

**DESCRIPTION OF THREE NEW SPECIES OF SPIDERS OF
THE GENERA *THOMISUS* WALCKENAER, *OXYPTILA* SIMON
AND *XYSTICUS* KOCH (ARANEAE : THOMISIDAE) FROM
MADHYA PRADESH, INDIA**

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INTRODUCTION

The interesting spiders of the family Thomisidae are abundant throughout India but not very well known. While studying the spider collection, collected by the second author from different parts of Jabalpur, M. P., we came across three new species of the family Thomisidae which are described here. The type-specimens are deposited in the National Collection, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta.

The genus *Thomisus* was established by Walckenaer in 1805 with the type-species *Thomisus albus* (Gmelin). Since the establishment of the genus Tikader (1980) reillustrated and redescribed seventeen species in *Fauna of India, Spiders* volume.

The genus *Oxyptila* was established by Simon, 1804, with the type-species *Oxyptila brevipes* (Hahn). Since the establishment of the genus, Tikader, 1980, reillustrated and redescribed four species and two new species from different parts of India in *Fauna of India, Spiders* volume.

The genus *Xysticus* was established by Koch in 1835, with the type-species *Xysticus critatus* (Clerk). Since the establishment of the genus, Tikader, 1980 reillustrated and redescribed fifteen species and one new species from different parts of India in *Fauna of India, Spiders* volume. Gajbe & Gajbe, 1999, described two new species from Madhya Pradesh.

***Thomisus rajani* sp. nov.**

General : Cephalothorax and legs yellowish orange, abdomen greenish yellow. Total length 6.60 mm. Carapace 2.90 mm. long, 3.20 mm. wide; abdomen 3.90 mm. long, 4.30 mm wide.

Cephalothorax : Wider than long, broadest posteriorly, slightly narrowing in front. Eyes black, ocular area whitish, both rows recurved but posterior row only slightly recurved, three whitish lines below the conical processes converging together in the mid-thoracic region and from the same sport some dark lines running to the lateral sides of the cephalothorax. Sternum heart shaped, pointed

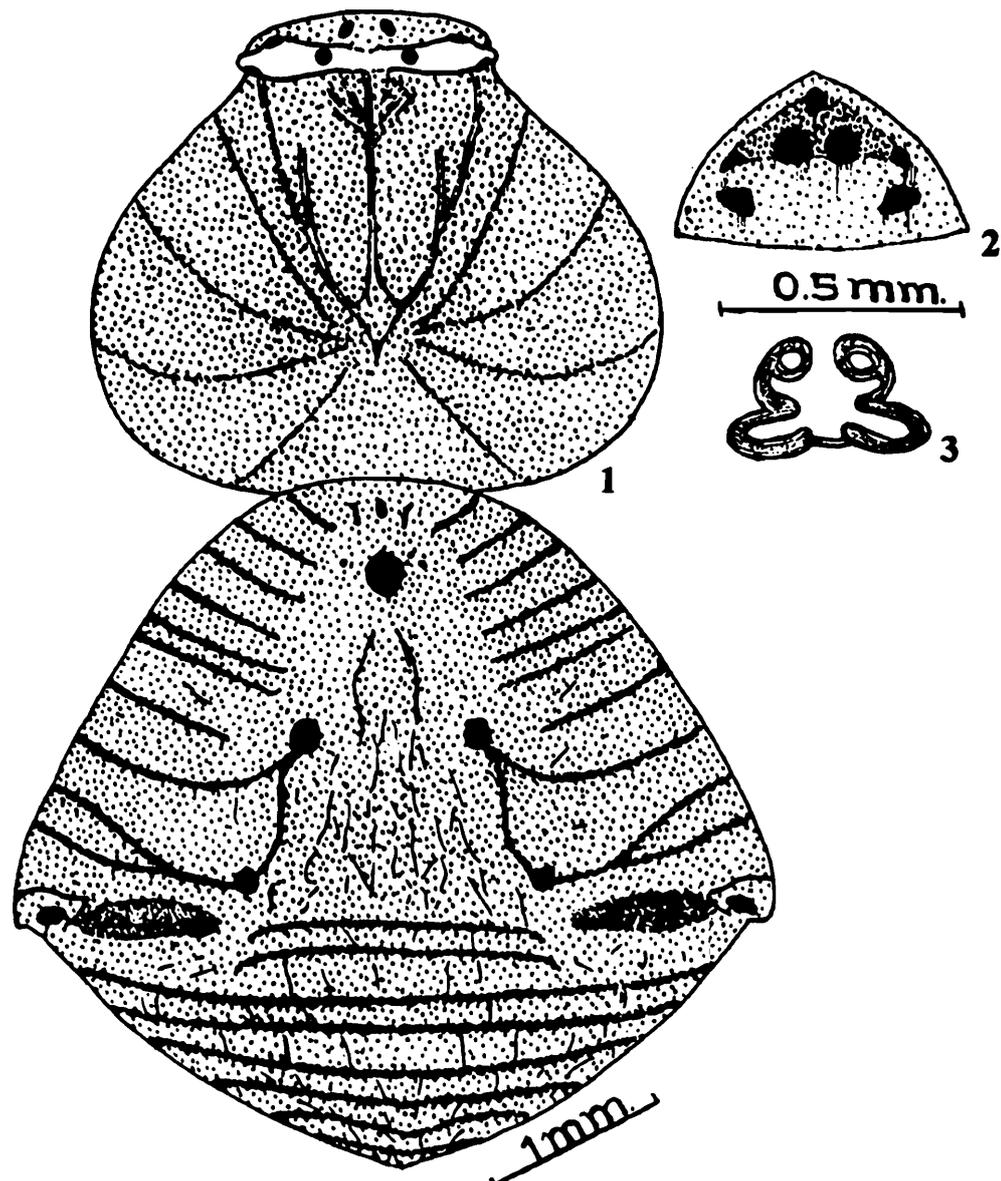
behind, clothed with hairs. Legs long and stout, I and II longer than III and IV, femora I and II with orange spots, femur I with five dorsal spines, tarsi I and II with five pairs of ventral spines.

