

available description by Malaise (1947). The colour pattern of abdomen is of significant character that it separates it from all other species of *Birmindia* Malaise. The characters distinguishing this species and its allied new species and already known species are given in the key and respective taxa. This species is restricted to northeastern India.

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SIGHTING OF LARGE ORB-WEB SPIDER *ARGIOPE AEMULA* WALCKENAER (ARANEAE: ARANEIDAE) IN JABALPUR DISTRICT, MADHYA PRADESH

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web supplement

Among the different species of orb-web spiders, *Argiope aemula* (Walckenaer) is one of the most striking spiders found in India. While collecting spiders on the outskirts of Jabalpur City on 28 November 1997, I came across a web of an adult female *A. aemula*. The web had an incomplete X-shaped stabilimentum. The female was sitting in the hub (centre) of the web with her head pointing downwards. After photographing (Image 1^w) the spider, she was collected and deposited with the National Zoological Collection, Zoological Survey of India, Jabalpur (Collection number A-5231).

According to Levi (1983), this showy spider is distributed in the tropics and subtropics from Japan, China, India to Indonesia and as far as Papua New Guinea. According to Tikader (1982), this species is distributed in India in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Andaman & Nicobar Islands, and abroad in Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Indo- and Austro-Malaysia. It has been recorded from Bastar District in Chhattisgarh, and Seoni and Mandla districts in Madhya Pradesh. This is the first record of *A. aemula* from Jabalpur District, Madhya Pradesh.

Species under genus *Argiope* are known to have a zig-zag band called stabilimentum in their webs. These stabilimenta are of different shapes and sizes ranging from a single zig-zag band in the web of *A. aurantia* to crossed zig-zag bands in the web of *A. aemula*. According to Levi & Levi (1968), young spiders may construct more zig-zags than the adults.

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^w see Image 1 on the web at www.zoosprint.org



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