

**ON THREE NEW SPECIES OF SPIDERS OF THE GENUS *HIPPASA* SIMON
(ARANEAE : LYCOSIDAE) FROM JABALPUR, MADHYA PRADESH, INDIA.**

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INTRODUCTION

The genus *Hippasa* was established by Simon in 1885, with type species *Hippasa agelenoides* (Simon). Since the establishment of this genus, Tikader (1980) reillustrated and redescribed twelve species in 'Fauna of India, Spider volume.

While Studying the spider collection collected by the second author from different localities of Jabalpur, we came across three new species of *Hippasa* which are described here.

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

1. *Hippasa hansae* sp. nov.

General : Cephalothorax and legs brown, abdomen brown with blackish patches. Total 8.00 mm. Carapce 3.20 mm. long, 2.20 mm. wide; abdomen 5.00 mm. long, 1.90 mm. wide.

Cephalothorax : Longer than wide, convex, clothed with pubescence, cephalic region abruptly tapering and narrowing. Anterior row of eyes very slightly procurved and wider than the second row. Bases of posterior eyes provided with conspicuous black patches. Space enclosed between posterior eyes much wider behind than in front. Centre of thoracic region provided with a conspicuous fovea; the brown bands radiate from the fovea to the lateral sides as in fig.1. Sternum heart-shaped, pointed behind, pale, clothed with hairs, and provided with a median longitudinal dark band. Labium as long as wide, with the basal excavation prominent. Maxillae pale, with broad distal ends. Chelicerae strong, provided with distinct scopulae. Legs long and slender, clothed with hairs and spines.

Abdomen : Longer than wide, elliptical, clothed with pubescence and anterior dorsal middle half provided with a pale lens-shaped marking, rest of abdomen provided with blackish and brownish patches as in fig. 1. Ventral side lighter in colour than dorsal. Epigyne as in fig. 2. Spermathecae as in fig 3.

Type-specimen : *Holotype* : Female in spirit, other details as above.

Type-locality : Madan Mahal Fort, Jabalpur, M.P. India. Coll. Pawan Gajbe, 13.10.1997.

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This species resembles with *Hippasa partita* Cambridge but can be distinguished from it as follows : (i) Ventral side without any patches but in *H. partita* ventral side provided with three longitudinal dark bands extending from the epigastric fold to the base of spinnerets. (ii) Epigyne and spermathecae also structurally different.

2. *Hippasa fabreae* sp. nov.

General : Cephalothorax, legs and abdomen brown. Total length 17.50 mm. Carapace 7.50 mm. long, 5.80 mm wide; abdomen 10.20 mm. long, 6.20 mm. wide.

Cephalothorax : Longer than wide, narrowing anteriorly, clothed with pubescence, Lateral sides lighter than mid dorsal region. Centre provided with a conspicuous fovea and with thin conspicuous brown bands extending from it to the lateral sides. Anterior row of eyes slightly procurved and anterior medians larger than anterior laterals. Eyes of the second row larger than others; bases of posterior eyes provided with conspicuous black patches; space enclosed between the posterior eyes wider behind than in front. Sternum heart-shaped, pointed behind, clothed with hairs, and provided with a mid-longitudinal black band. Labium as long as wide with the basal excavation prominent. Maxillae broader at the distal end, and distal end provided with conspicuous scopulae. chelicerae strong and retromargin of fang groove provided with three teeth. Legs long and strong, clothed with hairs and spines.

Abdomen : Longer than wide, elliptical, clothed with pubescence and hairs; anterior dorsal middle half provided with a lens-shaped brown marking as in fig. 4. Ventral side same in colour as dorsal. Epigyne as in fig. 5. Spermathecae as in fig. 6.

Type-specimen : *Holotype* : Female in spirit, other details as above.

Type-locality : Khandari, Jabalpur, M. P. , India. Coll. Pawan Gajbe, 9.10.1997.

This species resembles *Hippasa olivacea* Thorell but can be distinguished from it as follows : (i) Abdomen provided with a lens-shaped marking but in *H. Olivacesa*, abdomen provided with dark greenish and pale patches. (ii) Epigyne and spermathecae also structurally different.

3. *Hippasa wigglesworthi* sp. nov.

General : Cephalothorax and legs brown, abdomen black, Total length 15.00 mm. Carapace 6.40 mm. long, 4.60 mm. wide; abdomen 8.80 mm. long, 4.60 mm. wide.

