dumb-bell shaped markings whose basal part is thicker than those in *C. indica*.
6. Male palp with copulatory organ smaller than in *C. indica*.

Habitat

The specimens were collected from under a stone in an undisturbed barren ground littered with stones and with a few clumps of *Lantana camara* bushes.

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