

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF SPIDER (CLUBIONIDAE : TRACHELAS) FROM INDIA

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INTRODUCTION

The family Clubionidae is known from India through the work of Cambridge (1885), Pocock (1900), Simon (1906), Gravely (1921, 1931), Reimoser (1934), Tikader (1962, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1981), Tikader & Biswas (1981), Biswas (1984) and through these 85 species under 15 genera were represented from India. While examining some specimens collected from Dist. Darjiling, the author came across a new species of *Trachelas* which is described in this paper. This, in fact, is the fourth species of this genus known from the Indian Sub-continent.

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

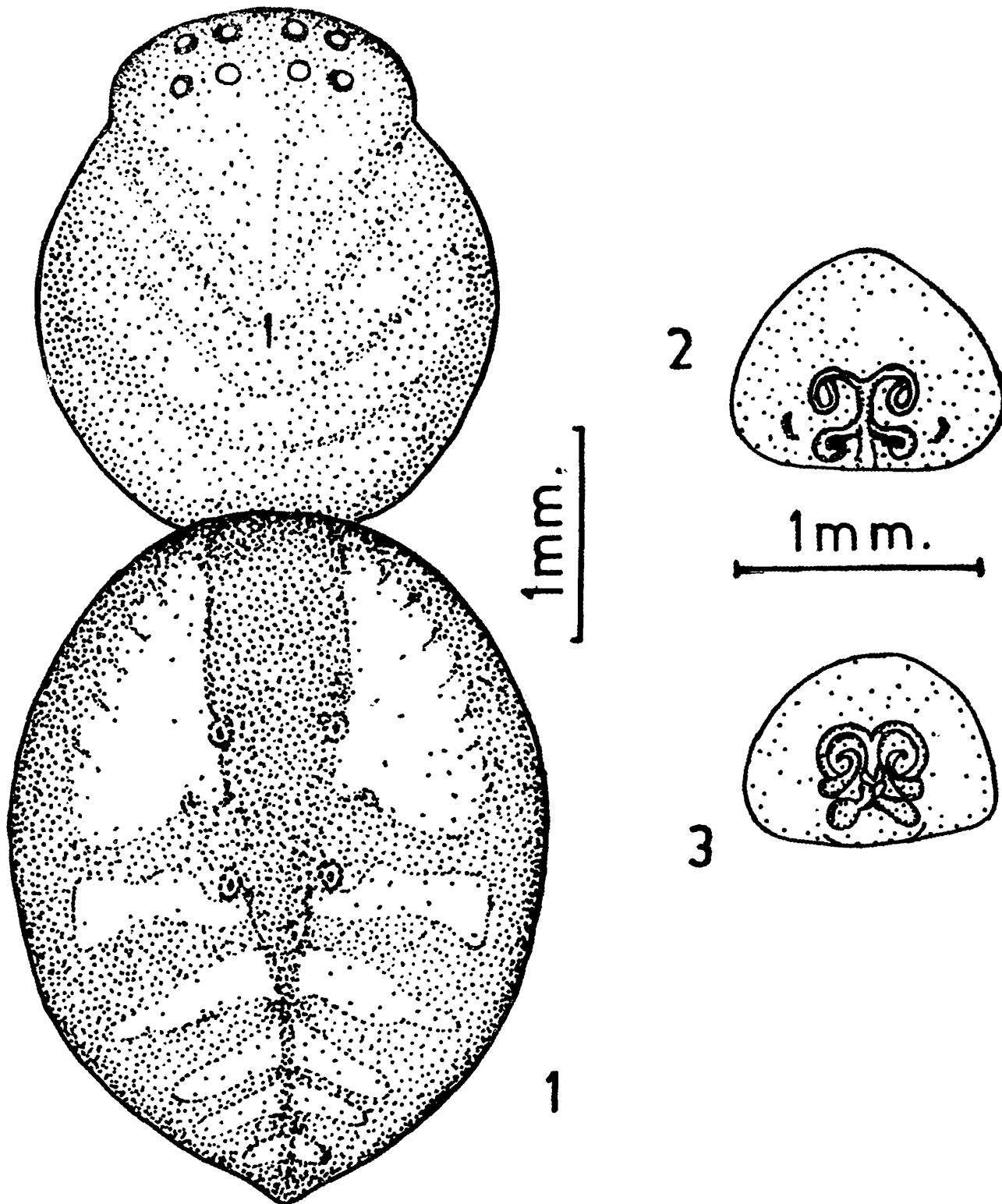
***Trachelas himalayensis* Sp. nov.**

(Figs. 1-3)

General : Cephalothorax dark brown and legs orange ; abdomen light green. Total length 5.80 mm. Carapace 2.50 mm. long, 2.20 mm. wide ; abdomen 3.30 mm. long, 2.50 mm. wide.

Cephalothorax : Longer than wide, narrower both anteriorly and posteriorly, covered with short erect setae, provided with prominent fovea situated just below the median half of carapace. Eyes in two transverse rows (anterior and posterior), moderately large, uniform in size. Anterior row of eyes slightly recurved ; medians slightly closer to laterals than to each other ; posterior row of eyes longer than anterior row, strongly recurved, with medians slightly closer to laterals than to each other ; laterals remote from medians. Ocular quadrangle longer than wide, narrow anteriorly and wide posteriorly. Chelicerae strong and stout, more or less parallel, dark reddish in colour ; inner and outer margins provided with two and three teeth respectively on each side. Maxillae longer than wide, deep brown in colour, broad and rounded anteriorly and convex at its outer surface, slightly scopulated anteriorly. Labium longer than wide, redish in colour, covered with fine pubescence, with a constriction posteriorly, slightly scopulated anteriorly. Sternum distinctly margined, heart-shaped, blackish red in colour, covered with black hair. Legs long and slender ; leg formula 1423 ; first pair of legs larger than the others, blackish

red in colour (other legs paler); tibiae and metatarsi of all legs provided with number of long spine-like hair; tarsi furnished with dark claw tufts.



Figs. 1. Dorsal view of female, legs omitted.
 2. Epigyne.
 3. Spermathecae.

Abdomen : Oval in shape, covered with fine pubescence ; dorsum provided with two pairs of sigilla arranged on either side of mid-dorsal line. Epigyne with rounded copulatory openings. Venter pale in colour ; with blackish longitudinal band extending from epigastric furrow to spinnerets.

Type specimens : Holotype 1 ♀ and Paratype 2 ♀ in spirit. Regd. Nos. 5173-74/18.

Type locality : Types ; Batasia loop, Darjiling, Eastern Himalayas, West Bengal, India, coll. Bijan Biswas, 24.IV.1974.

Distribution : India : Palni Hills, Tamil Nadu, Darjiling, West Bengal, Western Himalayas.

Remarks : This species resembles *Trachelas fronto* Simon but differs from it on the following points : 1. Inner and outer margin of chelicerae provided with two equal size teeth in *T. fronto* but in *T. himalayensis* with two and three teeth on the inner and outer margins respectively of chelicerae. 2. Dorsum with five blackish transverse bands in *T. himalayensis* but in *T. fronto* without such bands. 3. Epigyne and spermatheae structurally different.

SUMMARY

A new species under the genus *Trachelas* Koch is described and illustrated. This is the fourth species under this genus known from the Indian Sub-continent.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My thanks are due to Dr. Asket Singh, Scientist-'SF' in-Charge, Zoological Survey of India, for proper facilities during the preparation of this paper. Thanks are also due to Dr. B. K. Tikader, Ex-Director, Dr. S. K. Gupta, Scientist-'SD' for suggestions.

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