Abdomen : Longer than wide, roughly pentagonal, with a black spot on each tubercle, five greyish spots in the antero-mid-dorsal region, a greyish patch below each tubercle, brown stripes on the antero-lateral sides, posterior region with black markings and conspicuous transverse muscular corrugations as in fig. 1. Epigyne as in fig. 2. Internal genitalia as in fig. 3.

Type-specimen : *Holotype* : Female, in spirit, other details as above (Reg. No. 5511/18).

Type-locality : Sanjivani Nagar, Jabalpur, M.P., India. Coll. Pawan Gajbe, 12.12.1997.

This species resembles *Thomisus projectus* Tikader but can be distinguished from it as follows : (i) Three whitish lines below the conical processes converging together in the mid-thoracic region but in *T. projectus* such lines are absent. (ii) Femur I with five dorsal spines but in *T. projectus* femur I with three dorsal spines. (iii) Epigyne and internal genitalia also structurally different.



Figs. 1-3. *Thomisus rajani* sp. nov.

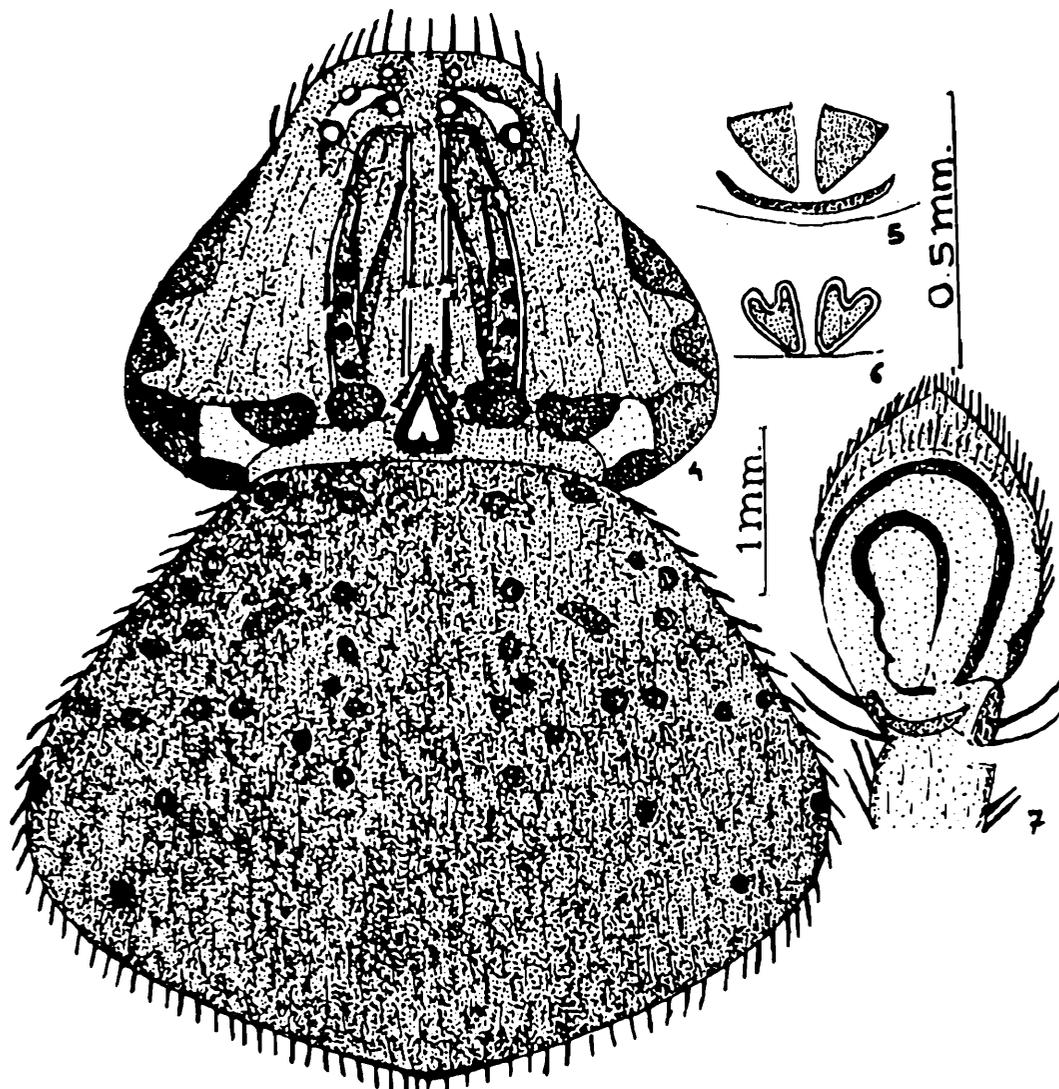
1. Dorsal view of female, legs omitted; 2. Epigyne; 3. Internal genitalia.

Oxyptila jabalpurensis sp. nov.

General : Cephalothorax and legs deep brown, abdomen light brown. Total length 6.40 mm. Carapace 2.80 mm. long, 3.60 mm. wide; abdomen 3.90 mm. long, 4.80 mm. wide.

