

ON SOME SPIDERS (ARANEAE : ARACHNIDA) FROM KANHA
NATIONAL PARK (MADHYA PRADESH), INDIA

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INTRODUCTION

Few surveys were undertaken during the year 1961, 63, 64, 66, 70, 74, 79, 86, 91 and 1992 to explore the faunal wealth of Kanha Tiger Reserve by Zoological Survey of India. Kanha National Park is a living example of the pristine wilderness of the Central Indian highlands.

Practically there was no work on the spiders of Kanha National Park. Pocock (1900) in his classical work on arachnids and Tikader (1980, 1982) contains no record of any species from this area. Rane and Singh (1977) reported five species for the first time from this area.

This paper deals with 23 species under 16 genera of the families Gnaphosidae, Thomisidae, Philodromidae, Araneidae, Hersiliidae, Lycosidae and Salticidae, out of which eight species viz. *Haplodrassus sataraensis* Tikader & Gajbe, *Philodromus durvei* Tikader, *Nephila maculata* (Fab.), *Argiope pulchella* Thorell, *Hersilia savignyi* Lucas, *Pardosa annandalei* (Gravely), *Pardosa sumatrana* (Thorell) and *Pardosa birmanica* Simon, are reported for the first time from this area ; fourteen species viz. *Sosticus poonaensis* Tikader, *Zelotes nasikensis* Tikader & Gajbe, *Thomisus pugilis* Stol., *Thomisus cherapunjeus* Tikader, *Xysticus minutes* Tikader, *Argiope aemula* (Walck.), *Cyclosa hexatuberculata* Tikader, *Araneus nympha* Simon, *Neoscona bengalensis* Tikader & Bal, *Neoscona mukerjei* Tikader, *Hippasa pisaurina* Pocock, *Arctosa himalayensis* Tikader & Malhotra, *Lycosa madani* Pocock, and *Harmochirus brachiatus* (Thorell) being reported here for the first time from Madhya Pradesh and one species viz. *Hippasa partita* (Cambridge) reported for the first time from India. Gravely (1924) recorded *Hippasa partita* (Cambridge) from Karachi, hence Tikader & Malhotra (1980) included this species in his Fauna of India Volume 1 (II) on the presumption that this species may be available

in Gujarat and Rajasthan because there are some ecological affinities of Karachi with these regions.

Family 1 : GNAPHOSIDAE

1. Sosticus poonaensis Tikader

1982. *Sosticus poonaensis* Tikader, *Fauna of India, Spiders*, 2 (2) : 440.

Specimen examined : 1 ♀, on the bank of Chubarinala, Kanha National Park, Mandla dist., coll. R. K. Singh, 28.11.1986 (Reg. No. A/1734).

Distribution : India : Maharashtra.

2. Zelotes nasikensis Tikader & Gajbe

1976. *Zelotes nasikensis* Tikader & Gajbe, *Proc. Indian Acad. Sci.*, 83 (3) : 118.

Specimen examined : 1 ♀, Khatia village, Kanha National Park, Mandla dist., coll. U. A. Gajbe, 16.6.1992 (Reg. No. A/2145).

Distribution : India : Maharashtra.

3. Haplodrassus sataraisensis Tikader & Gajbe

1977. *Haplodrassus sataraisensis* Tikader & Gajbe, *Rec. zool. Surv. India*, 73 (1-4) : 70.

Specimen examined : 1 ♀, Kanha forest range, Mandla dist., coll. R. K. Ghose, 19.1.1991 (Reg. No. A/2006).

Distribution : India : Satara, Maharashtra ; Himachal Pradesh ; Madhya Pradesh ; Orissa ; Rajasthan ; Uttar Pradesh and Punjab.

Family II : THOMISIDAE

4. *Thomisus pugilis* Stoliczka

1869. *Thomisus (Xysticus) (Sic) pugilis* Stoliczka, *J. Asiat. Soc. Beng.*, 38 : 225.

Specimen examined : 1 ♀, Subadult, F. R. House Mukki, Kanha forest range, Balaghat dist., coll. R. K. Ghose, 21.1.1991 (Reg. No. A/2004).

Distribution : India : West Bengal ; Tamilnadu and Punjab. Elsewhere—Pakistan.

5. *Thomisus cherapunjeus* Tikader

1966. *Thomisus cherapunjeus* Tikader, *Proc. Indian Acad. Sci.*, 64 (1) : 54.

Specimen examined : 1 ♀, Khatia village, Kisli range, Kanha National Park, Mandla dist., coll. U. A. Gajbe, 16.6.1992 (Reg. No. A/2146). 1 ♀, Kanha forest range, Mandla dist., Coll. R. K. Ghose, 18.1.1991. (Reg. No. A/2166).