Cephalothorax : Longer than wide, convex, clothed with pubescence, cephalic region abruptly tapering and narrowing. Mid-dorsally chephalic and thoracic region darker than lateral areas; lateral margins provided with small black spots as in fig. 7. Anterior row of eyes very slightly procurved and wider than second row. Bases of posterior eyes provided with conspicuous black patches. Space enclosed between posterior eyes much wider in front. Centre of thoracic region provided with conspicuous fovea; thin brown bands radiate from fovea to the lateral sides. Sternum heart-shaped, pointed behind, clothed with hairs, pale and provided with a median longitudinal dark band. Labium as long as wide with the basal excavation prominent. Maxillae pale with blunt proximal ends and broad distal ends. Chelicerae strong, reddish brown, and

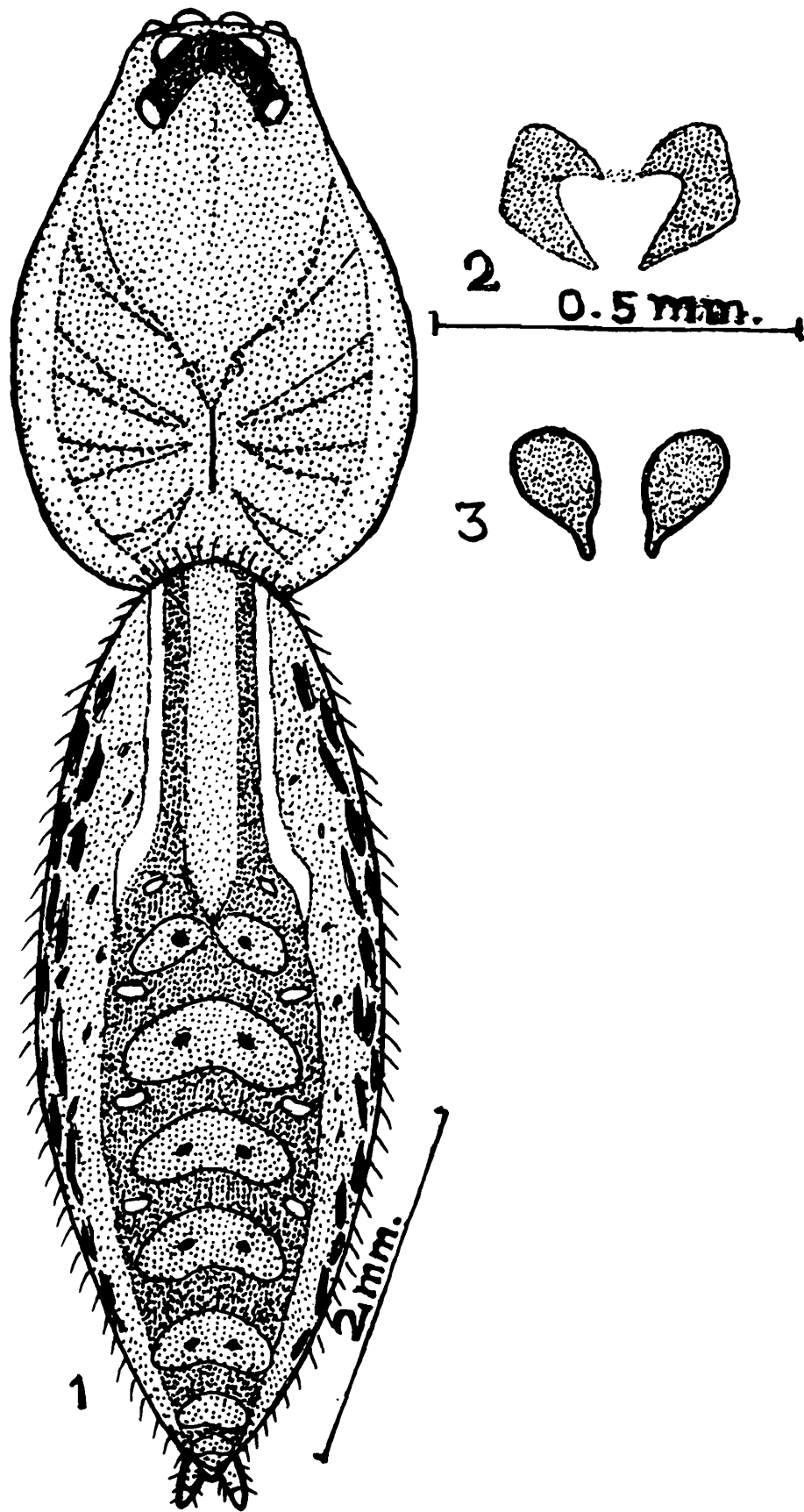


Fig. 1-3. *Hippasa hansae* sp. nov.

