

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

By

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ABSTRACT

A new species of the genus *Scopodes* Chamberlin, 1922, belonging to family Gnaphosidae is described.

MATERIAL

The description is based on one female and four male specimens.

The genus *Scopodes* was established by Chamberlin (1922) with *S. catharius* Chamberlin as a type species from America. Tikader & Gajbe (1977) reported this genus for the first time from India and described one species. Tikader (1982) described two more species from India.

While studying the spiders of the family Gnaphosidae the author encountered a new species of *Scopodes* which is described here.

The type specimens are deposited in the National Zoological Collections, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta.

The species is named after Dr. B. K. Tikader, a well known arachnologist, as a token of the high regard which the author has for him.

Scopodes tikaderi sp. nov.

General : Cephalothorax and legs light reddish-green, abdomen brown. Total length 5.50mm. Carapace 2.30mm. long, 1.80mm, wide ; abdomen 3.20mm. long, 2.00mm. wide.

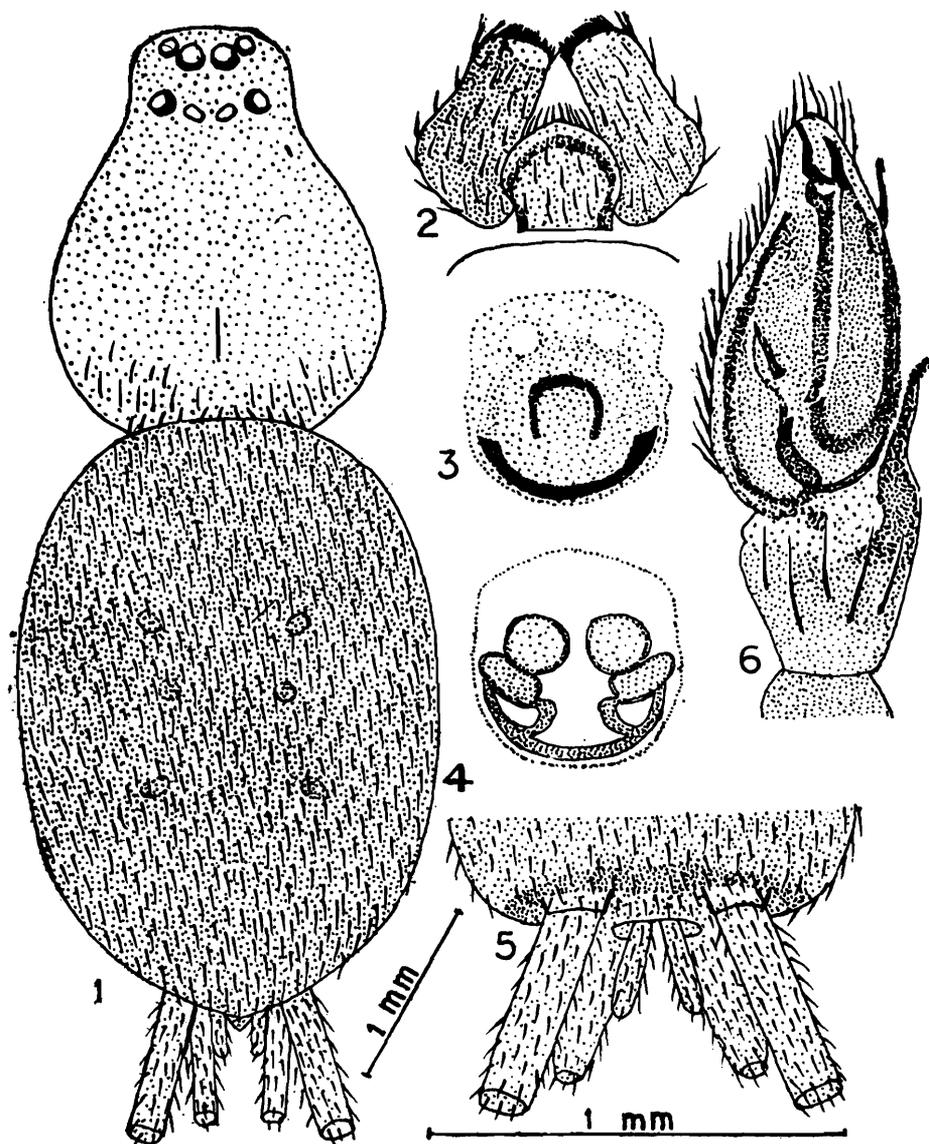
Cephalothorax : Longer than wide, convex narrow in front, cephalic region slightly high, posterior middle provided with a conspicuous fovea, clothed with pubescence and below fovea there are some spine like hairs. Eyes pearly white in colour except anterior medians which are slightly black, posterior row of eyes same in length as the anterior row. Anterior row of eyes slightly procurved, anterior medians are larger than all the eyes, circular and closer to adjacent laterals than to each other. Posterior row of eyes moderately procurved, more or less equal and equidistant from each other, medians elliptical in shape as in fig. 1. Clypeus narrow. Sternum oval, pointed behind and clothed with long spine

like hairs. Labium and maxillae longer than wide, anteriorly provided with scopulae, shape is in fig. 2. Chelicerae vertical inner margin with three bigger teeth. Legs relatively long and strong, clothed with hairs and spines, legs formula 4123.

Abdomen: Longer than wide, oval, narrowed behind, clothed with fine hairs and provided with three pairs of sagilla. Ventral side lighter than the dorsal, clothed with fine

hairs. Epigyne as in fig. 3. Internal genitalia as in fig. 4. Spinnerets very prominent, anterior spinnerets cylindrical and longer than others as in fig. 5. The colour and size of the male specimens almost like female, male palp as in fig. 6.

Holotype: female (Reg. No. 5145/18), *paratype* 3 males (Reg. No. 5146/18), *allotype* one male (Reg. No. 5146/18) in spirit other details as above. *Type-locality*: INDIA, Madhya



Figs. 1-6. *Scopodes tikaderi* sp. nov. (1) Dorsal view of female, legs omitted. (2) Labium and maxillae. (3) Epigyne. (4) Internal genitalia. (5) Spinnerets. (6) Left male palp ventral view.

Pradesh, Hatkachora near Jagadapur, Bastar district, date 2.1. 1984. coll. U. A. Gajbe, *Paratype Allotype* : INDIA, Madhya Pradesh, Orchha village, Bastar District, date 28 xii. 1983, coll. U. A. Gajbe.

Remark : This species closely resembles with *Scopodes maitraiae* Tikader & Gajbe but differs from it as follows : (I) Posterior row of eyes equal to the anterior row but in *S. maitraiae* posterior row of eyes longer than the anterior row. (II) Abdomen uniform but in *S. maitraiae* abdomen with small whitish spots. (III) Epigyne, internal genitalia and male palp also structurally different.

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