

**NEW SPECIES OF SPIDER OF THE GENUS *SERGIOLUS* SIMON  
FROM MADHYA PRADESH (FAMILY : GNAPHOSIDAE)**

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The genus *Sergiolus* was established by Simon in 1891 with type species as *S. variegatus* (Hentz). Since the establishment of the genus, Tikader & Gajbe (1976), described three species from different parts of India. Tikader in (1982) in his '*Fauna of India*' volume redescribed the same species.

While studying the spiders of the family Gnaphosidae the authors came across a new species of *Sergiolus* which is described here.

The specimen was collected from the large webs of *Stegodyphus sarasinorum* Karsch which was associated with the same species.

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

***Sergiolus lamhetaghatensis* sp. nov.**

**General** : Cephalothorax and legs brownish black, abdomen deep brown. Total length 7.50 mm. Carapace 3.10 mm. long, 2.20 mm. wide ; abdomen 4.50mm. long, 2.80mm. wide.

**Cephalothorax** : Longer than wide, narrow in front, convex, clothed with pubescence, posterior middle provided with an inconspicuous fovea. Eyes pearly white except anterior medians, posterior row of eyes slightly longer than the anterior row. Anterior row of eyes slightly recurved (as seen from in front), medians slightly larger than laterals and closer to adjacent laterals than to each other. Posterior row of eyes recurved, medians more or less round, smaller than the laterals and equally spaced. Ocular quad longer than wide and wider behind than in front. Sternum deep brown, oval, widest at the middle, pointed behind and clothed with hairs. Labium and maxillae longer than wide, deep brown, anterior end provided with conspicuous scopulae as in fig. 2. Chelicerae moderately strong, inner margin with one small tooth and outer margin with two large teeth. Legs relatively long and strong, clothed with hairs and spines. Tibia III with a median dorsal spine.

**Abdomen** : Longer than wide, nearly elliptical, thickly clothed with fine hairs and three pairs of sagillae on the dorsal side as in fig. 1. Ventral side lighter than the dorsal, yellowish green, clothed with hairs. Epigyne as in fig. 3. Internal genitalia as in fig. 4. Spinnerets prominent, anterior spinnerets longer than others as in fig. 5.

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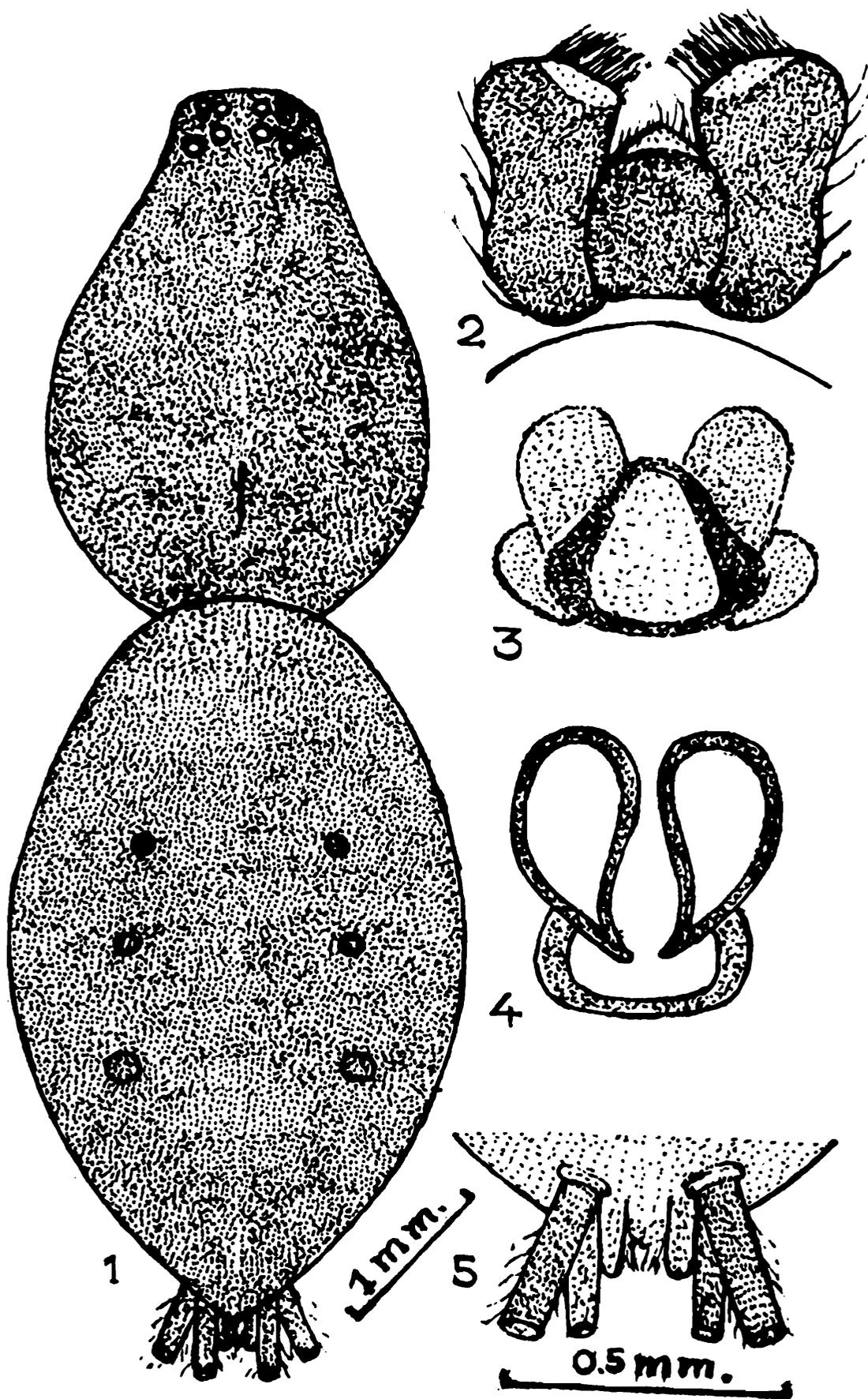


Fig. 1-3. *Sergiolus lamhetaghatensis* sp. nov.

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

*Type-specimen* : *Holotype* : Female in spirit, other details as above.

*Type-locality* : INDIA : Lamhetaghat, Jabalpur district Madhya Pradesh. Coll. Pawan Gajbe, 27.IX.1997.

This species closely resembles *Sergiolus poonaensis* Tikader & Gajbe, but differs from it as follows : (i) Outer margin of chelicera provided with two teeth but in *S. poonaensis* outer margin of chelicera provided with one tooth. (ii) Epigyne and internal genitalia also structurally different.

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