Cephalothorax : Wider than long, bearing spatulate hairs on the cephalic region. Anterior laterals and posterior laterals ringed with yellowish tubercles. Ocular quad longer than wide, both rows of eyes recurved but anterior row strongly recurved. Clypeus high, margin bearing nine clavate hairs directed forward but middle one directed upward. Lateral margin of cephalothorax provided with black patches and posterior portion lighter in colour and provided with six black spots. Sternum heart shaped, slightly pointed behind, lighter in colour and provided with eight black spots. Legs I and II robust and longer than III and IV, some black patches on the legs, all legs covered with spatulate hairs and few spines. Male same in colour and size. Male palp as in fig. 7.

Abdomen : Ovate, slightly broader than long, broadest behind the middle, densely clothed with spatulate hairs, provided with few black spots as in fig. 4. Ventral side slightly lighter than dorsal. Epigyne as in fig. 5. Internal genitalia as in fig. 6.



Figs. 4-7. *Oxyptila jabalpurensis* sp. nov.

4. Dorsal view of female, legs omitted; 5. Epigyne; 6. Internal genitalia; 7. Left male palp, ventral view;

Type-specimen : *Holotype* : female, *paratype* one female, *allotype* one male, in spirit, other details as above (Reg. No. 5522/18, 5512/18, 5513/18 respectively).

