

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

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INTRODUCTION

O. P.-Cambridge established the genus *Chorizopes* in 1870 with the type species *Chorizopes frontalis* O. P.-Cambridge, 1870. O. P.-Cambridge (1885) described two species *C. congener* and *C. stoliczkae* from India. Sadana & Kaur (1974) described the species *C. tikaderi*. Tikader (1982) redescribed four species *C. calciopae* (Simon, 1895); *C. khanjanas* Tikader, 1965; *C. anjanas* Tikader, 1965; and *C. bengalensis* Tikader, 1975. Reddy & Patel (1993) described two species *C. khedaensis* and *C. pateli*. Bhandari & Gajbe (2001) described the species *C. tikaderi* from India.

A new species *Chorizopes kastoni* 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.

Chorizopes kastoni sp. nov.

General : Cephalothorax, legs and abdomen black. Total length 6.7 mm. Carapace 1.9 mm. long, 2.4 mm wide; abdomen 4.8 mm. long, 4.5 mm. wide.

Cephalothorax : Wider than long, narrowing anteriorly, clothed with hairs, cephalic region elevated and convex. Ocular quad forming a trapezium, wider behind than in front; eyes pearly white; anterior median eyes slightly larger than posterior median eyes; lateral eyes subequal in size, separated a little; both rows of eyes recurved. Sternum heart-shaped, pointed behind, dark brown in colour and clothed with fine hairs. Labium wider than long, pale in colour. Chelicerae strong and stout, dark brown, clothed with hairs. Legs moderately strong, coxae and femora with brownish transverse bands, clothed with hairs and spines.

Abdomen : Longer than wide, clothed with hairs, posterior end concave, dorsum elevated and provided with four pairs of white spots as in fig. 1. Ventral side same in colour as dorsal. Epigyne as in fig. 2. Internal genitalia as in fig. 3.

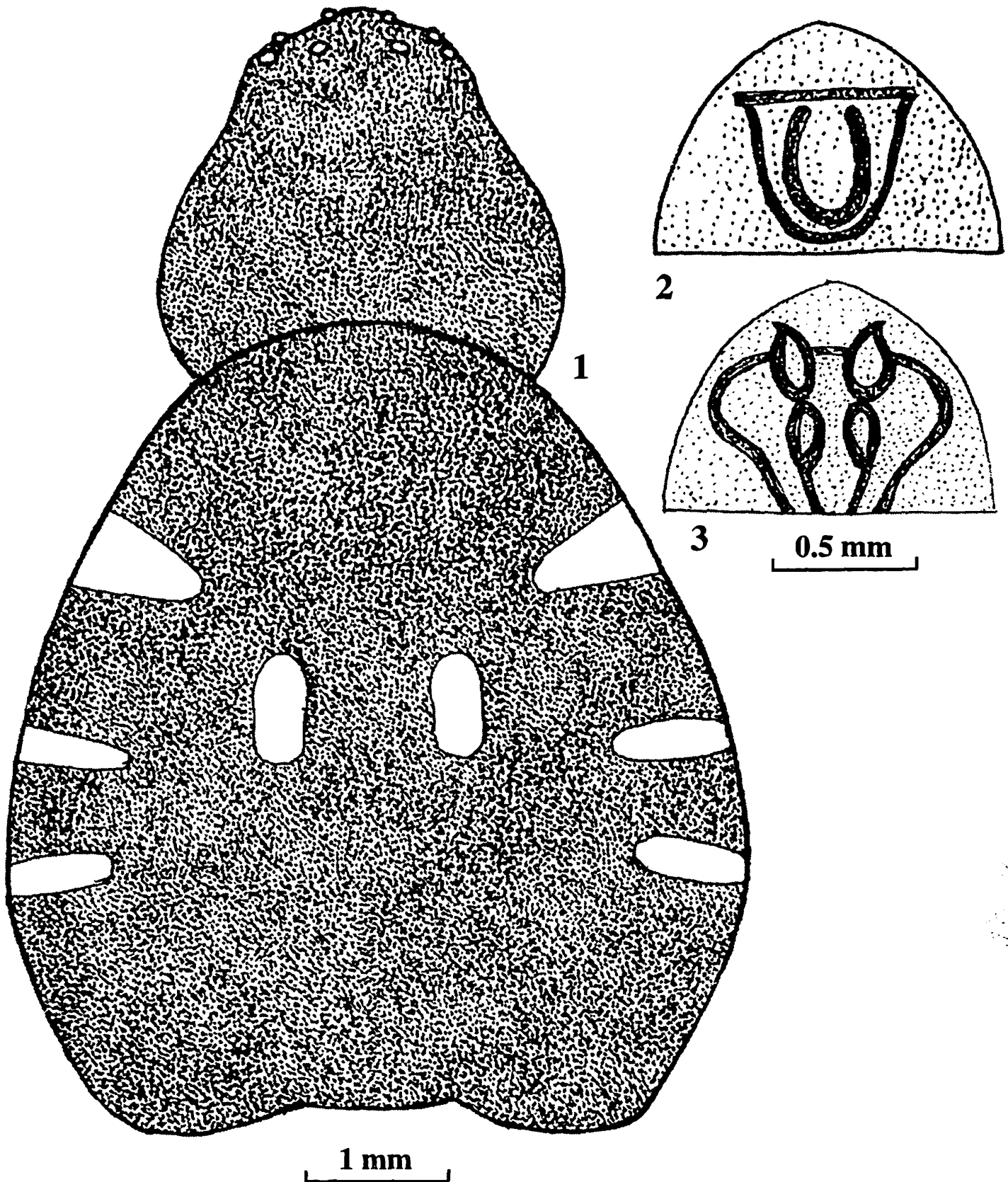


Fig. 1-3. *Chorizopes kastoni* sp. nov. 1. Dorsal view of female, legs omitted. 2. Epigyne. 3. Internal genitalia.

Type-specimen : *Holotype* female in spirit, other details as above. Type collected from *Lantana* bushes.

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

Etymology : The specific name is a patronym in honour of Dr. B. J. Kaston.

This species resembles *Chorizopes khanjanas* Tikader but differs from It as follows : (i) Cephalothorax, legs and abdomen black but in *C. khanjanas* cephalothorax blackish brown and abdomen greyish. (ii) Sternum without any coloured patch but in *C. khanjanas* sternum with a median large orange yellowish patch. (iii) Dorsum of abdomen provided with four pairs of white spots but in *C. khanjanas* such spots are absent. (iv) Epigyne and internal genitalia also structurally different.

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