

A RARE NEW SPIDER *LUTICA* MARX (ARANEAE : ZODARIIDAE)
FROM INDIA

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INTRODUCTION

The spiders of the family Zodariidae are very little known from India. The genus *Lutica* was established by Marx (1891) with *Lutica maculata* Marx as a type species from California. Tikader and Patel (1975) reported this genus for the first time from India and described one new species. Tikader and Malhotra (1976) described one more species from India. While examining the spider collections made by one of us (TSR) from Costal Andhra Pradesh, we came across a new species of the genus *Lutica*, which is described and illustrated in details here. This is the third species which is making a total of three species from India.

The type specimens will in due course be deposited in the National Collections of Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta.

***Lutica kovvurensis* sp. nov.**

(Fig. 1, a-h)

General: Cephalothorax and legs reddish brown, abdomen dark brown. Total length 3.80 mm. Carapace 2.12 mm long, 1.55 mm wide; abdomen 2.12 mm long, 1.66 mm wide.

Cephalothorax: Longer than wide, cephalic region slightly high with rounded margin and provided with light brown patches. Thoracic region provided with a thin sharp fovea. Eyes pearly white except anterior medians. Anterior row very slightly procurved (straight as seen from the front), anterior medians conspicuously larger than the others and encircled by dark brown patches. Posterior row strongly procurved, posterior medians widely separated from each other and closer to adjacent laterals, laterals contiguous as in Fig. 1a. Sternum heart shaped, pointed behind and clothed with fine hairs. Labium and maxillae longer than wide, distal ends provided with thin scopulae. Sternum, labium and maxillae as in Fig. 1b. Chelicerae short and stout. Legs long, moderately strong, clothed with fine hairs. Leg formula 4 1 3 2.

Male: It is similar to the female but smaller in size. Total length 2.66 mm. Male palp as in Fig. 1e, f and g.

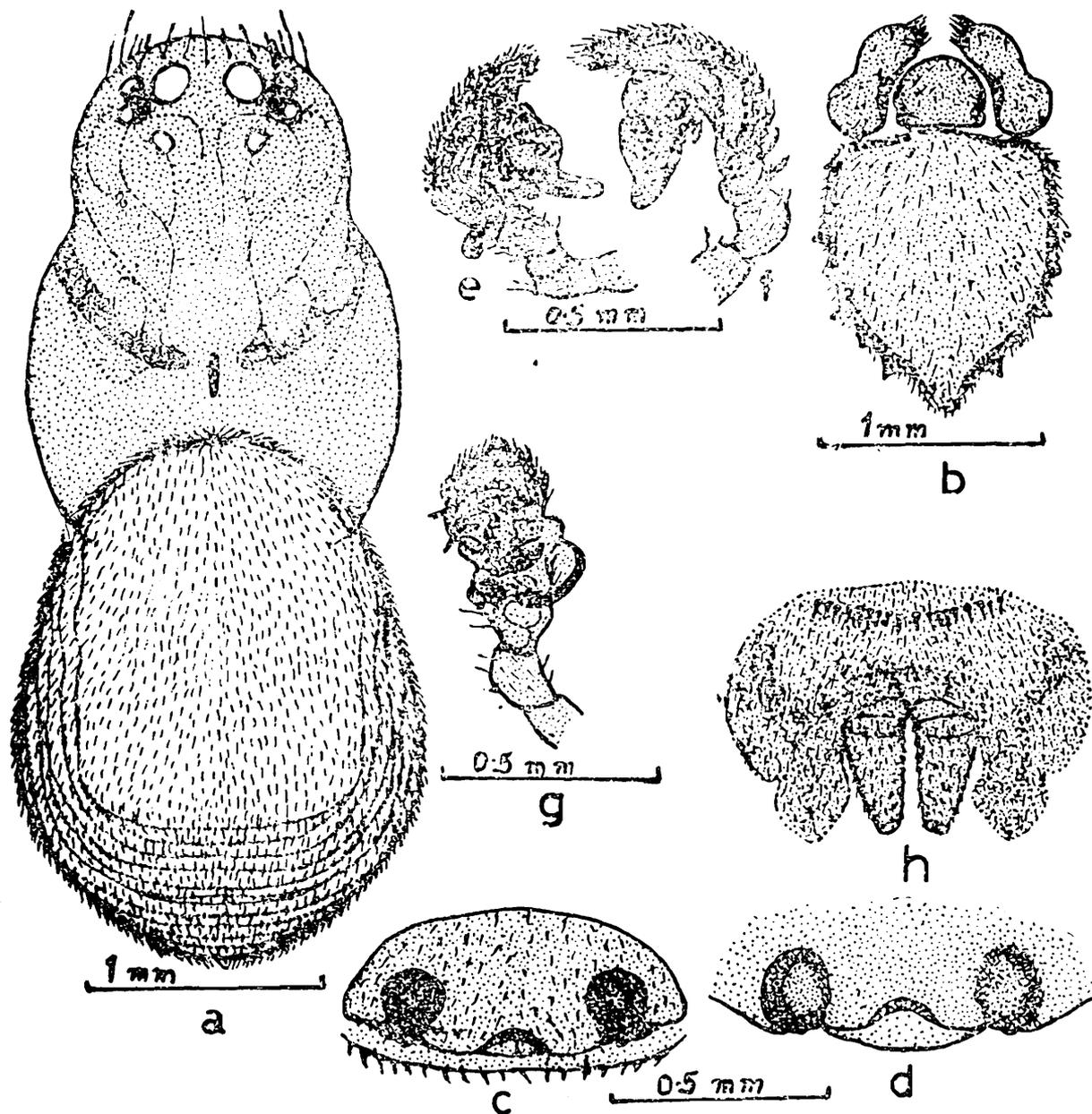


Fig. 1. a-h ; *Lutica kovvurensis* sp. nov.
 a. Dorsal view of female (legs omitted),
 b. Sternum, labium and maxillae,
 c. Epigyne,
 d. Internal genitalia,
 e. Right male palp—outer view,
 f. Right male palp—inner view,
 g. Right male palp—ventral view,
 h. Spinnerets.

Abdomen: Nearly globular, longer than wide, strongly overlapping on cephalothorax in front. Dorsal side uniform deep brown in colour, clothed with fine hairs and pubescence. Dorsum of abdomen posterolaterally provided with thin corrugations as

in Fig. 1a. Ventral side uniformly pale in colour. The anterior pair of spinnerets are conspicuously long and other two pairs properly developed as in Fig. 1h. Epigyne and internal genitalia as in Fig. 1c and d.

Holotype : One female, *allotype*, one male in spirit.

Type-locality : Kovvur, Dist. West Godavari, Costal Andhra Pradesh, India, 5-ix-1985. Coll. T. S. Reddy.

Diagnosis : This species resembles to *Lutica bengalensis* Tikader and Patel but it is separated as follows : (i) Thoracic region provided with thin sharp fovia but in *L. bengalensis* thoracic region provided with a pit and no distinct fovia present. (ii) Dorsum of abdomen posterolaterally provided with thin corrugations but in *L. bengalensis* no such corrugations present. (iii) Epigyne and internal genitalia are also structurally different.

SUMMARY

A new spider species *Lutica kovvurensis* sp. nov. (Zodariidae) is described in details and illustrated here from West Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh, India.

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