INTRODUCTION

Members of the orb-weaving spider family Araneidae (=Argiopidae) are abundant throughout Bangladesh but have little attention on their study. Chowdhury and Pal (1984), Biswas, et al. (1993), Okuma, et al. (1993), Begum and Biswas (1997) and Biswas and Raychaudhuri (1998 & 2003) have made some contributions on these spiders from different parts of the country. Studies on these spiders in neighboring countries like-India (Pocock, 1900; Tikader, 1970, 182; Tikader & Bal, 1981; Tikader & Biswas, 1981; Saha, et al, 1995; Biswas, et al, 1997), Burma (Thorell, 1895), Pakistan (Dyal, 1935), China (Chen & Zhang, 1991; Yin, et al, 1997; Zhao, 1993; Song, et al 1999) and Japan (Tanikawa, 1989; Yaginuma, 1986) are rather well documented. Beside these, Kaston (1948), Levi (1975) and Barrion and Litsinger (1995) have valuable contributions on these spiders in different parts of the globe.

The genus Larina Simon was recorded since 1992 from Bangladesh and composed of 3 (three) species of which L. modhuchhandae is recognised as new to science while L. phthisica (L. Koch) and L. chloris (Audouin) are new record for the country. An illustrated description of the new species together with the key are provided herewith.

The types are at present in the collection of the Department of Zoology, Government P.C. College, Bagerhat and will be deposited to the Museum of the Department of Zoology, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh in due course of time.

SYSTEMATICS

Genus Larina Simon


Diagnosis: Body elongate, abdomen 2-3 times longer than cephalothorax. Cephalothorax rather long, scarcely convex posteriorly, 2nd row of eyes nearly straight, laterals nearly equal and closely placed; posteromedians nearer, anteromedians widely seperated; ocular area trapezoid. Chelicerae not long, thick, teeth variable. Maxillae longer than wide. Legs long and slender, clothed with strong spines and hairs.

Abdomen elongate, with a single median, blunt, pointed in front; caudal process absent; ventrally with longitudinal white band guarded laterally by black patches between epigastric furrow and spinnerets.

Type-species: Larinia lineata (Lucas).
Figs. 1-6: *Larina chloris* (Savigny & Audouin)

- **Figs. 1**: Female dorsal view (legs omitted)
- **Figs. 2**: Chelicerae
- **Figs. 3**: Maxillae and Labium
- **Figs. 4**: Sternum
- **Figs. 5**: Epigynum
- **Figs. 6**: Internal genitalia
- **Figs. 7**: Male palp
Figs. 8-13: *Larinia modhuchhandae* sp. n.

Figs. 8. Female dorsal view (legs omitted)

Figs. 9. Chelicerae

Figs. 10. Maxillae and Labium

Figs. 11. Sternum

Figs. 12. Epigynum

Figs. 13. Internal genitalia
Figs. 14-19: *Larinia phtisica* (L. Koch)

Figs. 14. Female dorsal view (legs omitted)

Figs. 15. Chelicerae

Figs. 16. Maxillae and Labium

Figs. 17. Sternum

Figs. 18. Epigynum

Figs. 19. Internal genitalia
**Distribution**: All the tropical and sub-tropical countries of the world.

**Key to the species**

1. Abdomen spindle-shaped, more or less pointed at both ends; cephalic region anteromedially never produced; inner margin of chelicerae with 4 teeth; epigyne and internal genitalia as in figs. 12 and 13 ........................................................ madhuchhandae sp. n.

2. Abdomen elongately oval, but never boat shaped; cephalic region anteromedially produced into a protuberance; inner margin of chelicerae with 3 teeth ......................................................

2. Cephalic region with 'Y'-shaped marking; fovea in the thoracic region round, radii distinct; abdominal dorsum with sigilla; epigyne and internal genitalia as in figs. 18 and 19 ..................

2. Larinia chloris (Audouin) (Figs. 1-7)


**Distribution**: BANGLADESH : Bagerhat (Sunderban), Jessore, Mymensingh, Tangail; EGYPT; INDIA; ISRAEL; LIBIYA; SYRIA; UGANDA (Tikader, 1982).

