

A NEW *RACHODRASSUS* SPIDER FROM INDIA
(ARANEAE : GNAPHOSIDAE)

By

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ABSTRACT

A new species of the genus *Rachodrassus* Chamberlin, 1922, belonging to family Gnaphosidae, is described.

The genus *Rachodrassus* was established by Chamberlin (1922) with *R. echinus* Chamberlin as a type species from America. Platnick & Shadab (1976) in his revisionary work on genus *Rachodrassus* described two more species from America.

While studying the spiders of the family Gnaphosidae the author encountered a new species of *Rachodrassus*. This genus is being recorded for the first time from Asia.

The type specimens are deposited in the National Zoological Collections, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta.

The species is named after Dr. B. K. Tikader, a well known arachnologist, as a token of the high regard which the present author have for him.

***Rachodrassus tikaderi* sp. nov.**

General : Cephalothorax and legs light

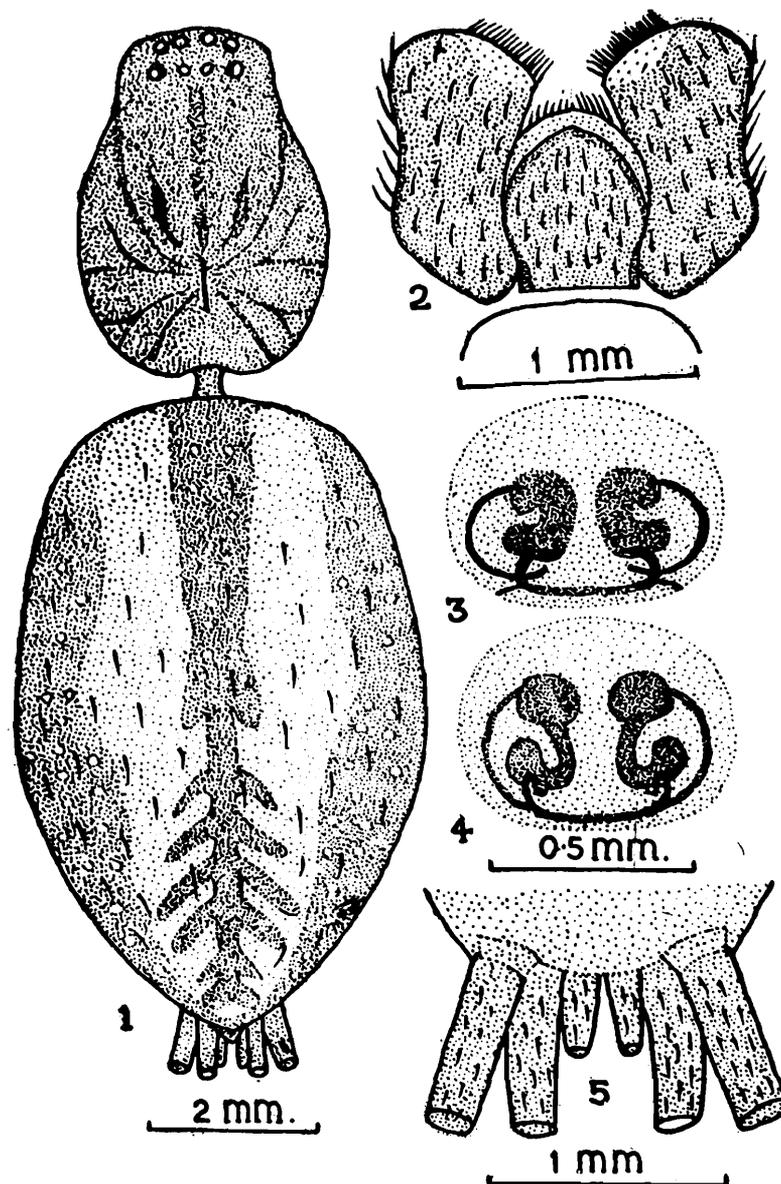
brown, abdomen light gray. Total length 12.40 mm. Carapace 4.00 mm. long, 3.00 mm. wide ; abdomen 8.00 mm. long, 5.00 mm. wide.

Cephalothorax : Longer than wide, oval, convex, widest at coxae II and III, clothed with pubescence, posterior middle of cephalothorax provided with an conspicuous fovea. Radiating streaks diverge from fovea to lateral sides of cephalothorax. Eyes rows distinctly separated, pearly white except anterior medians which are black, posterior row of eyes slightly longer than the anterior row. Anterior row of eyes slightly recurved (as seen from infront), medians smaller than the laterals and slightly closer to adjacent laterals than to each other. Posterior row of eyes slightly recurved, medians oval, smaller than laterals and closer to each other than the adjacent laterals. Median ocular quadrangle longer than broad and slightly narrow

