

DESCRIPTION OF TWO NEW SPECIES OF JUMPING SPIDERS OF  
THE GENUS MARPISSA (FAMILY : SALTICIDAE) FROM INDIA.

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ABSTRACT

The two new species of spiders, described in this paper, were collected from Calcutta. The new species belong to the genus *Marpissa* Koch.

INTRODUCTION

Spiders of the family Salticidae in India have not received much attention in the past. The *Fauna of British India, Arachnida* by Poccock (1900) contains no reference of this family. But Narayan (1915) and Dyal (1935) had taken some interest on the Salticid spiders. Recently Tikader (1965-1974, 1977 and Tikader & Biswas 1981) described twenty five species of Salticids from India.

While examining the spider collection made by one of us (KB) from Calcutta, West Bengal, we came across two new species of spiders of the genus *Marpissa*, which are described in this paper.

All the type specimens will, in due course, be deposited in the collection of the Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta.

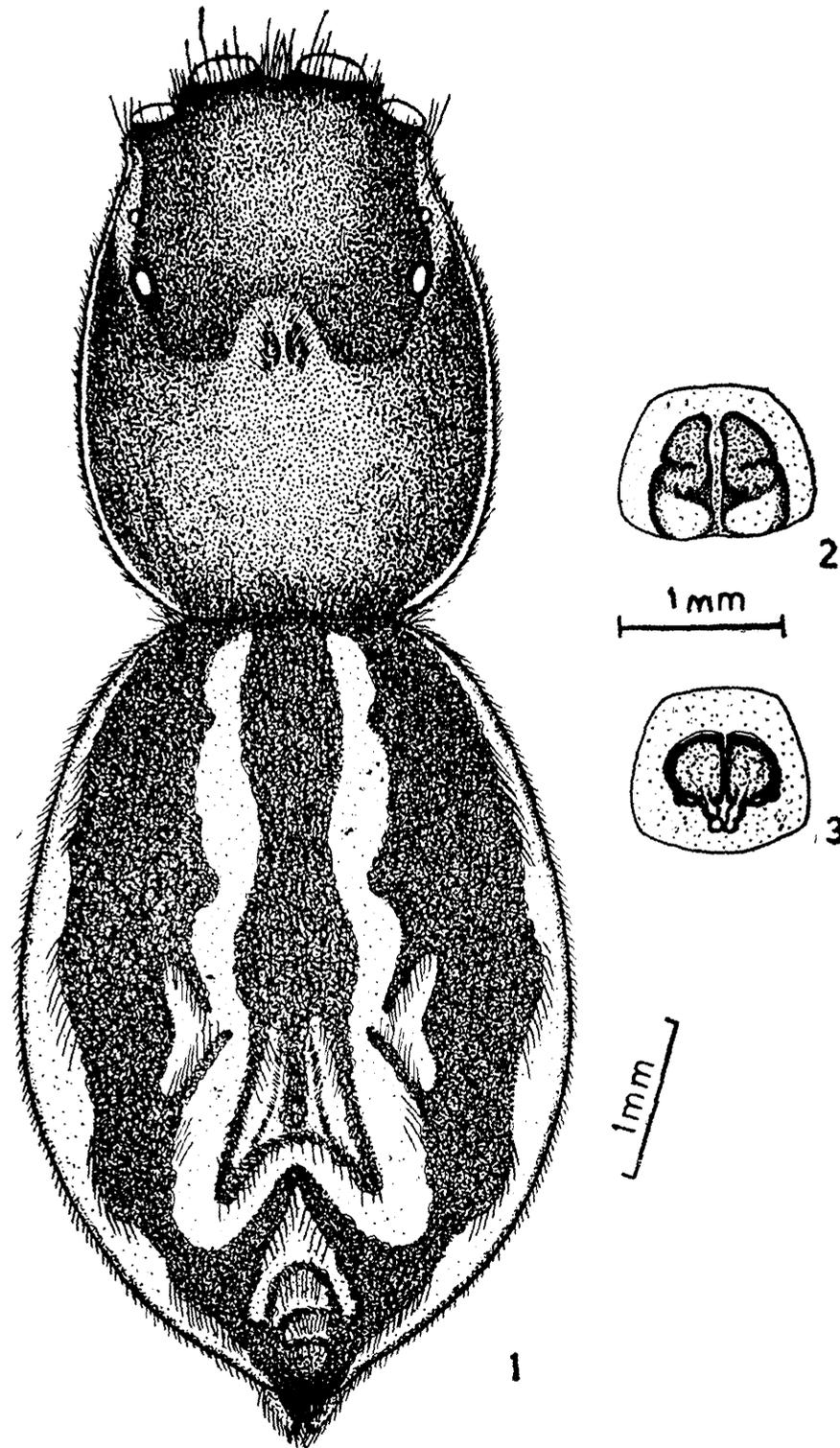
1. *Marpissa prathamae* sp. nov.

