

A NEW SPECIES OF SPIDER OF THE GENUS *THANATUS KOCH* (ARANEAE : PHILODROMIDAE) FROM MADHYA PRADESH, INDIA.

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The spiders of the family Philodromidae are little known in Indian Fauna. The genus was established by Koch in 1937 with the Type-species *Thanatus formicinus* (Clerck). Tikader (1980) described four species of the genus *Thanatus* from different parts of India.

While studying the spider collection collected by the second author from different areas of Jabalpur city we came across a new species of the genus *Thanatus* which is described here.

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

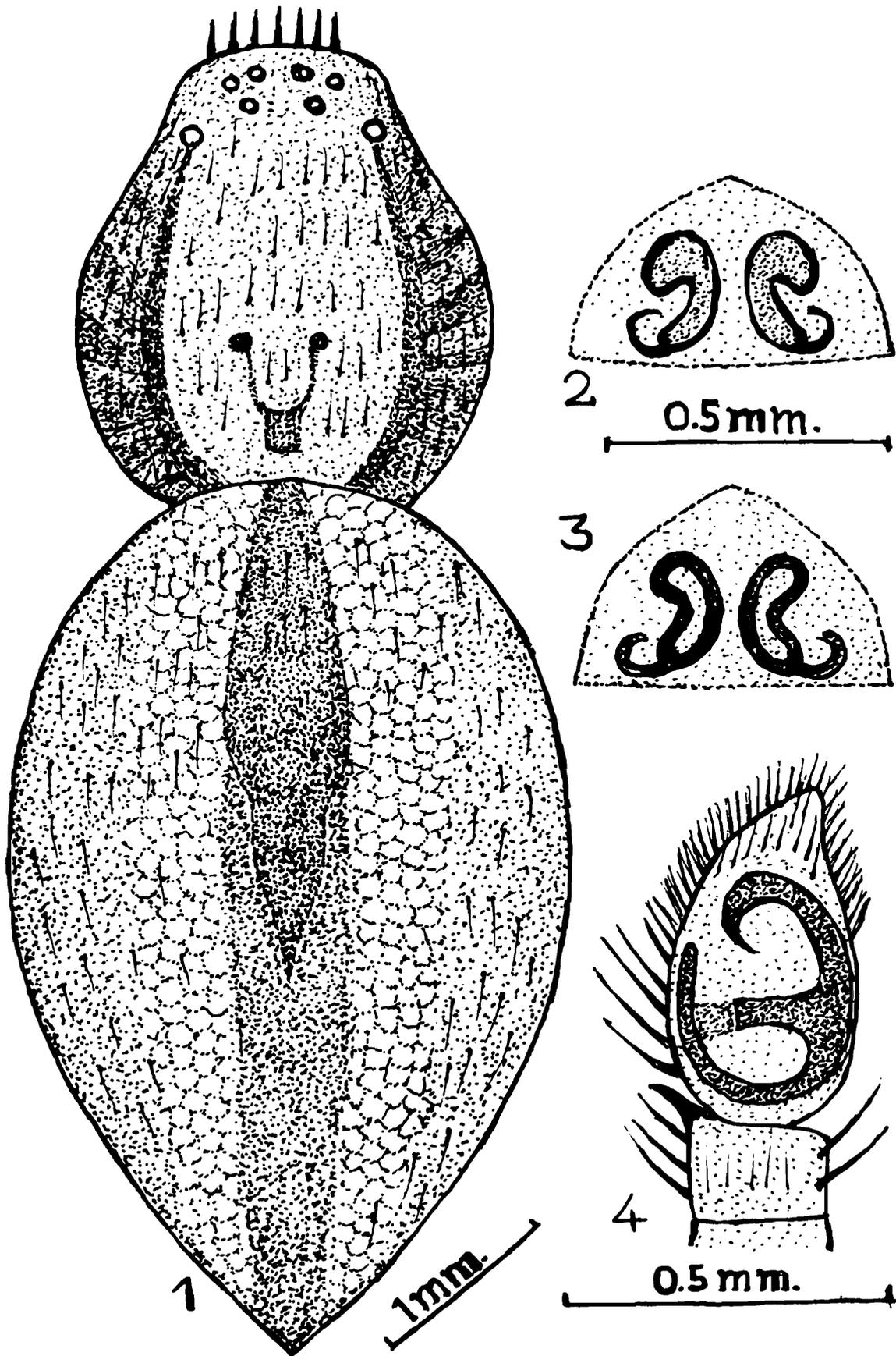
***Thanatus jabalpurensis* sp. nov.**

General : Cephalothorax dark brownish green, abdomen and legs light brownish green. Total length 6.80 mm. Cephalothorax 2.40 mm. long, 2.00 mm. wide; abdomen 4.50 mm. long, 2.80 wide.

Cephalothorax : Longer than wide, broadest behind, narrow in front and clothed with hairs and few spines; two deep brown bands starting from the postero-lateral eyes and extending to base of cephalothorax. Lateral sides provided with conspicuous deep brown patches. Posterior middle of cephalothorax provided with U-shaped deep brown marking. Eyes black, eight in two rows, both rows recurved but the posterior row longer and more recurved than the anterior row; posterior lateral eyes larger than others, both rows of eyes together form a crescent-shaped area. Clypeus long, margin of clypeus with seven spines directed forward. Sternum heart-shaped, pointed behind, clothed with hairs and some spines. Legs long and stout, provided with spines, metatarsi of I and II with two pairs of ventral spines, tarsal scopulae well developed and claw tufts prominent.

Abdomen : Longer than wide, broadest in the middle and narrowing behind, clothed with hairs and few spines, abdomen mid-dorsally provided with deep brown band up to the middle of abdomen and laterally with two silvery longitudinal bands starting from anterior end of abdomen to the posterior end as in figure. 1. Ventral side lighter than the dorsal, clothed with hairs. Epigyne as in fig. 2. Internal genitalia as in fig. 3. Male same in colour as of female but smaller than the female. Male palp as in fig. 4.

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Figs. 1-4. *Thanatus jabalpurensis* sp. nov.

1. Dorsal view of female, legs omitted; 2. Epigyne; 3. Internal genitalia;
4. Right male palp, ventral view.

Type-specimen : *Holotype* female, *Allotype* one male in spirit, other details as above.

Type-locality : Tilwaraghat, near Narmada bridge, Jabalpur. Coll *Pawan Gajbe*, 9.1.1998.

This species resembles *Thanatus mandali* Tikader but differs from it as follows. (i) Cephalothorax provided with deep brown band starting from postero-lateral eyes to the end of the cephalothorax and mid-dorsally with U-shaped marking but in *T. mandali* lateral sides provided with conspicuous longitudinal deep brown patches. (ii) Abdomen mid-dorsally with deep brown patch up to the middle of cephalothorax and two lateral silvery white bands starting from anterior end of abdomen to the base of abdomen but in *T. mandali* abdomen antero-dorsally provided with deep brown lens-shaped band and posterior end provided with a V-shaped brown mark. (iii) Epigyne also structurally different.

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