

A NEW SPECIES OF *LARINIA* SPIDER (ARANEAE : ARANEIDAE) FROM JABALPUR, MADHYA PRADESH, INDIA

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INTRODUCTION

Simon established the genus *Larinia* in 1874 with the type species *Larinia lineata* (Lucas, 1846). Patel (1975) described two species *L. chhagani* and *L. tyloridia* from India. Tikader (1982) reillustrated and redescribed two species *L. chloris* (Audouin, 1826) and *L. phtisica* (L. Koch, 1871). Biswas (1984) described the species *L. jaysankari*; Patel & Nigam (1994) described the species *L. kanpurae*, and Bhandari & Gajbe (2001) described the species *L. bhadatae* from India.

A new species *Larinia emertoni* sp. nov. is being described herein from Jabalpur district (c. 23°10' N, 79°57' E). The type specimen has been deposited with the National Zoological Collection, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata.

Larinia emertoni sp. nov.

General : Cephalothorax brownish yellow, legs and abdomen yellowish. Total length 8.5 mm. Carapace 3.9 mm. long, 2.0 mm. wide; abdomen 5.6 mm. long, 2.3 mm. wide.

Cephalothorax : Much longer than wide, narrow in front, clothed with hairs and pubescence, light brown bands running to the sides from the deep longitudinal thoracic furrow as in fig. 1. Ocular quad forming a trapezium, more than three times wider in front than behind; anterior medians much larger than posterior medians, posterior medians closely situated, laterals subequal, extremely close to each other and situated on distinct tubercles; both rows of eyes recurved but posterior row more narrowly recurved than anterior row. Sternum elongated, oval, clothed with fine pubescence, without any patch. Labium as long as wide, yellowish brown; maxillae slightly longer than broad, yellowish, provided with distinct scopulae. Chelicerae strong and stout, provided with distinct boss; anterior margin of each chelicera armed with four teeth. Legs long and slender, clothed with hairs and spines.

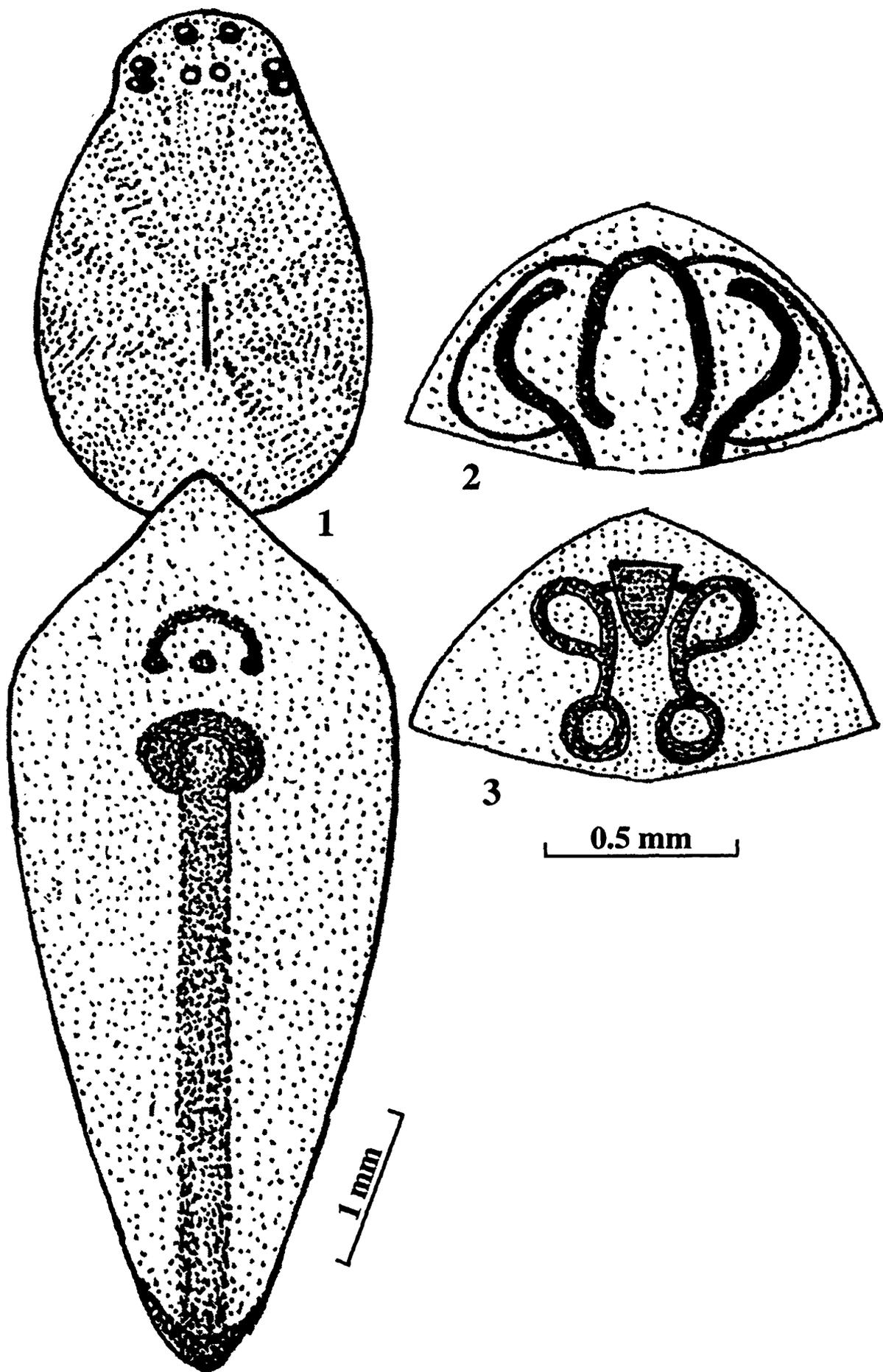


Fig. 1-3. *Larinia emertoni* sp. nov. 1. Dorsal view of female, legs omitted. 2. Epigyne. 3. Internal genitalia.

Abdomen : Much longer than wide, pointed anteriorly over the carapace, clothed with pubescence and few spines. An inverted U-shaped black spot present on the mid-dorsal line above which three tiny black spots are present as in fig. 1. The posterior end is blackish, the region between the inverted U-shaped black spot and the posterior end is slightly darker than the rest. Ventral side lighter than dorsal, without any patch. Epigyne as in fig. 2. Internal genitalia as in fig. 3.

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

Type-locality : Gandhi Smarak, Jabalpur, Coll. Pawan Gajbe, 12.7.1997.

Etymology : The specific name is a Patronym in honour of Dr. J. H. Emerton.

This species resembles *Larinia phtisica* (L. Koch) but differs from it as follows : (i) Light brown bands running to the sides from the deep longitudinal thoracic furrow but such bands are absent in *L. phtisica*. (ii) An inverted U-shaped black spot present on the mid-dorsal line of abdomen but such spot is absent in *L. phtisica*. (iii) Epigyne and internal genitalia also structurally different.

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