

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF SPIDER  
(ARANEIDAE : LARINIA) FROM INDIA

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ABSTRACT

A new species under the genus *Larinia* Simon has been described and illustrated. This new species dealt with in this paper is the third species under this genus described from the Indian Sub-continent.

INTRODUCTION

The spider of the family Araneidae have received attention very recently by Tikader (1960-1982). The *Fauna of India* (Family : Araneidae) has been published by Tikader (1982) after the *Fauna of British India, Arachnida*, by Pocock (1900). Though the Araneidae spiders are abundant in our country. While examining the retained specimen which was received from Dr. N. P. Jaysankar, C.P.C.R.I., Kerala, and our old collection lying in the Arachnida Section, I came across a new species of spider of the genus *Larinia* which is described in this paper and this is the third species described from the Indian Sub-continent.

All the type specimens are deposited in the National Zoological collection of the Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta.

**Larinia** Simon

1874. *Larinia* Simon, *Ar. Fr.*, 1 : 115.  
1871. *Epeira* : Koch, *Ar. Austr.*, : 130.  
1970. *Larinia* : Grasshoff, *Senckenberg, biol.*, 51 (3-4) : 220-225.

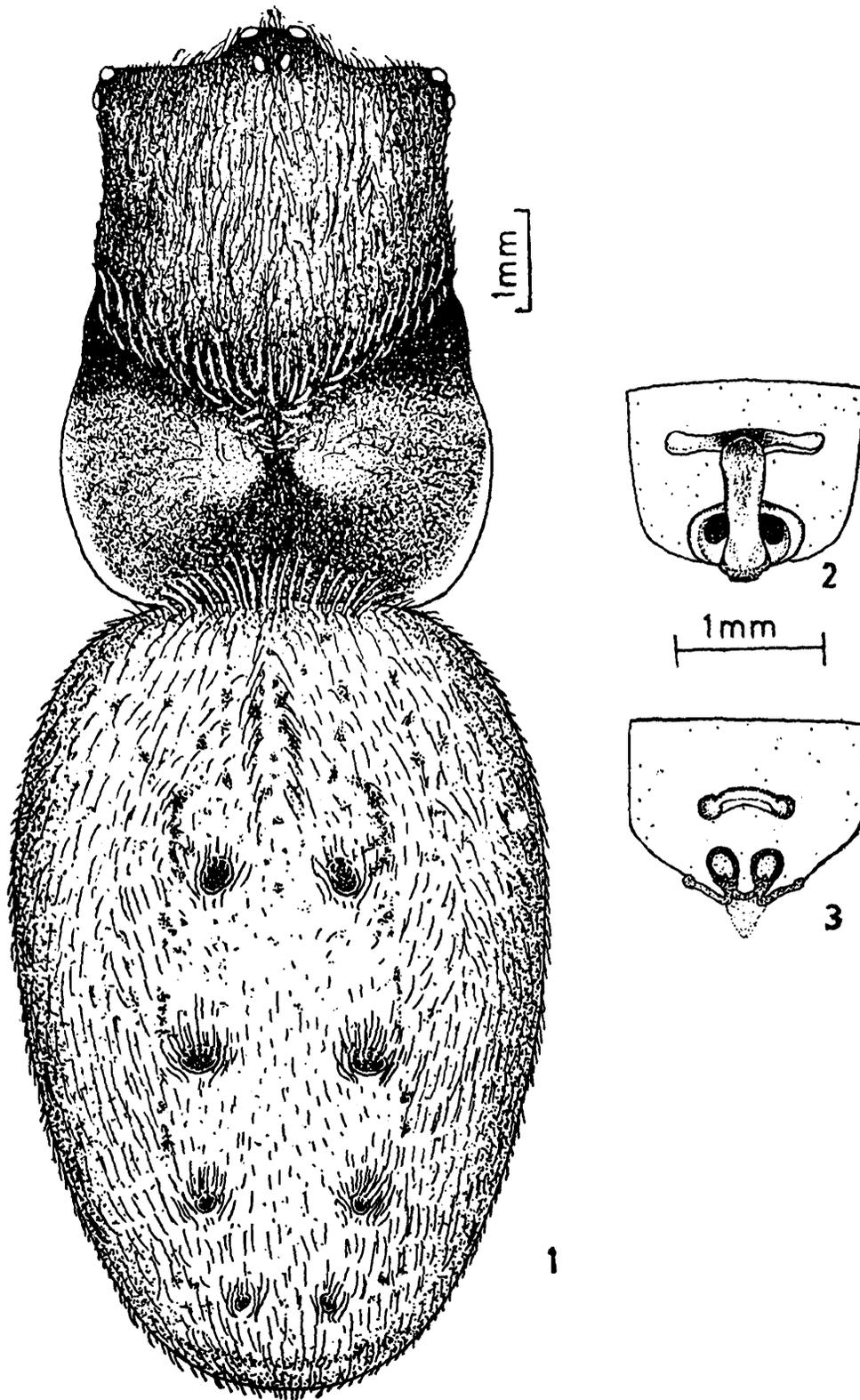
1972. *Dreselia* : Kaston, *How to know the spiders* : 153.  
1975. *Larinia* : Patel, *Oriental Ins.*, 9 (1) : 111-116.  
1975. *Larinia* : Levi, *Bull. Mus. comp. Zool. Harv.*, 147 (3) : 102.  
1981. *Larinia* : Tikader & Biswas, *Rec. zool. Surv. India, Occ.*, pp. 30 (1) : 43-44.  
1982. *Larinia* : Tikader, *Fauna of India, Spiders* (Family : Araneidae : Araneae) II (1) : 205.