2. Larina madhuchhandae sp. n (Figs. 8-13)

**General**: Chephalothorax brownish-yellow; legs pale yellow; abdomen yellowish with light brown spots. Total body length (Holotype) 9.00 mm. Carapace 3.00 mm. long, 2.00 mm wide; abdomen 6.00 mm long, 2.20 mm wide.

**Cephalothorax**: Longer than wide, anteriorly narrowing; cephalic region raised, constricted anteromedially with two distinct cervical furrows, mediately with a longitudinal brown line. Eyes pearly-white, similar; anterior row strongly recurved while posterior row nearly straight; lateral eyes close, placed marginally; anteromedians situated on 2 protuberances; ocular quad anteriorly wide and posteriorly narrowing. Thoracic region wide, with distinct radii. Chelicerae brown, broad, each of inner and outer margins with 4 dissimilar and 3 similar teeth (Fig. 9). Maxillae brown, longer than wide, anteriorly broad and scopulate (Fig. 10). Labium brown, wider than long, anteriorly bluntly pointed and scopulate (Fig. 10). Sternum elongate, cylindrical, posteriorly pointed, anteriorly wide and concave (Fig. 11). Legs long and slender, clothed with spines and hairs; leg formula 1243 and measurements (in mm) as in Table-I.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Leg</th>
<th>Femur</th>
<th>Patella</th>
<th>Tibia</th>
<th>Metatarsus</th>
<th>Tarsus</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>2.70/2.70</td>
<td>1.10/1.10</td>
<td>2.70/2.70</td>
<td>4.20/4.20</td>
<td>1.10/1.10</td>
<td>11.80/11.80</td>
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<tr>
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<td>0.85/0.85</td>
<td>2.20/2.20</td>
<td>2.50/2.50</td>
<td>0.80/0.80</td>
<td>8.85/8.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>1.30/1.30</td>
<td>0.50/0.50</td>
<td>1.00/1.00</td>
<td>1.10/1.10</td>
<td>0.50/0.50</td>
<td>4.40/4.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>2.65/2.65</td>
<td>0.90/0.90</td>
<td>2.00/2.00</td>
<td>2.20/2.20</td>
<td>0.60/0.60</td>
<td>8.35/8.35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table-1.** Length of legs of female (O) holotype of Larinia madhuchhandae sp. n.
**Abdomen**: Elongated, boat-shaped, both ends pointed; dorsum with median white longitudinal band and 5 pairs of sigilla, clothed with sharp hairs; ventrally pale; epigyne and internal genitalia as in figs. 12 and 13.

**Male**: Unknown.

**Holotype**: Female in spirit.

**Paratype**: 2♂, Bagerhat (Sunderban), 12. IX. 1992, Coll. V. Biswas.


**Etymology**: The species has been named after one of my laboratory mate Mrs. Madhuchhanda Kundu who helped me in many ways during the course of present study.

**Remarks**: The species appears close to *L. tyloridia* Patel (Patel, 1975) because of the typical wedge-shaped abdomen, maxillae, labium and sternum. But however, it stands distinct in having strongly raised and produced cephalic region, deeply distinct cervical furrows, rounded fovea, four strong teeth on inner margin of chelicerae besides the epigynum. None of the other *Larinia* species (Tikader, 1982; Tanikawa, 1989; Yaginuma, 1986; Kaston, 1948) seem to show any similarity with the present species. And accordingly, the species is described as new to science.

3. *Larina phthisica* (L. Koch)  
(Figs. 14-19)


**SUMMARY**

The present paper deals with 3 (three) species of orb-weaving spiders of the genus *Larinia* Simon from Bangladesh. Of these, *L. madhuchhandaee* is recognised as new to science while *L. chloris* (Audouin) and *L. phthisica* (L. Koch) are new record for the country.

The study on these spiders was started in 1992 have revealed the existence of the above species of a particular area of Bangladesh. Identity of the species were later confirmed from the Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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**REFERENCES**


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