

**A RARE NEW SPECIES OF HOMALONYCHUS MARX (ARANEAE :  
HOMALONYCHIDAE) FROM COASTAL  
ANDHRA PRADESH, INDIA.**

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INTRODUCTION

The earlier works of Stoliczka (1869), Pocock (1900), Sherriffs (1927) and Gravely (1931) do not contain any reference to the rare spiders of the family Homalonychidae. Tikader (1970) reported the occurrence of the genus *Homalonychus* Marx for the first time from West Sikkim describing a new species. While examining the spider collections made from Coastal Andhra Pradesh, we came across a new species of this genus which is described here. Both the family and genus are being recorded for the first time from Coastal Andhra Pradesh and second time from Indian sub-continent.

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

***Homalonychus raghavai* sp. nov.**

(Fig. 1, a-d)

*General* : Cephalothorax and abdomen black, legs brownish green. Total length 13.65 mm. Carapace 6.16 mm long, 4.33 mm wide ; abdomen 8.00 mm long, 5.50 mm wide.

*Cephalothorax* : Longer than wide, convex, narrowing in front, mid-dorsally provided with a broad longitudinal brown patch and this portion of patch clothed with fine grey hairs. Lateral margins of thorax also provided with brown longitudinal patches. Centre of thorax provided with a depression and fovea. Clypeus high. Eyes black, in two rows. Anterior row short and procurved, posterior row strongly recurved and much longer than the anterior row. Anterior medians are slightly larger than the anterior laterals. Eyes of anterior row are placed equidistant from each other. Posterior medians are much closer to each other than to the laterals and equal in size. Ocular quad as long as wide, slightly narrowing behind as in Fig. 1 a. Chelicerae with small fange and without teeth on the margins. Sternum broad, clothed with hairs and posterior coxae widely separated. Sternum, labium and maxillae as in Fig. 1 b. Legs strong and robust, clothed with thick hairs. Legs I and II longer than III and IV. Metatarsi I and II with five and four pairs of ventral short and blunt spines resp., metatarsi III and IV with one pair of ventral spines

each at the distal end. The distal ends of metatarsi and tarsi of all legs provided with a brush of terminal tenent hairs. Tarsal claws two, equal in size. Leg formula 1 2 4 3.