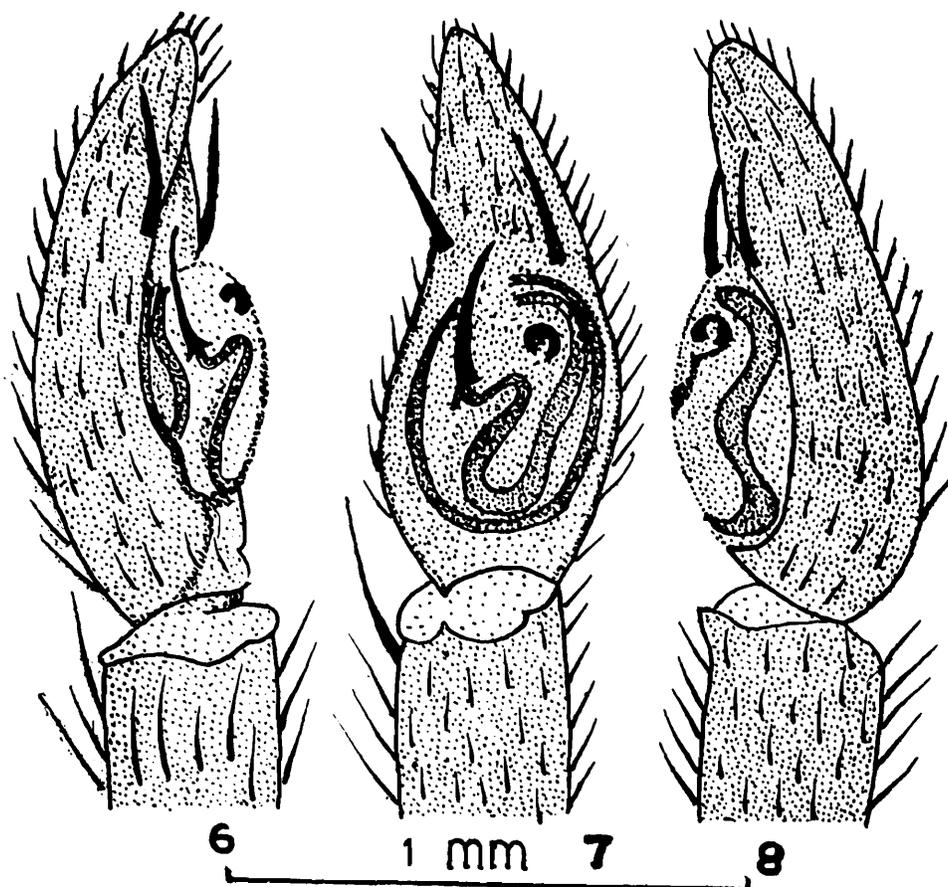
behind than in front. Clypeal height greater than diameter of anterior median eye. Sternum heart-shaped, pointed behind, clothed with hairs. Labium longer than wide, anterior end of labium and maxillae provided with scopulae, shape as in fig. 2. Chelicerae moderately strong, vertical, inner margin provided with a one small tooth and outer margin with three dis-similar teeth. Legs relatively long and thin, clothed, with hairs

and some spines, tibia IV provided with two dorsal spines, leg formula 4123.

Abdomen: Longer than wide, nearly elliptical, clothed with pubescence and some hairs. Abdomen dorsally provided with deep brown longitudinal patches and some chevron patterns as in fig. 1. Ventral side slightly lighter than the dorsal. Epigyne as in fig. 3. Internal genitalia as fig. 4. Spinnerets prominent, anterior spinnerets



Figs. 1-5. *Rachodrassus tikaderi* sp. nov. (1) Dorsal view of female, legs omitted. (2) Labium and maxillae. (3) Epigyne. (4) Internal genitalia. (5) Spinnerets.



Figs. 6-8. (6) Left male palp, pro-lateral view. (7) Left male palp, ventral view. (8) Left male palp, retrolateral view.

widely separated, Posterior spinnerets slightly longer than the others as in fig. 5. Male same in colour but slightly smaller than the female. Male palp as in fig. 6, 7, 8.

Holotype : Female, (Reg. No. 5132/18)
paratype one female, (Reg. No. 5133/18)
allotype one male (Reg. No. 5134/18) in spirit.

Type-locality : INDIA, Himachal Pradesh, Ragul Kalpa Dist. Solan, date 15. IV. 1970, Coll. K.K. Mahajan.

Remarks : This species resembles with *Rachodrassus echinus* Chamberlin but differs from it in the structure of epigyne, internal genitalia and male palp.

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A NEW *SCOPODES* SPIDER FROM INDIA
(ARANEAE : GNAPHOSIDAE)

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ABSTRACT

A new species of the genus *Scopodes* Chamberlin, 1922, belonging to family Gnaphosidae is described.

MATERIAL

The description is based on one female and four male specimens.

The genus *Scopodes* was established by Chamberlin (1922) with *S. catharius* Chamberlin as a type species from America. Tikader & Gajbe (1977) reported this genus for the first time from India and described one species. Tikader (1982) described two more species from India.

While studying the spiders of the family Gnaphosidae the author encountered a new species of *Scopodes* which is described here.

The type specimens are deposited in the National Zoological Collections, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta.

The species is named after Dr. B. K. Tikader, a well known arachnologist, as a token of the high regard which the author has for him.

Scopodes tikaderi sp. nov.

General : Cephalothorax and legs light reddish-green, abdomen brown. Total length 5.50mm. Carapace 2.30mm. long, 1.80mm, wide ; abdomen 3.20mm. long, 2.00mm. wide.

Cephalothorax : Longer than wide, convex narrow in front, cephalic region slightly high, posterior middle provided with a conspicuous fovea, clothed with pubescence and below fovea there are some spine like hairs. Eyes pearly white in colour except anterior medians which are slightly black, posterior row of eyes same in length as the anterior row. Anterior row of eyes slightly procurved, anterior medians are larger than all the eyes, circular and closer to adjacent laterals than to each other. Posterior row of eyes moderately procurved, more or less equal and equidistant from each other, medians elliptical in shape as in fig. 1. Clypeus narrow. Sternum oval, pointed behind and clothed with long spine