Distribution : India : Shillong, Meghalaya.

6. *Xysticus minutes* Tikader

1960. *Xysticus minutes* Tikader, *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.*, 57 (1) : 173.

Specimen examined : 1 ♀, Supkhar, Kanha National Park, Balaghat dist., coll. R. K. Singh, 1.12.1986 (Reg. No. A/1763).

Distribution : India : West Bengal ; Maharashtra ; Meghalaya ; Gujarat.

Family III : PHILODROMIDAE

7. *Philodromus durvei* Tikader

1980. *Philodromus durvei* Tikader, *Fauna of India, Spiders*, 1 (1) : 204,

Specimen examined : 1 ♂, Supkhar, Chilpura tank, Balaghat dist., coll. R. K. Singh, 1.12.1986 (Reg. No. A/1771).

Distribution : India : Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh.

Family IV : ARANEIDAE

8. *Nephila maculata* (Fabricius)

1793. *Aranea maculata* Fabricius, *Ent. Syst.*, 2 : 425.

Specimen examined : 1 ♀, Kisli near Silkum river Mandla dist., coll. R.K. Singh, 26.11.1986 (Reg. No. A/2007). 2 ♀ ♀, Supkhar, Kanha National Park, Balaghat dist., coll. R.K. Singh, 1.12.1986 (Reg. No. A/2040).

Distribution : India : Tamilnadu ; Karnataka ; Uttar Pradesh ; Madhya Pradesh ; Assam ; Sikkim ; West Bengal ; Maharashtra ; Gujarat ; Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Elsewhere—Burma ; Sri Lanka ; China ; Australia ; Malaysia ; Japan & New Guinea.

9. *Argiope aemula* (Walckenaer)

1842. *Epeira aemula* Walckenaer, *Hist. Nat. Ins. Apt.*, 2 : 118.

Specimen examined : 6 ♀ ♀, Around Forest rest house Mukki, Balaghat dist., coll. R.K. Ghose, 24.1.1991 (Reg. No. A/2043).

Distribution : India : Tamilnadu ; Maharashtra ; West Bengal ; Gujarat ; Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Elsewhere—Sri Lanka ; Burma ; Indo- and Austro-Malaysia.

10. *Argiope pulchella* Thorell

1881. *Argyope pulchella* Thorell, *Annali. Mus. civ. Genova*, 17 : 74.

Specimen examined : 3 ♀ ♀, Mukki, Balaghat dist., coll. R.K. Ghose, 24.1.1991 (Reg. No. A/2044). 10 ♀ ♀, 3 ♂ ♂, Mukki forest range, Balaghat dist., coll. R. K. Ghose, 21.1.1991. (Reg. No. A/2045). 8 , Supkhar, Balaghat dist., coll. R. K.

Ghose, 30.1.1991 (Reg. No. A/2046). 5 ♀ ♀, On the bank of Banjar river, Mukki, Balaghat dist., coll. R. K. Ghose, 25.1.1991 (Reg. No. A/2047). 4 ♀ ♀, Mukki, Balaghat dist., coll. R. K. Ghose, 23.1.1991 (Reg. No. A/2048). 1 ♀, Motinala, Balaghat dist., coll. R. K. Ghose, 4.2.1991 (Reg. No. A/2049). 1 ♀, Shrawantal, Mandla dist., coll. R. K. Ghose, 16.1.1991 (Reg. No. A/2050). 5 ♀ ♀, Kanha Rest House, Mandla Dist., coll. R. K. Ghose, 24.1.1991 (Reg. No. A/2102). 2 ♀ ♀, Mukki forest range, Balaghat dist., coll. R. K. Ghose, 24.1.1991 (Reg. No. A/2096).

Distribution : India : West Bengal ; Madhya Pradesh ; Orissa ; Assam Maharashtra ; Tamilnadu ; Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Elsewhere—Burma ; Malayn Peninsula.

11. *Cyclosa hexatuberculata* Tikader

1982. *Cyclosa hexatuberculata* Tikader, *Fauna of India, Spiders*, 2 (1) : 197.

Specimen examined : 7 ♀ ♀, 2 ♂ ♂, Mukki, Balaghat dist., coll. R. K. Ghose, 25.1.1991 (Reg. No. A/2104). 4 ♀ ♀, Mukki, Balaghat dist., coll. R. K. Ghose, 24.1.1991 (Reg. No. A/2106).

Distribution : India : Poona ; Maharashtra.

12. *Araneus nympha* Simon

1889. *Araneus nympha* Simon, *J. Asiat. Soc. Beng.*, 58 : 339.

