

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

By

U. A. GAJBE

Zoological Survey of India, Jabalpur

ABSTRACT

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

MATERIAL

The description is based on one female specimen.

The genus *Drassyllus* was established by Chamberlin (1922) with *D. fallens* Chamberlin as a type species from America. Tikader & Gajbe (1976) reported this genus for the first time from India and described two species. Tikader (1982) described one more species from India.

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

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

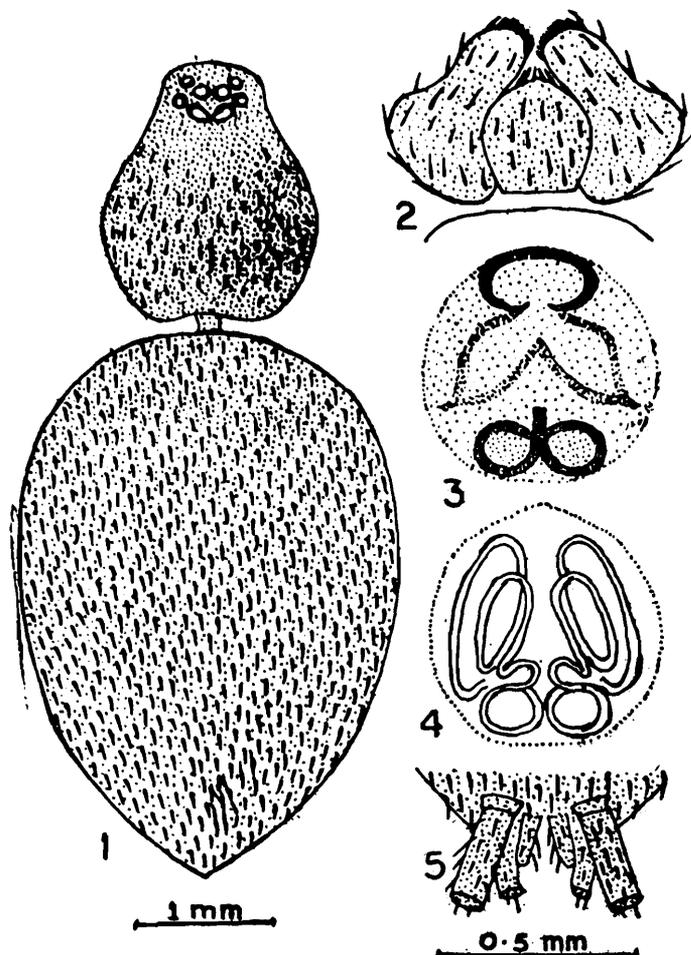
The species is named after Dr. N. I. Platnick, a well known arachnologist, as a token of the high regard which the author has for him.

Drassyllus platnicki sp. nov.

General : Cephalothorax light reddish green, legs brown, abdomen light brownish green. Total length 6.20 mm. Carapace 1.90 mm. long, 1.60 mm. wide ; abdomen 4.10 mm. long, 2.90 mm. wide.

Cephalothorax : Longer than wide, narrowing in front slightly convex, posterior middle provided with an inconspicuous short fovea, clothed with very short spine like hairs. Eyes silvery white in colour except anterior medians which are black. Posterior row of eyes slightly longer than the anterior row. Anterior row of eyes procurved (as seen from in front), medians slightly larger than the laterals and closer to adjacent laterals than to each other. Posterior row of eyes slightly procurved, medians larger than all eyes, oval, oblique and closer to each other than to adjacent laterals as in fig. 1. Sternum oval, pointed behind, clothed with hairs.

Labium and maxillae light green provided with scopulae, shape as in fig. 2. Chelicerae not very strong, vertical, inner margin provided with one minute tooth and outer margin with three moderate teeth. Legs relatively long and strong, clothed with hairs and spines. Legs formula 4123.



Figs 1-5. *Drassyllus platnicki* sp. nov. (1) Dorsal view of female, legs omitted. (2) Labrum and maxillae. (3) Epigyne. (4) Internal genitalia. (5) Spinnerets.

Abdomen: Nearly elliptical, clothed with very short fine hairs, anterior portion provided with some very short black spines. Ventral side lighter than the dorsal with fine hairs. Epigyne as in fig. 3. Internal genitalia as in fig. 4. Spinnerets as in fig. 5.

Holotype: Female (Reg. No. 5144/18) in spirit, other details as above.

Type-locality: INDIA, Maharashtra, Kachari Sawanga village, Nagpur District, date 5.iii.1984, coll. U. A. Gajbe.

Remarks: This species resembles *Drassyllus khajuriai* Tikader & Gajbe but differs from it as follows: (I) Carapace light reddish green but in *D. khajuriai* carapace light brownish green. (II) Abdomen light brownish green but in *D. khajuriai* abdomen deep brown. (III) Outer margin of chelicera provided with three teeth but in *D. khajuriai* outer margin provided with two teeth. (IV) Epigyne and internal genitalia also structurally different.

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