

A NEW SPECIES OF SPIDER OF THE GENUS *POECILOCHROA*
WESTRING (FAMILY : GNAPHOSIDAE) FROM INDIA

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ABSTRACT

A new species of the genus *Poecilochroa* Westring belonging to the family Gnaphosidae, is described.

The genus *Poecilochroa* was established by Westring (1874) with *P. variana* (Koch. C. L., 1839) as a type. Since then only thirty six species have been reported from various parts of the world. Tikader (1982) in his fauna of India Vol. II reported this genus for the first time from India and described one species.

While studying the spiders of the family Gnaphosidae the authors encountered a new species of *Poecilochroa*.

The type specimen will in due course be deposited in the National Zoological Collection, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta.

Poecilochroa devendrai sp. nov.

(Figs. 1-5.)

General : Cephalothorax and legs reddish-brown, abdomen light brownish-green. Total length 6.00 mm. Carapace 2.50 mm. long, 1.60 mm. wide ; abdomen 3.30 mm. long, 1.90 mm. wide.

Cephalothorax : Longer than wide, narrow in front, slightly convex, posterior middle of cephalothorax provided with an conspicuous short fovea, clothed with pubescence. Radiating streaks diverge from fovea to lateral sides. Eyes pearly white except anterior medians,

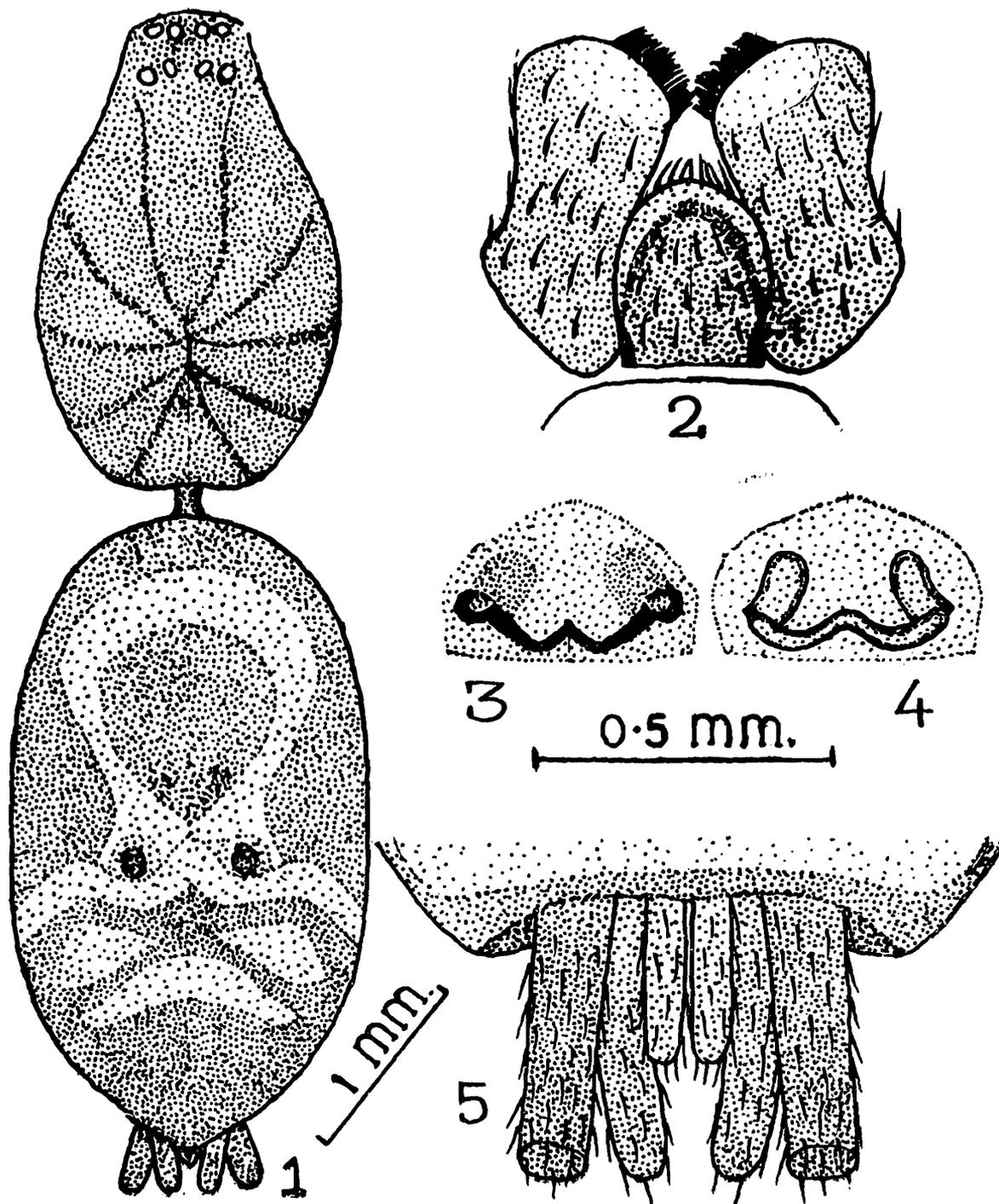
posterior row of eyes longer than the anterior row. Anterior row of eyes are closer together in a straight line (as seen from in front), medians slightly smaller than the laterals and closer to adjacent laterals than to each other. Posterior row of eyes slightly recurved, medians oval and slightly closer to adjacent laterals than to each other. Ocular area longer than wide and wider behind than in front. Sternum brown, oval, pointed behind and clothed with hairs. Maxillae and labium as in Fig. 2. Chelicerae moderately strong, margins of the furrow without tooth. Legs relatively long, clothed with hairs and spines. Leg formula 4123.

Abdomen : Longer than wide, nearly elliptical, clothed with pubescence and provided with one pair of sagilla on the dorsum and with light-green patches as in Fig. 1. Ventral side same in colour as dorsal. Epigyne as in Fig. 3. Internal genitalia as in Fig. 4. Spinnerets prominent, anterior and posterior spinnerets same in length as in Fig. 5.

Holotype : Female in spirit.

Type-locality : INDIA : West Bengal ; Serampore Dist. Howrah, date 15. VII. 1919 Coll A. Drake.

This species resembles *Poecilochroa montana*



Figs. 1-5. *Poecilochroa devendrai* sp. nov.

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| 1. Dorsal view of female, legs omitted. | 2. Labium and maxillae. |
| 3. Epigyne. | 4. Internal genitalia. |
| | 5. Spinnerets. |

Emerton but differs from it as follows: (i) Cephalothorax reddish-brown but in *P. montana* Cephalothorax brown with smoky markings and sparse white pubescence. (ii) Abdomen provided with light green patches but in *P. montana* abdomen provided with a pair of

white spots near the middle of its length. (iii) Epigyne also structurally different.

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