Specimen examined : 1 ♀, Mukki forest range, Balaghat dist., coll. R. K. Ghose, 23.1.1991 (Reg. No. A/2101).

Distribution : India : Himalaya. Elsewhere—Pakistan.

13. *Neoscona bengalensis* Tikader & Bal

1981. *Neoscona bengalensis* Tikader & Bal, *Rec. zool. Surv. India, Occ. Pap.*, 24 : 15.

Specimen examined : 2 ♀ ♀, Mukki forest range, Balaghat dist., coll. R. K. Ghose, 24.1.1991 (Reg. No. A/2097). 1 ♀, Mukki forest range, Balaghat dist., coll. R. K. Ghose, 21.1.1991 (Reg. No. A/2098). 1 ♀, Mukki forest range, Balaghat dist., coll. R. K. Ghose, 25.1.1991. (Reg. No. A/2099).

Distribution : India : Calcutta, West Bengal.

14. *Neoscona mukerjei* Tikader

1980. *Neoscona mukerjei* Tikader, *Proc. Indian Acad. Sci.*, 89 (3) : 247.

Specimen examined : 1 ♀, Supkhar, Balaghat dist., coll. R. K. Singh, 4.12.1986 (Reg. No. A/2100).

Distribution : India : Maharashtra ; West Bengal.

Family V : HERSILIIDAE

15. *Hersilia savignyi* Lucas

1836. *Hersilia savignyi* Lucas, *Mag. Zool.*, 8 : 10.

Specimen examined : 7 ♀ ♀, 4 ♂ ♂, Banjar village, Balaghat dist., coll. R. K. Ghose, 25.1.1991 (Reg. No. A/1849). 11 ♀ ♀, 3 ♂ ♂, Forest rest house, Mukki, Balaghat dist., coll. R. K. Ghose, 21.1.1991 (Reg. No. A/1850). 4 ♀ ♀, 1 ♂, Mukki, Balaghat dist., coll. R. K. Ghose, 23.1.1991 (Reg. No. A/1851). 8 ♀ ♀, 1 ♂, Mukki, Balaghat dist., coll. R. K. Ghose, 24.1.1991 (Reg. No. A/1852). 1 ♀, Kanha rest house, Mandla dist., coll. R. K. Ghose, 24.1.1991 (Reg. No. A/1853). 4 ♀ ♀, Mukki, Balaghat dist., coll. R. K. Ghose, 23.1.1991 (Reg. No. A/2005).

Distribution : India : Tamilnadu ; Karnataka ; Bihar ; Maharashtra ; Uttar Pradesh ; West Bengal ; Assam ; Orissa ; Madhya Pradesh. Elsewhere—Sri Lanka ; Burma ; Pakistan.

Family VI : LYCOSIDAE

16. *Hippasa pisaurina* Pocock

1900. *Hippasa pisaurina* Pocock, *Fauna Brit. India, Arach.*, : 250.

Specimen examined : 1 ♀, Mukki, Balaghat dist., coll. R. K. Ghose, 24.1.1991

(Reg. No. A/2152). 1 ♀, Kanha, Mandla dist., coll. R. K. Ghose, 15.1.1991 (Reg. No. A/2153). 1 ♀, Around forest rest house, Mukki, Balaghat dist., coll. R. K. Ghose, 23.1.1991 (Reg. No. A/2154).

Distribution : India : Maharashtra ; Karnataka ; Bihar ; Gujarat. Elsewhere—Pakistan ; Iraq.

17. *Hippasa partita* (Cambridge)

1876. *Trochosa partita* Cambridge, *Proc. Zool. Soc.*, : 541.

Specimen examined : 2 ♀ ♀, Supkhar, Balaghat dist., coll. R. K. Ghose, 31.1.1991 (Reg. No. A/2177).

Distribution : Alexandria ; Egypt ; Arabia ; Central Asia and Pakistan.

18. *Pardosa annandalei* (Gravely)

1924. *Lycosa annandalei* Gravely, *Rec. Indian Mus.*, 26 : 606.

Specimen examined : 2 ♀ ♀ 1 ♂, Khatia village, Mandla dist., coll. U.A. Gajbe 16.6.1992 (Reg. No. A/2151). 2 ♀ ♀, 1 ♂, Kanha forest range, Mandla dist., coll. R. K. Ghose, 18.1.91 (Reg. No. A/2181).

Distribution : India : Kerala ; Maharashtra ; Karnataka ; Andhra Pradesh ; Tamilnadu ; Madhya Pradesh ; Bihar ; West Bengal ; Manipur ; Assam ; Gujarat. Elsewhere—Bangladesh ; Burma & Pakistan.

