

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

U. A. GAJBE

*Zoological Survey of India,
Central Regional Station,
Jabalpur (M. P.), India.*

INTRODUCTION

A new species of the genus *Apodrassodes* Vellard, 1924, belonging to family Gnaphosidae is described.

MATERIAL

The description is based on one male specimen.

The genus *Apodrassodes* was established by Vellard (1924), with *A. Singularis* as type species, from Brazil. Platnick & Shadab (1983) in their revisionary work on genus *Apodrassodes*, newly synonymized three specific name and described three new species from South America and Central Chile.

While studying spiders of the family Gnaphosidae the author encountered a new species of *Apodrassodes* which is described here. This genus is being recorded for the first time from Asia.

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

Apodrassodes yogeshi sp. nov.

General : Cephalothorax and legs brown ; abdomen brownish-black. Total length 9.60 mm. Carapace 4.50 mm. long, 3.60 mm. wide ; abdomen 5.30 mm. long, 3.60 mm. wide.

Cephalothorax : Longer than wide, oval, rounded anteriorly, truncated posteriorly, widest behind coxae II, with long black setae in ocular and clypeal areas ; cephalic area slightly elevated, posterior middle provided with long, deep conspicuous fovea. Eyes silvery white except anterior medians which are dark ; posterior row slightly longer than anterior row ; both rows slightly procurved (as seen from in front) ; anterior medians circular ; laterals oval , medians slightly closer to adjacent laterals than to each other ; posterior medians irregularly rectangular ; laterals oval ; medians slightly closer to each other to adjacent laterals ; median ocular quadrangle longer than wide, wider

in front than behind. Clypeal height greater than diameter of anterior median eye. Chelicerae moderately strong, vertical; inner margin with three small similar teeth and outer margin with three dissimilar teeth. Labium elongate, keg-shaped; maxillae long, sinuous, obliquely depressed, provided with scopulae as in fig. 3. Sternum long, rebordered, with extensions to and between coxae. Coxae IV almost touching, provided with long hairs; legs long and strong, clothed with hairs and spines; tarsi and apical portions of metatarsi provided with thick conspicuous scopulae; tarsi with two dentate

