

A NEW SPECIES OF SPIDER OF THE GENUS *THOMISUS* WALCKENAER (ARANEAE : THOMISIDAE) FROM MADHYA PRADESH, INDIA

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INTRODUCTION

The genus *Thomisus* was established by Walckenaer in 1805 with type species *Thomisus albus* (Gmel in). Since the establishment of this genus Tikader (1980) reillustrated and redescribed seventeen species in *Fauna of India*, series.

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

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

Thomisus sundari sp. nov.

General : Cephalothorax, legs and abdomen yellow with brown patches. Total length 7.30 mm. Carapace 2.70 mm. long, 3.50 mm. wide; abdomen 4.80 mm. long 5.00 mm. wide.

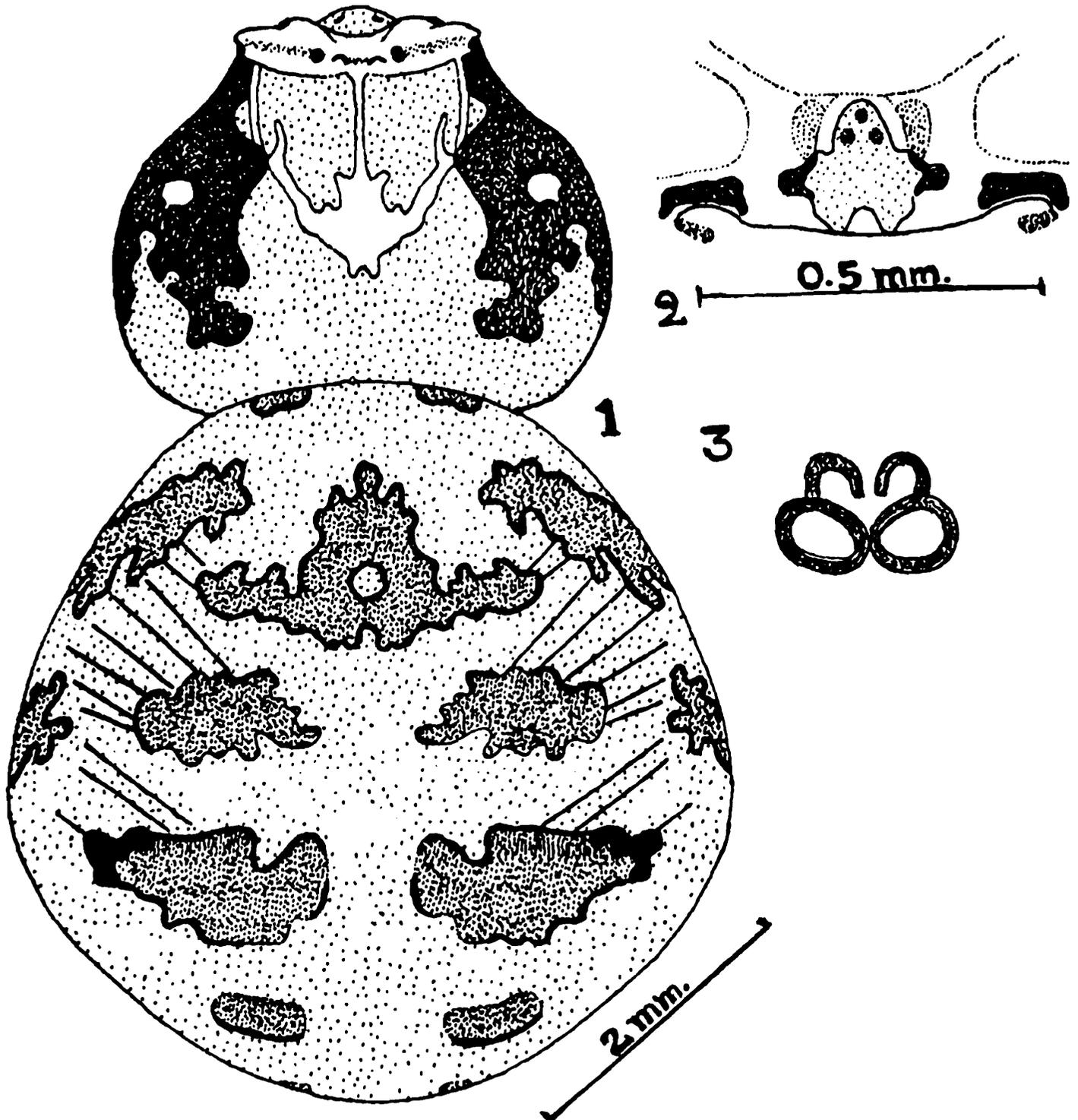
Cephalothorax : Wider than long, narrowing anteriorly antero-lateral sides with conspicuous dark brown patches as in fig. 1. Three double lines starting just below the ocular tubercles and meeting together in mid-thoracic region making a white patch. Eyes round, black, anterior row strongly recurved; anterior medians slightly larger than posterior medians. Clypeus high, subrectangular. Sternum heart-shaped, pointed behind, yellow with brown patches on lateral margins. Legs I and II much longer than III and IV and having transverse dark brown patches on coxae, trochanter, femora and tibiae. Femora I and II with four and one dorsal spines respectively.

Abdomen : Round, nearly as long as wide, highly elevated, broadest in the middle, with two black spots on the tubercles; dorsal surface bearing one light brown patch with a sigilla and six pairs of light brown patches (when seen from above). Ventral side same in colour and with light brown patches, one big dark brown patch between the epigastric furrow and spinnerets. Epigyne as in fig. 2. Internal genitalia as in fig. 3.

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

Type - Locality : Tilwaraghat, Jabalpur, M.P., India Coll. Pawan Gajbe : 22.8.1998.

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Figs. 1-3 *Thomisus sundari* sp. nov. - 1. Dorsal view of female, legs omitted.; 2. Epigyne.; 3. Internal genitalia.

This species resembles *Thomisus pooneus* Tikader but can be distinguished from it as follows : (i) Cephalothorax, legs and abdomen yellow but in *T. pooneus*, cephalothorax light brown, legs light green and abdomen white. (ii) Epigyne and internal genitalia also structurally different.

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REFERENCE

Tikader B. K. 1980 *Fauna of India, Spiders*, 1(1) : 1 - 245.