

A NEW SPECIES OF THE GENUS *OXYOPES* LATREILLE (ARANEAE : OXYOPIDAE) FROM JABALPUR, MADHAYA PRADESH, INDIA

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INTRODUCTION

Spiders of the family Oxyopidae have received very little attention in India. The genus was established by Latreille, 1804 with the type species *Oxyopes heterophthalmus* Latreille. Since the establishment of the genus, Pocock (1901) described four species of *Oxyopes*. Sherriffs (1951) redescribed and figured Pocock's species of *Oxyopes* found in the oriental region. Tikader (1965, 1969, 1970), Patel (1977), Gajbe (1992) described eleven and one species respectively.

While studying the spiders of the family Oxyopidae collected by the second author from different areas of Jabalpur city, we came across a new species of *Oxyopes* Latreille which is described here.

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

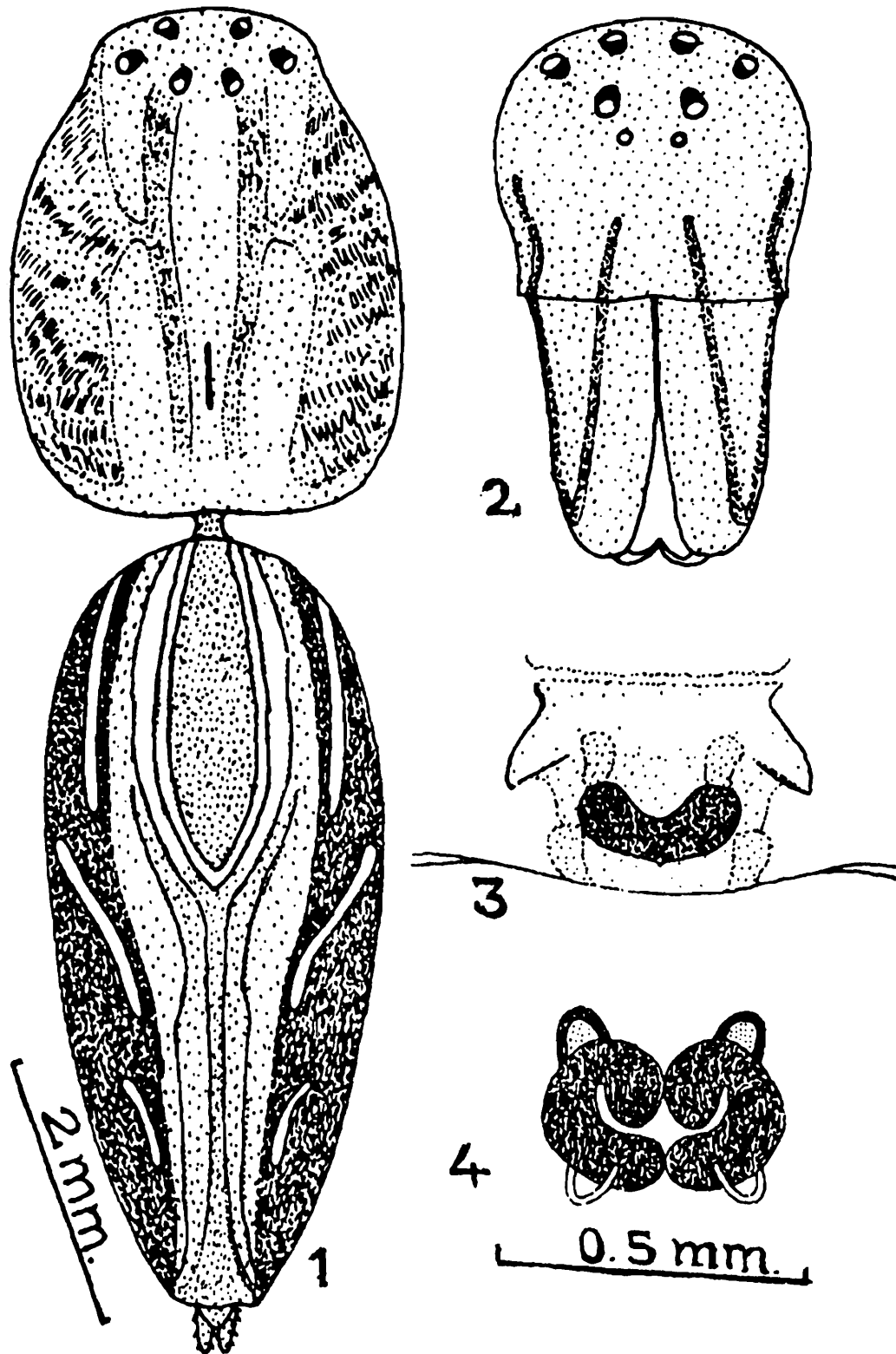
Oxyopes pankaji sp. nov.

General : Cephalothorax, legs and abdomen reddish-green. Total length 10.00mm. Carapace 3.70mm. long, 2.90mm. wide; abdomen 6.10mm. long, 2.50mm. wide.

Cephalothorax : Longer than wide, cephalic region high and broad, clothed with fine hairs and some deep brown special type of blunt hairs mainly on the lateral sides and mid-thoracic region as in fig. 1. Center of thorax with a sharp fovea. Eyes pearly white: anterior row strongly recurved, posterior row procurved; posterior medians and laterals equi-distant to each other; base of each eye encircled with a black patch, anterior medians smallest of all eyes. Clypeus long, provided with two black lines as in fig. 2. Sternum heart-shaped, pointed behind, clothed with fine hairs and conspicuous long spines. Legs long and strong, clothed with fine hairs and long spines; femora of all legs provided with longitudinal black lines.

Abdomen : Long, narrowing behind, clothed with fine hairs, anterior mid-dorsally with a lens-shaped light greenish patch which is bordered by brownish, whitish and light greenish stripes. Lateral sides blackish with three pairs of silvery white stripes as in fig. 1. Ventral side dirty white but mid-ventrally provided with a broad deep brown band extending from epigastric fold to spinnerets. Epigyne as in fig. 3. Internal genitalia as in fig. 4.

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Figs. 1-4 *Oxyopes pankaji* sp. nov. 1. Dorsal view of female, legs omitted.; 2. Clypeus.; 3. Epigyne.; 4. Internal genitalia.

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

Type-locality : MR-4 Road, Jabalpur, M.P., India; Coll. *Pawan Gajbe*, 16.8.1998.

This species resembles *Oxyopes sunandae* Tikader but can be distinguished from it as follows : (i) Abdomen dorso-laterally blackish with three pairs of silvery white stripes but in *O. sunandae*, such stripes are absent. (ii) Epigyne and internal genitalia also structurally different.

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