1. Dorsal view of female, legs omitted ; 2. Epigyne ; 3. Spermathecae.

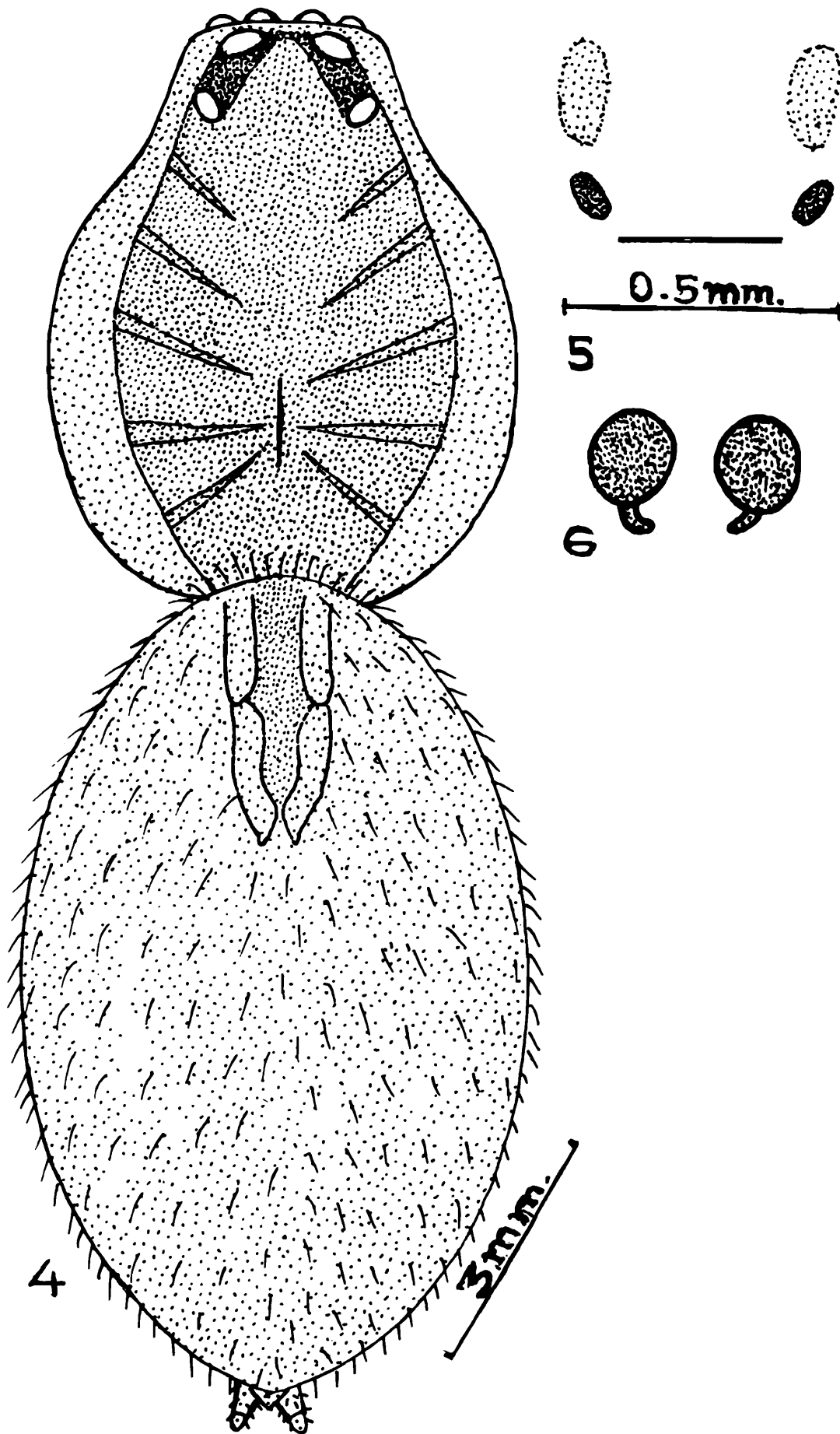


Fig. 4-6. *Hippasa fabreae* sp. nov.