19. *Pardosa sumatrana* (Thorell)

1890. *Lycosa sumatrana* Thorell, *Ann. Mus. Stor. nat. Genova*, 30 : 136.

Specimen examined : 5 ♀ ♀, 2 ♂ ♂, Motinala, Mandla dist., coll. R. K. Ghose, 1.2.1991 (Reg. No. A/2747). 3 ♀ ♀, 1 ♂, Supkhar, Balaghat dist., coll. R. K. Singh, 1.12.1986 (Reg. No. A/2148). 7 ♀ ♀, 4 ♂ ♂, Forest rest house, Mukki, Balaghat dist., coll. R. K. Ghose, 21.1.1991 (Reg. No. A/2168). 6 ♀ ♀, 1 ♂. Kopedabari, Mandla dist., coll. U. A. Gajbe, 16.6.1992 (Reg. No. A/2169). 14 ♀ ♀, 1 ♂, Menhar nala, Kanha. Mandla dist., coll. R. K. Singh, 28.11.1986 (Reg. No. A/2170). 1 ♀, 1 ♂, Kanha forest range, Mandla dist., coll. R. K. Ghose, 18.1.1991 (Reg. No. A/2171).

Distribution : India : Kerala ; Tamilnadu ; Andhra Pradesh ; Maharashtra ; Assam ; Tripura ; Rajasthan ; Gujarat ; Madhya Pradesh ; Arunachal Pradesh ; Nicobar Islands ; Nepal Valley ; Eastern Himalayas. Elsewhere—Bangladesh ; Sumatra ; Sri Lanka.

20. *Pardosa birmanica* Simon

1884. *Pardosa birmanica* Simon, *Ann. Mus. civ. Stor. nat. Genova*, 20 : 333.

Specimen examined : 6 ♀ ♀, 3 ♂ ♂, Kisli near Sulkum river, Mandla dist., coll. R. K. Singh, 26.11.1986 (Reg. No. A/2172). 8 ♀ ♀, 5 ♂ ♂, Motinala, Mandla dist., coll. R. K. Ghose, 1.2.1991 (Reg. No. A/2149). 1 ♀, Mukki, Balaghat dist., coll. R. K. Ghose, 24.1.1991 (Reg. No. A/2150). 1 ♀, Shrivantal, Mandla dist., coll. U. A. Gajbe, 14.6.1992 (Reg. No. A/2174). 1 ♀, 1 ♂, Banjar valley near Mukki, Balaghat dist., coll. R. K. Ghose 25.1.1991. (Reg. No. A/2175). 1 ♀, Shrivantal, Mandla dist., coll. U. A. Gajbe, 14.6.1992 (Reg. No. A/2180A).

Distribution : India : Maharashtra ; Punjab ; West Bengal ; Orissa ; Uttar Pradesh , Meghalaya ; Bihar ; Tamilnadu ; Andhra Pradesh. Elsewhere—Burma ; Java and Pakistan.

21. *Arctosa himalayensis* Tikader & Malhotra

1980. *Arctosa himalayensis* Tikader & Malhotra, *Fauna of India, Spiders*, 1 (2) : 369.

Specimen examined : 3 ♀ ♀, 1 ♂, Kisli near Sulkum river, Mandla dist., coll. R. K. Singh, 26.10.1986 (Reg. No. A/2178). 3 ♀ ♀, 2 ♂ ♂, Shrivantal, Mandla dist., coll. U. A. Gajbe, 14.6.92 (Reg. No. A/2179).

Distribution : India : Dehradun, Uttar Pradesh.

22. *Lycosa madani* Pocock

1901. *Lycosa madani* Pocock, *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.*, 13 (3) : 486.

Specimen examined : 1 ♀, Shrivantal, Mandla dist., coll. U. A. Gajbe, 14.6.1992 (Reg. No. A/2176).

Distribution : India : Maharashtra ; Kerala ; Karnataka ; Andhra Pradesh ; Orissa ; Bihar.

Family VII. : SALTICIDAE

23. *Harmochirus brachiatus* (Thorell)

1877. *Ballus brachiatus* Thorell, *Ann. Mus. Stor. nat. Genova*, 10 : 626.

Specimen examined : 1 ♂, Banjar valley, Balaghat dist., coll. R. K. Singh, 30.11.1986. (Reg. No. A/2107)

Distribution : India : Poona, Maharashtra. Elsewhere—Japan ; Pacific Islands and Indochina.

SUMMARY

This paper deals with 23 species under 16 genera of which one species is recorded for the first time from India, fourteen species reported for the first time from Madhya Pradesh and eight species are reported for the first time from Kanha National Park, Madhya Pradesh.

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