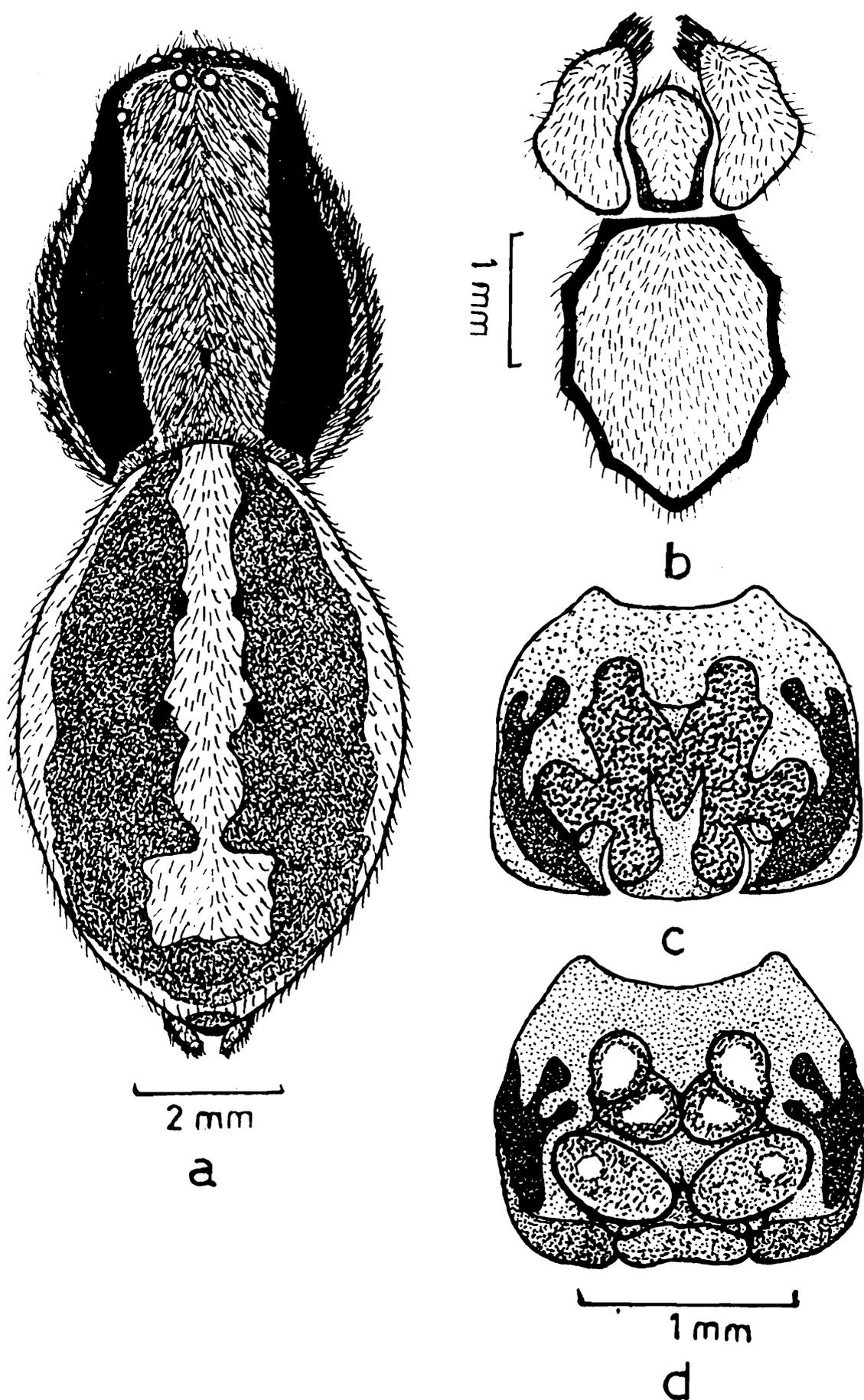


Fig. 1. *Homalonychus raghavai* sp. nov. : a. Dorsal view of female ; b. Sternum, labium and maxillae; c. Epigyne ; d. Internal genitalia.

**Abdomen** : Oval, longer than wide, clothed with thick black hairs. Mid-dorsally provided with a continuous white longitudinal band extending from the base to end and clothed with thick grey hairs as in Fig. 1 a. Lateral margins also provided with similar white longitudinal bands. Ventral side black but lateral sides provided with white longitudinal strips. Epigyne and internal genitalia are as in Fig. 1 c and d respectively.

**Holotype** : One female, **Paratype** : One sub-adult female in spirit.

**Type-locality** : Araku valley, Dist. Visakhapatnam, 13.x.1986. Coll. T. S. Reddy.

**Diagnosis** : This species resembles to *Homalonychus joyaus* Tikader but it is separated as follows : (1) Abdomen mid-dorsally provided with a broad continuous white longitudinal band extending from base to end with a rectangle and clothed with thick grey hairs but in *H. joyaus* abdomen mid-dorsally provided with a discontinuous broad white longitudinal band, the posterior end of which forms a separate white rectangular patch. (2) Epigyne and internal genitalia are also structurally different.

This species also differs from *H. selenopoides* Marx in having the differences in (1) the size and shape of longitudinal bands on the cephalothorax and abdomen (*H. selenopoides* provided also with two chevrons on the posterior end of abdomen) and (2) the structure of sternum, labium, maxillae and epigyne. (3) Posterior eyes are equal but in *H. selenopoides* posterior lateral eyes are larger than the posterior medians.

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