4. Dorsal view of femal, legs omitted ; 5. Epigyne ; 6. Spermathecae.

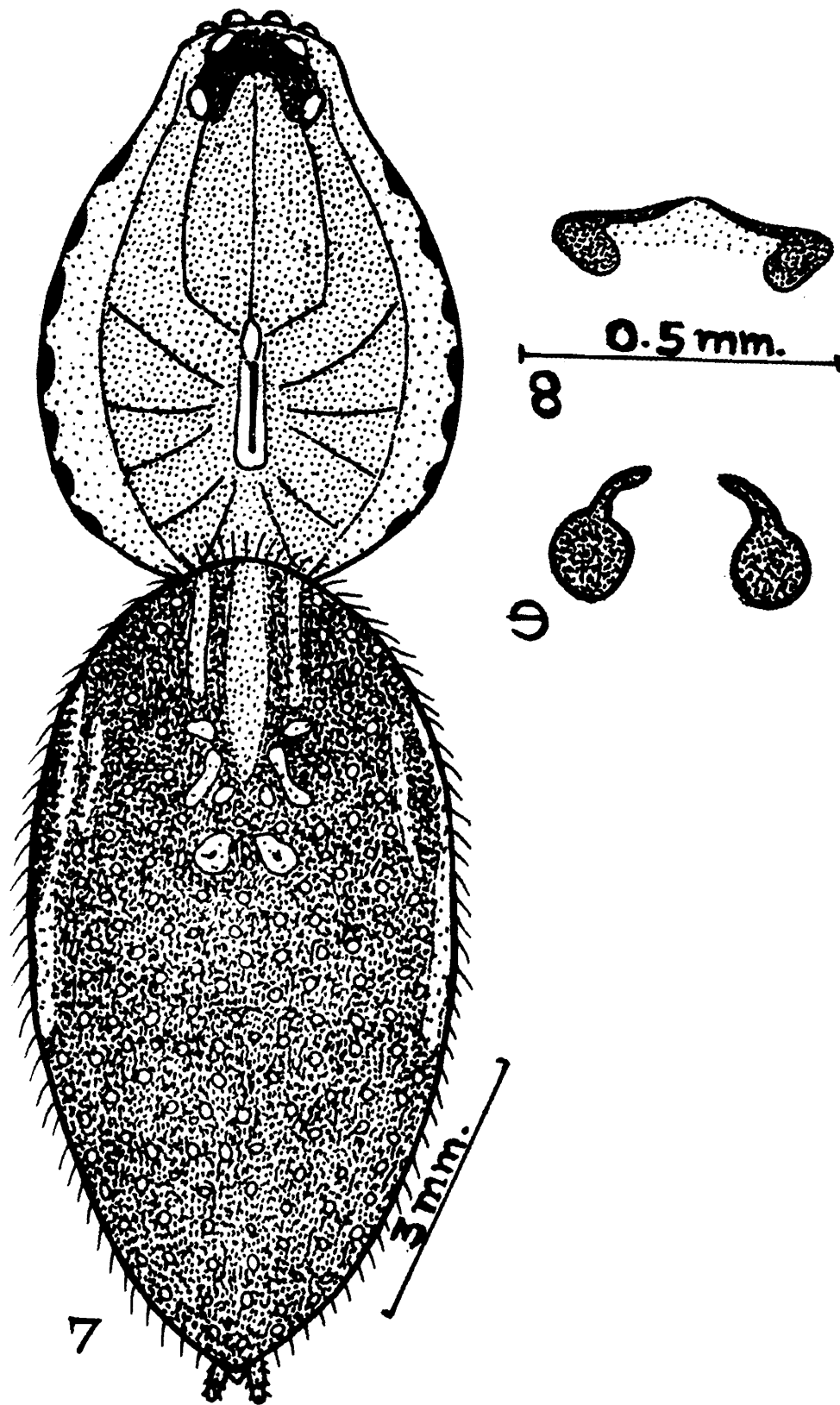


Fig. 7-9. *Hippasa wigglesworthi* sp. nov.
7. Dorsal view of female, legs omitted ; 8. Epigyne ; 9. Spermathecae.

retromargin of fang groove provided with four teeth. Legs long and slender, clothed with hairs and spines.

Abdomen : Longer than wide, oval, pointed behind, clothed with pubescence and anterior dorsal middle half provided with a reddish brown, lens shaped marking and few whitish patches, rest of abdomen provided with small brown dots as in fig. 7. Ventral side light brown with three black bands running from epigstric furrow to spinnerets. Epigyne as in fig. 8. Spermathecae as in fig. 9.

Type-specimen : *Holotype* : Female in spirit, other details as above.

Type-locality : Bheraghat, Jabalpur, M.P., India. Coll. *Pawan Gajbe*, 27.10. 1997.

This species resembles *Hippasa mahabaleshwarensis* Tikader but can be distinguished from it as follows : (i) Abdomen black and provided with brown dots but in *H. mahabaleshwarensis*, abdomen reddish brown with black spots, (ii) Epigyne and spermathecae also structurally different.

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