

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

U. A. GAJBE

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

MATERIAL

The description is based on one female specimen.

The spiders of the genus *Megamyrmecion* are very little known. Tikader and Gajbe (1977) reported this genus for the first time from India and described one species.

While studying the spiders of the family Gnaphosidae the author encountered a new species of *Megamyrmecion* which is described here as a second species from India.

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

Megamyrmecion jodhpurensis sp. nov.

General : Cephalothorax and legs dark reddish-green, abdomen yellowish-green. Total length 5.80 mm. Carapace 2.40 mm. long, 1.90 mm. wide ; abdomen 3.50 mm. long, 2.20 mm wide.

Cephalothorax : Longer than wide, convex, narrow in front ; cephalic region slightly high ; posterior middle provided with a conspicuous fovea and clothed with pubescence as in fig. 1. Anterior row of eyes procurved ; anterior medians circular, black, larger than laterals ; laterals elliptical in shape, with medians closer to adjacent laterals than to each other ; posterior row of eyes as long as anterior row, procurved, with eyes more or less—fig 1-5 equal and equidistant from each other ; posterior medians silvery white, elliptical in shape ; median ocular quadrangle longer than wide and wider in front than behind. Clypeus narrow, less than the diameter of anterior median eye. Sternum oval pointed behind clothed with hairs. Labium and maxillae longer than wide, labium not contiguous with maxillae ; anterior margin of maxillae provided with conspicuous scopula as in fig. 2. Chelicerae vertical ;

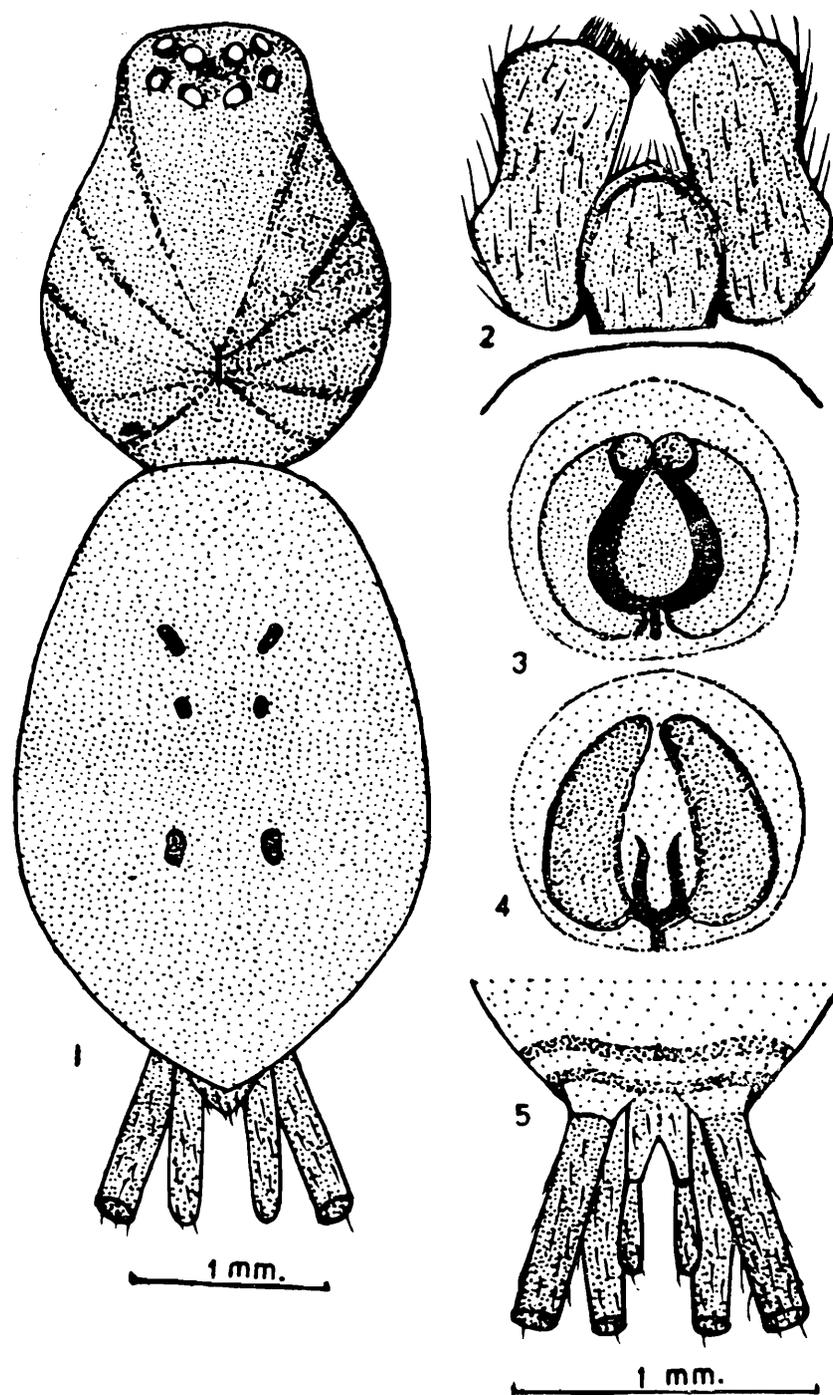


Fig. 1-5 : *Megamyrmecion jodhpurensis* sp. nov.

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

Fig. 2 : Labium and maxillae.

Fig. 3 : Epigyne.

Fig. 4 : Spermathecae.

Fig. 5 : Spinnerets.

inner margin without tooth but outer margin with two small teeth. Legs relatively long and strong, clothed with hairs and spines, with scopulae extending to base of metatarsi I and II. Leg formula 4123. Male unknown.

Abdomen : Longer than wide, more or less elliptical in shape, narrowed behind, clothed with pubescence and three pairs of sigilla. Ventral side lighter in colour than dorsal. Epigyne as in fig. 3. Spermathecae as in fig. 4. Spinnerests prominent, long as in fig. 5.

Type specimens : *Holotype* female, *paratypes* two females, in spirit, other details as below.

Type locality : INDIA, Rajasthan, Sangaria village, Jodhpur district, 3. viii. 1962. Coll. *Motilal*.

This species resembles *Megamyrmecon ashae* Tikader & Gajbe but can be separated in the colour of cephalothorax and abdomen, and by the structure of epigyne.

SUMMARY

A new species of the genus *Megamyrmecon* Reuss, 1834, belonging to the family Gnaphosidae is described.

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