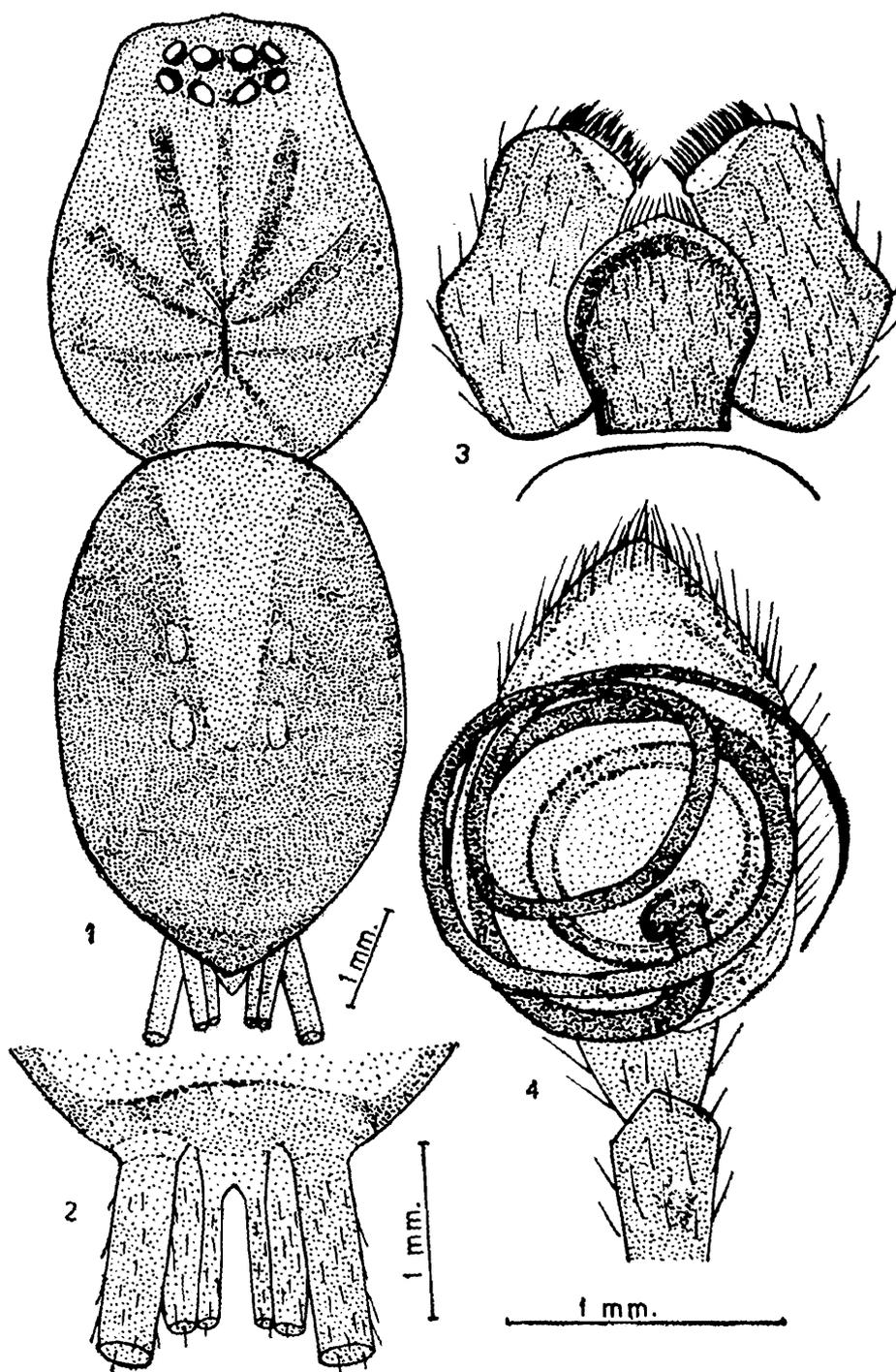


Fig. 1-4. *Apodrassodes yogeshi* sp. nov.

[1. Dorsal view of female, legs omitted. 2. Spinnerets. 3. Labium and maxillae. 4. Left male palp, ventral view.]

claws and claw tufts ; leg formula 4123. Male palp with long embolus coiling around cymbium as in fig. 4. Female unknown.

Abdomen : Longer than wide, oval, with white setae and with two pairs of orange muscle impressions, dorsally provided with orange coloured mid-dorsal longitudinal band extending up to middle of abdomen as in fig. 1 ; ventral side slightly lighter than dorsal. Spinnerets prominent, long ; anterior spinnerets widely separated, sclerotized and slightly longer than the others as in fig. 2.

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

Type-locality : India, Tripura State, Telianural, Dist. Tripura. 28.1.1971. Coll. V. C. Agrawal.

This species resembles *Apodrassodes mercedes* Platnick & Shadab but differs from it in colour of abdomen, cephalothorax and structure of male palp ; embolus making three complete coil and tegulum not prolonged distally.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am grateful to Dr. B. K. Tikader, Former Director, Zoological Survey of India, for assigning the project and constant encouragement in my research work. I am thankful to Dr. P. D. Gupta, Officer-in-Charge, Central Regional Station, Zoological Survey of India, Jabalpur for necessary facilities and to Miss Pratiksha Tiwari for typing the manuscript. I am also thankful to Dr. N. I. Platnick, Curator, Arachnida Division, American Museum of Natural History, New York for help with literature.

REFERENCES

- Vellard, J. 1924 Etude de zoologie. *Arch. Inst. Brazil*, 2 : 121-170.
Platnick, N. I. & Shadab, M. U. 1983. A revision of the Neotropical spider genus *Apodrassodes* (Araneae, Gnaphosidae) *Am. Mus. Novit.*, 2763 : 1-14.