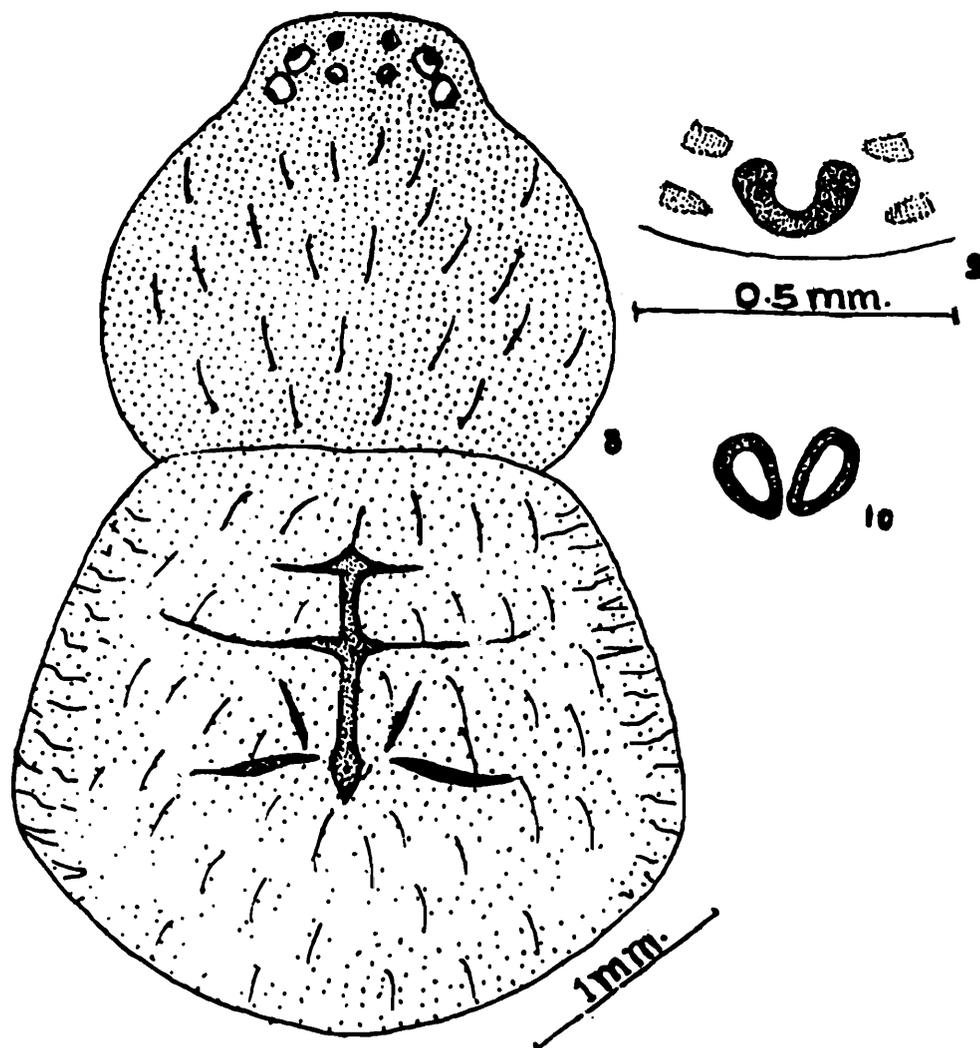
Type-locality : Sanjivani Nagar, Jabalpur, M.P., Coll. Pawan Gajbe, 5.10.1997.

This species resembles *Oxyptila amkhasensis* Tikader but can be distinguished from it as follows : (i) Cephalothorax wider than long but in *O. amkhasensis*, cephalothorax longer than wide. (ii) Posterior portion of cephalothorax provided with six black spots but such spots absent in *O. amkhasensis*. (iii) Sternum provided with eight black spots but such spots absent in *O. amkhasensis*. (iv) Epigyne and internal genitalia also structurally different.

Xysticus tikaderi sp. nov.

General : Cephalothorax and legs brown, abdomen wiithish brown. Total length 4.60 mm. Carapace 2.00 mm. long, 2.30 mm. wide; abdomen 2.60 mm. long, 3.00 mm. wide.

Cephalothorax : Slightly wider than long, narrowing anteriorly, clothed with fine pubescence and spines. Eyes round, ringed with bluish tubercles; lateral eyes close and situated on larger tubercles; posterior median eyes larger than anterior median eyes; both rows of eyes recurved. Clypeus broad,



Figs. 8-10. *Xysticus tikaderi* sp. nov.

8. Dorsal view of female, legs omitted; 9. Epigyne; 10. Internal genitalia;

subrectangular, with six spines directed forward. Legs I and II longer than III and IV, clothed with hairs and spines.

Abdomen : Slightly wider than long, pentagonal, broadest behind the middle, clothed with stout spines and provided with a conspicuous blackish patch on the dorsum as in fig. 8. Ventral side chalk white. Epigyne as in fig. 9. Internal genitalia as in fig. 10.

Type-specimen : *Holotype* : female in spirit, other details as above (Reg. No. 5514/18).

Type-locality : Barela, Jabalpur, M.P., India Coll. Pawan Gajbe, 15.9.1997.

This species resembles with *Xysticus hindusthanicus* Basu, but can be distinguished from it as follows : (i) Legs brown but in *X. hindusthanicus*, the legs are black. (ii) A conspicuous blackish patch on the dorsum but in *X. hindusthanicus*, such a patch is absent. (iii) Epigyne and internal genitalia also structurally different.

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