

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

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INTRODUCTION

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

MATERIAL

The description is based on one female specimen.

The spiders of the genus *Sosticus* are very little known. The genus was erected by Chamberlin (1922) to accommodate two species collected from North America and subsequently Fox (1938) described a third species from Indiana. Ubick and Roth (1973) through synonymy reduced the three species to one. Platnick and Shadab (1976) described two more species from North America. Gajbe (1979) reported this genus for the first time from India and described four species from India. Tikader (1982) described one more species from India.

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

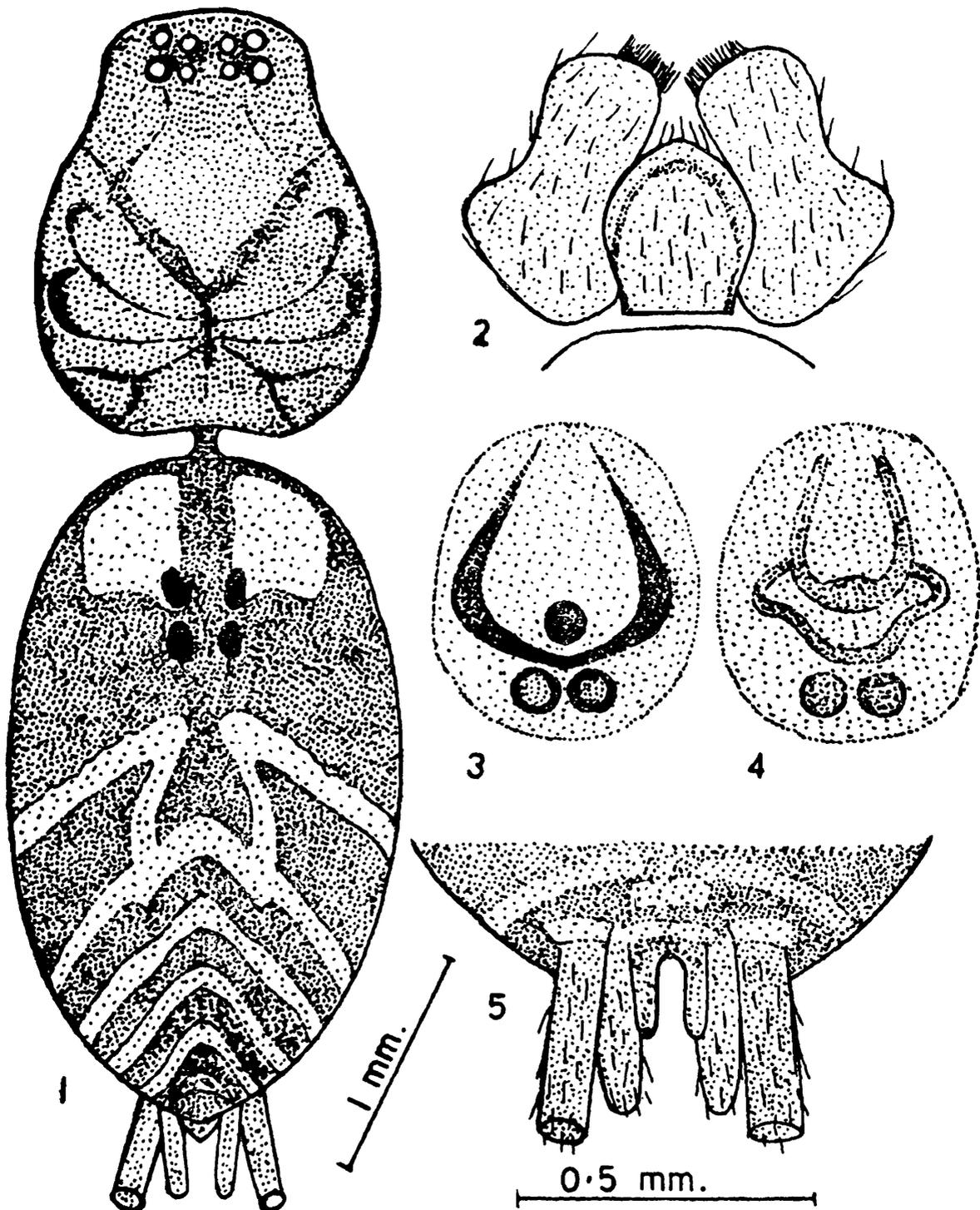
The type specimen is deposited in the National Zoological Collections, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta.

Sosticus pawani sp. nov.

General : Cephalothorax and legs reddish-brown, abdomen brownish-black. Total length 5.00 mm. Carapace 1.80 mm. long, 1.60 mm. wide ; abdomen 3.00 mm. long, 1.90 mm. wide.

Cephalothorax : Longer than wide, oval, narrow in front, clothed with pubescence and some spine like long hairs, provided at posterior middle with conspicuous short fovea with black streaks diverging from fovea to lateral sides of carapace. Eye rows distinctly separated ; eyes pearly white except anterior medians which are black ; posterior row of eyes very slightly longer than anterior row ; anterior row of eyes slightly procurved (as seen from in front), with medians smaller than laterals and closer to adjacent laterals than to each other ; posterior row of eyes straight, with medians oval, smaller than laterals and closer to adjacent laterals than to each other ; median ocular quadrangle longer than wide and wider behind than in front. Clypeal height more than diameter of anterior

median eye. Sternum heart-shaped, pointed behind, strongly rebordered, clothed with fine hairs. Labium longer than wide; anterior end of labium and maxillae provided with



Figs. 1-5. *Sosticus pawani* sp. nov.

Fig. 1. Dorsal view of female, legs omitted.

Fig. 2. Labium and maxillae.

Fig. 3. Epigyne.

Fig. 4. Spermathecae.

Fig. 5. Spinnerets.

conspicuous scopulae; shape as in fig. 2. Chelicerae moderately strong, vertical; inner margin provided with two minute teeth and outer margin with three minute teeth. Legs

relatively long and thin, clothed with hairs and some spines. Patella of all legs much larger and dorsally provided with two longitudinal black patches ; tibia IV provided with two dorsal spines ; scopulae reaching base of matatarsi I and II and middle of metatarsi III and IV ; leg formula 4123. Male unknown.

Abdomen : Longer than wide, oval, narrowing posteriorly, clothed with pubescence and provided with two pairs of sigilla and chevrons as in fig. 1 ; ventral side lighter than dorsal. Epigyne as in fig. 3. Spermathecae as in fig. 4. Anterior spinnerets widely separated ; posterior spinnerets longer and larger than others as in fig. 5.

Type-specimen : *Holotype* female in spirit, other details as below.

Type-locality : INDIA, Himachal Pradesh, Ragul Kalpa village, Solan district. 15.IV.1970, Coll. K. K. Mahajan.

This species closely resembles *Sosticus sundargarhensis* Gajbe but differs from it as follows : (i) Inner margin of chelicera provided with two minute teeth but in *S. sundargarhensis* inner margin with one minute tooth. (ii) Abdomen provided with chevrons but in *S. sundargarhensis* abdomen provided with two transverse white bands. (iii) Epigynum having epigynal suture pointed distally and the spermathecae are rounded.

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