

**A NEW SPECIES OF THE GENUS *NEOSCONA* SIMON  
(ARANEAE : ARANEIDAE) FROM  
MADHYA PRADESH, INDIA**

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**INTRODUCTION**

The spiders of the genus *Neoscona* are little known in Indian fauna. The genus was established by Simon in 1864 with the Type-species *Neoscona anabesca* (Walckenaer). Tikader (1982) reillustrated and redescribed seventeen species from different parts of India 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 the genus *Neoscona* which is described here.

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

*Neoscona platnicki* sp. nov.

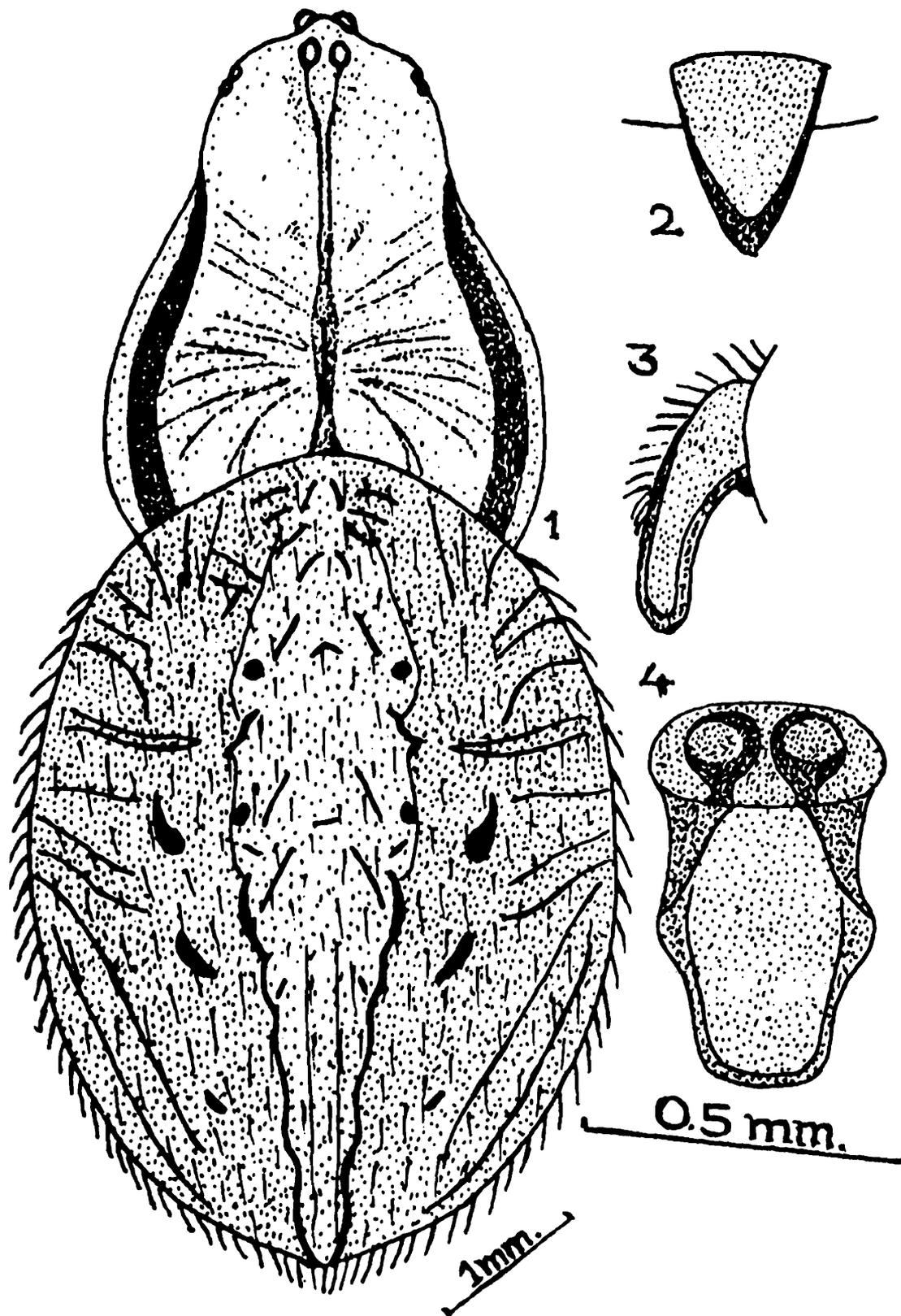
*General* : Cephalothorax and legs brown, abdomen greyish brown. Total length 7.80 mm. Carapace 3.50 mm. long, 2.70 mm. wide; abdomen 5.00 mm. long, 3.60 mm. wide.

*Cephalothorax* : Longer than wide, narrowing in front, clothed with pubescence and hairs, provided with two dark brown bands on lateral sides, one double line starting just behind the median eyes and ending before the thoracic groove. Ocular quad longer than wide and wider in front than behind. Medians encircled by black rings; anterior medians larger than posterior medians; lateral eyes close, both rows of eyes recurved. Sternum heart-shaped, pointed behind, clothed with pubescence and hairs, dark brown, provided with a yellow mid-longitudinal bar. Labium wider than long, dark brown with pale distal border. Maxillae longer than broad, yellowish and provided with distinct scopulae. Chelicerae strong, light brown with prominent boss. Legs long and strong, clothed with hairs and spines.

*Abdomen* : Longer than wide, nearly perfect oval, clothed with pubescence and hairs, overlapping on the cephalothorax and provided with a mid-dorsal, greyish yellow band running the entire length of the abdomen. Lateral sides brownish with blackish lines and spots. Ventral side brown; a big deep brown patch bordered by yellow spots present between the epigastric furrow and spinnerets. Epigyne with a long and thin scape as in figs. 2 & 3. Internal genitalia as in fig. 4.

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**Figs. 1-4** *Neoscona platnicki* sp. nov. - 1. Dorsal view of female, legs omitted.; 2. Epigyne, ventral view.; 3. Epigyne, lateral view.; 4. Internal genitalia.

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

*Type - locality* : Sanjivani Nagar, Jabalpur, M.P., India. Coll. *Pawan Gajbe*, 8.8.1998.

This species resembles *Neoscona theis* Walckenaer but differs from it as follows : (i) Cephalothorax with two dark brown bands on lateral sides but in *N. theis*, cephalothorax with two lateral and one mid-longitudinal dark brown bands. (ii) Epigyne and internal genitalia also structurally different.

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#### REFERENCES

Tikader, B. K. 1982. *Fauna of India, Spiders* 2(1) : 1- 280.