(Figs. 1-3)

*General* : Cephalothorax deep brown, abdomen and legs greenish pale in colour. Total length 8.40 mm. Carapace 3.30 mm. long, 2.50 mm. wide ; abdomen 5.10 mm. long, 3.40 mm. wide.

*Cephalothorax* : Longer than wide, deep brown, clothed with white and few pale hair. Cephalic region flat, and with a small fovea. Eyes of anterior row recurved and anterior median eyes nearly four times larger than the lateral eyes. Middle row of eyes small and situated nearly equidistant from anterior and posterior laterals. Base of eyes encircled by brown patch. Posterior lateral eyes slightly smaller than the anterior lateral eyes. Chelicerae moderately strong and with one tooth on the inner margin and two small teeth on the outer margin. Labium longer than wide, maxillae broad in front and provided with scopulae. Sternum elliptical, clothed with long grey hair. Legs moderate, strong, clothed with hair and spines. Legs formula 4132. Tibiae and metatarsi of I and II provided with three and two pairs of ventral spines respectively.

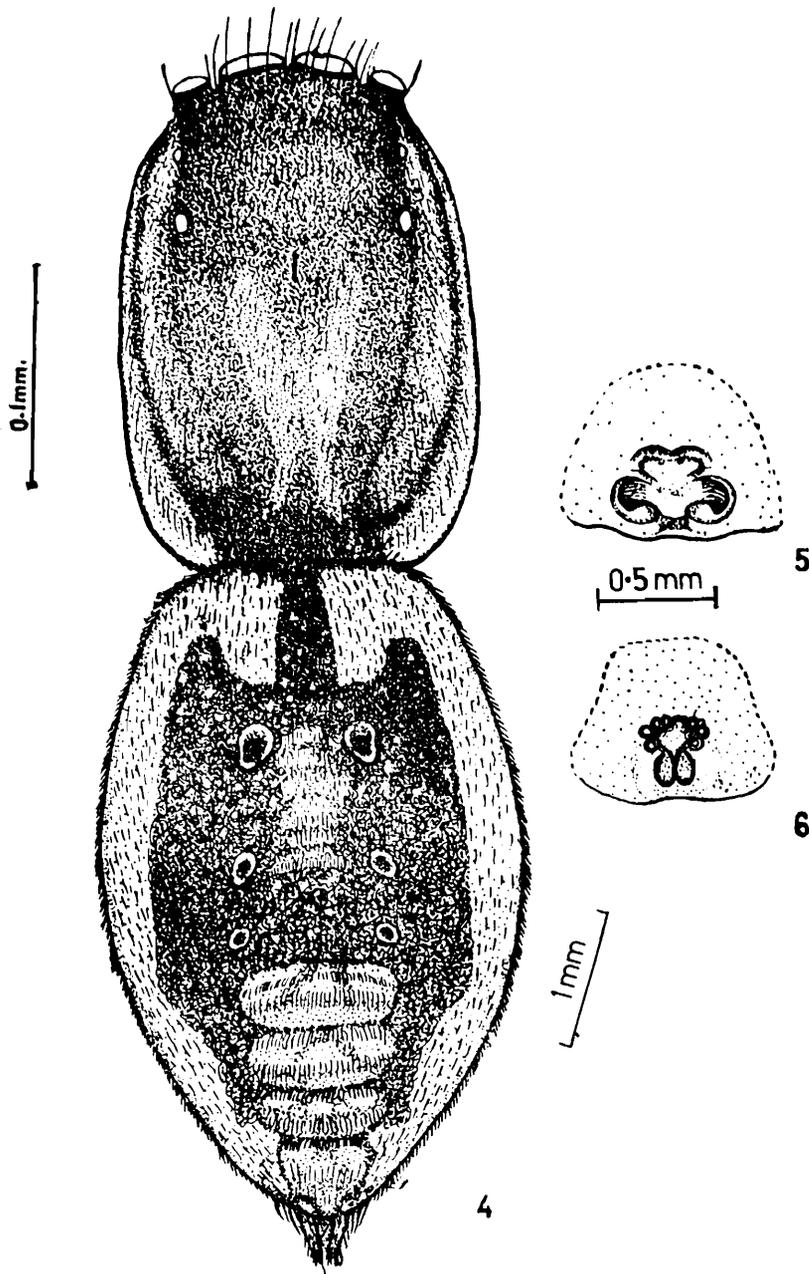
*Abdomen* : Longer than wide, narrowing behind, clothed with spine-like blackish and grey hair. Dorsum provided with three longitudinal conspicuous deep brown-blackish bands extending to base to the end of abdomen. Ventral side with light-grey and blackish in colour. Epigyne and internal genitalia as in figs. 3-4.