*Characters* : Carapace rather long, scarcely convex posteriorly. Ocular quad forming a trapezium, nearly twice as wide in front than behind ; lateral eyes subequal in size and very close. Maxillae longer than wide. Legs long and slender. Abdomen elongated with a single median blunt point in front and no caudal process, ventral side with a longitudinal white band guarded laterally by black patches between epigastric furrow and spinnerets. Males with palpal patella bearing two heavy curved spines at the apex.

**Larinia jaysankari** sp. nov. (Figs. 1-3)\*

*General* : Cephalothorax redish brown, abdomen yellow ochre and legs yellowish.

\*It is with much pleasure that I name this species after Dr. N. P. Jaysankar, Joint Director, C. P. C. R. I., Kerala, who kindly collected this spider and disposed it for my study.



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

Total length 14.00 mm. Carapace 5.80 mm. long, 4.50 mm. wide; abdomen 8.20 mm. long, 5.40 mm. wide.

*Cephalothorax* : One and half times longer than wide, narrowing in front, clothed with white hair anteriorly cephalic region high

and sharply distinct from thoracic region, behind the posterior median eyes a double line running and ends before the deep longitudinal thoracic furrow. Ocular quad forming a trapezium, wider in front than behind; medians much larger than posterior medians; posterior medians closely situated; laterals subequal, closed and situated on distinct tubercles; both rows of eyes recurved but posterior row very narrowly recurved than anterior row. Sternum rather elongated heart-shaped, pointed behind, clothed with white hair; labium as long as wide, brownish with proximal white border. Maxillae as long as wide, redish brownish, provided with distinct scopulae. Chelicerae strong and stout blackish brown, inner margin with three and outer margin with five teeth. Legs long and slender, clothed with hair and spines. Male not reported.

*Abdomen*: Elongated, slightly more than two times longer than wide, clothed with white pubescence and hair. Dorsum of abdomen yellowish ochre with four pairs of sigilla. Ventral side provided with segmented area which covered the spinnerets to epigastic furrow and guarded by two white longitudinal bars. Epigyne having a large scape with concave tip. Internal genitalia as in text fig. 3.

*Holotype*: Female (left chelicerae broken); paratype two females, one from Durgapur, Calcutta and another from Gmatia, Birbhum, West Bengal, in spirit, deposited at Z. S. I., Calcutta, Regd. Nos. 5139-41/18.

*Type locality*: Holotype from Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Krishnapuram, Kerala, India, September, 1981 Coll. Dr. N. P. Jaysankar.

Paratype from Durgapur, Calcutta, India, 23-5-1914, Coll. F. H. Gravely.

Paratype from Gmatia, Birbhum Dist., West Bengal, India, Coll. *Indian Museum*.

This species in general resembles *Larinia phtisica* (L. Koch), but it is separated as follows: (i) Cephalic region high and distinct from the thoracic region but no such differentiation in *L. phtisica*. (ii) Inner margin of chelicerae provided with three teeth and outer with five but in *L. phtisica* with four teeth. (iii) Epigyne and internal genitalia also structurally different.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My thanks are due to Dr. B. K. Tikader, Director, Zoological Survey of India, for encouragement and offering useful suggestions during the preparation of this paper. Thanks are also due to Dr. S. K. Bhattacharya, Deputy Director, Dr. S. K. Gupta, Superintending Zoologist for suggestions and to Dr. N. P. Jaysankar for supplying the material.

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NEW RECORDS OF HOST-PLANTS AND DISTRIBUTION OF SOME  
COCCIDS FROM INDIA (HOMOPTERA : COCCOIDEA)

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ABSTRACT

Seven new host-plants and 14 new localities of occurrence have been reported for 12 species of coccids from India. Notes on known distribution and hostplants of these species have been added.

INTRODUCTION

The Coccid fauna of the Indian region is inadequately known. Our present knowledge is based on species reported from Sri Lanka (Green, 1896-1922), South India (Ayyar, 1930), West Bengal (Ghose, 1961), Bihar (Ali, 1968) and many other scattered papers which have been compiled in an Oriental catalogue (Ali, 1969-1971). As these insects, commonly known as scale insects and mealybugs, affect a large number of plants, many of which are of considerable economic importance, it is necessary to keep records of all the host-plants of various species, as well as the records of their distributional range.

While studying the coccid collections received in the Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta, during the last few years, the author has come across certain lots, which have been collected either from certain new host-plants or from new localities. Since most of the coccid species dealt with here are of pest status, their new record on plants like jute, sugarcane, tea and rose etc. attracts attention. Some species are being recorded for the first time from certain states of India.

Family MONOPHLEBIDAE

*Drosicha stebbingi* (Green)

*Monophlebus stebbingii* Green in Stebbing, 1902, *Dep. Notes Ins. Forestry* : 135.

*Drosicha stebbingi* : Ali, 1968, *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.*, 65 (1) : 120.

*Material examined* : (i) 7 exs. in wet colln., mango tree, Karnal, Haryana, May 1980 (Coll. Dr. O. B. Chhotani) ; (ii) several exs. in wet colln., *Ficus bengalensis*, Indian Botanic Gardens, Shibpur, Howrah, 21.6.1979 (Coll. R. K. Varshney & B. N. Das).

*New records* : *Ficus bengalensis* as a host-plant. Besides, it is first record of this species from Haryana and West Bengal States.

*Remarks* : It is a polyphagous species occurring on mango, *Pyrus*, *Prunus*, *Butea monosperma* etc. in N. India and Pakistan. Earlier '*Ficus* spp.' have been recorded as host of it from Madhya Pradesh.

Some authors have considered *D. stebbingi* and *D. mangiferae* (Green) synonymous, whereas separation of *D. mangiferae* and *D. dalbergiae* (Green) has been questionable (*vide* Ali, 1968).

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