

A NEW *PTEROTRICHA* SPIDER FROM INDIA
(ARANEAE : GNAPHOSIDAE)

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ABSTRACT

A new species of the genus *Pterotricha* Kulczynski, 1903, belonging to family Gnaphosidae, is described.

The genus *Pterotricha* was established by Kulczynski (1903) with *P. lentiginosa* Koch 1837 as the type species. Since then only thirty-two species have been reported from various parts of the world.

While studying the spiders of the family Gnaphosidae the author encountered a new species of *Pterotricha*. This genus is being recorded for the first time from India.

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

Pterotricha tikaderi sp. nov.

(Fig. 1, A-H)

General : Cephalothorax and legs light brownish-green, Abdomen brown. Total length 6.90 mm. Carapace 3.00 mm long, 2.60 mm wide ; abdomen 3.70 mm. long, 2.00 mm wide.

Cephalothorax : Longer than wide, oval, convex, clothed with pubescence, posterior middle of cephalothorax provided with an

conspicuous long fovea. Radiating streaks diverge from fovea to lateral sides of cephalothorax. Eyes rows distinctly separated, pearly white except anterior medians which are black, posterior row of eyes slightly longer than the anterior row as in fig. B. Anterior row of eyes procurved (as seen from in front), medians smaller than laterals and closer to adjacent laterals than to each other. Posterior row of eyes straight, medians oval, smaller than laterals and slightly closer to adjacent laterals than to each other. Median ocular quadrangle longer than broad and slightly wider behind than in front. Clypeal height greater than diameter of anterior median eye. Sternum heart-shaped, pointed behind, clothed with hairs. Labium longer than wide, anterior end of labium and maxillae provided with scopulae, shape as in fig. H. Chelicerae moderately strong, vertical, inner margin provided with a chitinous serrated ridge and outer margin without tooth as in fig. G. Legs relatively long and thin, clothed with hairs and some spines. Leg formula 4123.

Abdomen: Longer than wide, nearly elliptical, clothed with pubescence and some hairs. Abdomen dorsally provided with three pairs of sigilla as in fig. A. Ventral side slightly lighter than the dorsal. Male palp as in figs. D, E, F. Spinnerets prominent, anterior spinnerets widely separated, posterior spinnerets much longer than the others as in fig. C.

Holotype: Male in spirit.

Type-locality: INDIA, Gujarat, Dwarki

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Remarks: This species resembles *Pterotricha kochi* (Cambridge) from Palestine but differs from it as follows: (i) Anterior eyes smaller than the laterals but in *P. tikaderi*, it is very slightly smaller. (ii) Posterior row of eyes strongly recurved but in *P. tikaderi* it is straight. (iii) Male palp also structurally different.

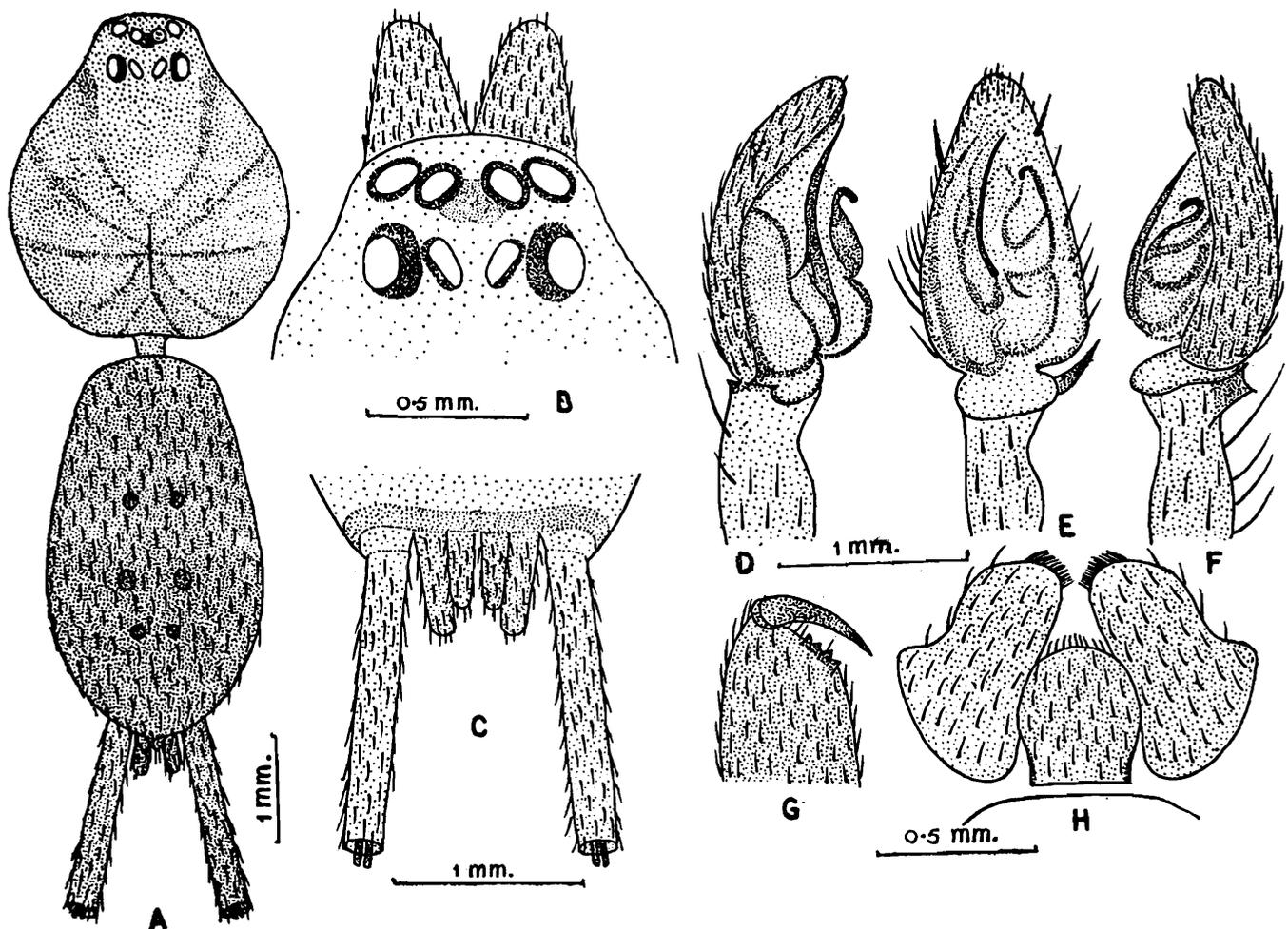


Fig. 1. A-H. *Pterotricha tikaderi* sp. nov. A. Dorsal view of male legs omitted. B. Eyes arrangement. C. Spinnerets. D. Left male palp, prolateral view. E. Left male palp, ventral view. F. Left male palp, retrolateral view. G. Chelicera. H. Labium and maxillae.

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