Figs. 1—3. 1. Dorsal view of female, legs omitted.  
 2. Epigyne.  
 3. Internal genitalia.

*Holotype*: Femal in spirit deposited at Z. S. I., Calcutta, Regd. Nos. 5121/18 and 5143/18.

*Paratype*: One female, from Gangasagar, Dist. 24-Parganas, West Bengal, 20.3.1984, Coll. Bijan Biswas,



Figs. 4—6. 4. Dorsal view of female, legs omitted.  
5. Epigyne. 6. Internal genitalia.

*Type-locality* : Kalupara, near Ballygunge Rly. Station, Calcutta, 7-9-1982. Coll. *Kajal Biswas*.

This species resembles *Marpissa anusuae* Tikader & Biswas but can be separated as follows: (i) Dorsum provided with three longitudinal conspicuous deep brown-blackish bands but *M. anusuae* with two bands. (ii) Chelicerae provided with one tooth on

the inner margin and two small teeth on the outer margin. (iii) Epigyne and internal genitalia also structurally different.

2. *Marpissa nutanae* sp. nov.

(Figs. 4-6)

*General* : Cephalothorax, abdomen and legs light brown in colour. Total length 8.50 mm. Carapace 3.50 mm. long, 2.60 mm.

wide ; abdomen 5.00 mm. long, 3.00 mm. wide.

*Cephalothorax* : Longer than wide, cephalic region flat, middle of cephalothorax provided with a small deep fovea, one-third of the posterior portion of cephalothorax abruptly slope behind. Eyes are transparent and anterior median eyes nearly four times larger than the lateral eyes. Anterior row of eyes recurved. Middle row of eyes small and situated nearly equidistant from anterior-lateral eyes. Anterior lateral eyes slightly larger than posterior lateral eyes. Cephalothorax clothed with thick white and few spine-like hair. Chelicerae with one tooth on the outer margin. Sternum oval, narrow in front, clothed with spine-like hair. Legs strong and stout, clothed with hair and spines. Legs formula 4312. Tibiae and metatarsi of I and II provided with three and two pairs of ventral spines respectively.

*Abdomen* : Longer than wide, narrowing in behind, clothed with brown and black hair. Dorsum provided with three pairs of sigilla. Anterior part of the dorsum there is some white dots. Ventral side pale in colour clothed with fine hair. Epigyne and internal genitalia as in figs. 5-6.

*Holotype* : Female in spirit deposited at Z. S. I., Calcutta, Regd. No. 5122/18.

*Type-locality* : Kalupara, near Ballygunge Rly. Station, Calcutta, 7-9-1982. Coll. *Kajal Biswas*.

This species resembles *Marpissa calcuttaensis* Tikader but it is separated as follows : (i) Whole body is covered with thick hair but in *M. calcuttaensis* there is no thick hair covered the body. (ii) Chelicerae with one

tooth on the outer margin but in *M. calcuttaensis* with two similar smaller teeth on the outer margin. (iii) Epigyne and internal genitalia also structurally different.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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