

Rec. zool. Surv. India : 108(Part-1) : 59-61, 2008

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

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INTRODUCTION

The genus *Dieta* was established by Simon, 1880 with the type species *Dieta parnassia* Simon. Since the establishment of the genus *Tikader* (1980) in the *Fauna of India, Spiders*, described three species from India.

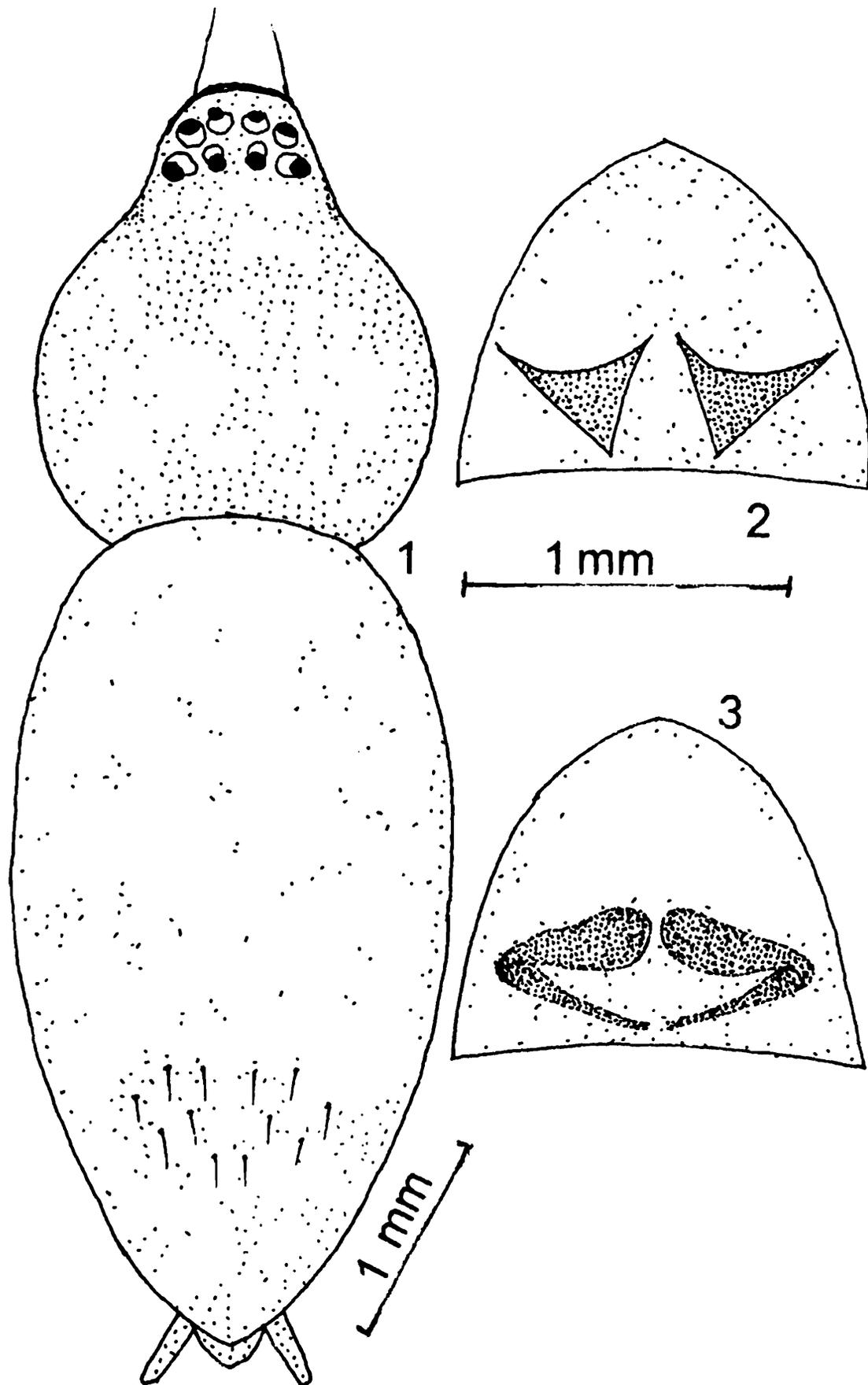
A new species *Dieta kanishkai* sp. nov. is being described herein from Jabalpur. The genus also being reported here for the first time from Madhya Pradesh. The type-specimen will be deposited in due course in the National Collection, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata.

Dieta kanishkai sp. nov.

General : Cephalothorax, legs and abdomen light yellowish green. Total length 6.00 mm. Carapace 2.40 mm. long 2.20 mm. wide; abdomen 4.00 mm. long 2.00 mm. wide.

Cephalothorax : Slightly longer than wide, cephalic region abruptly narrowing in front and the base of cephalothorax comparatively narrow; thoracic region uniform in colour. Eyes black and bases of all eyes provided with prominent silvery tubercles. Both the eye rows recurved. Anterior row of eyes strongly recurved and shorter than the posterior row, anterior medians smaller than the adjacent laterals and equidistant to each other. Posterior row to eyes slightly recurved, posterior medians smaller than the adjacent laterals and closer to each other than to posterior laterals. Ocular quad slightly longer than wide and as wide behind as in front as in fig. 1. Clypeus provided with two fine hairs like spines directed forward. Legs I and II longer than III and IV and cylindrical, clothed with fine long hair like spines and hairs. Tibiae and metatarsi of I and II legs provided with four pairs of ventral long spines. End of tarsi provided with well developed claw-tufts. The prolateral distal extremity of I tibiae not provided with a brown conspicuous patch.

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Figs. 1-3 : *Dieta kanishkai* sp. nov.; 1. Dorsal view of female, legs omitted. 2. Epigyne. 3. Internal genitalia

Abdomen : Long, narrow, tapering behind, slightly overlapping in front of cephalothorax, clothed with fine hairs and some spine like short hairs, uniform. Ventral side uniform light in colour. Spinnerets situated at the posterior tip of the abdomen. Epigyne as in fig. 2. Internal genitalia as in fig. 3.

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

Type-locality : Tilwaraghat, Jabalpur. Coll. U. A. Gajbe, 2.IX.2006.

This species closely resembles *Dieta elongata* Tikader, but differs from it as follows :
(i) Cephalothorax uniform but in *D. elongata* cephalothorax provided with conspicuous pink spots.
(ii) The prolateral distal extremity of I tibiae provided with a brown conspicuous patch but in *D. elongata* no such patch is present. (iii) Abdomen dorsally uniform but in *D. elongata* abdomen dorsally provided with inconspicuous brown markings. (iv) Epigyne and internal genitalia also structurally different.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am thankful to The Officer-In-Charge Zoological Survey of India, Central Regional Station, Jabalpur for facilities. Thanks also due to Shri M. E. Limje Photographer, Central Regional Station, Zoological Survey of India, Jabalpur, for typing the manuscript.

REFERENCE

Tikader, B. K. 1980. *Fauna of India, Spiders*, (Thomisidae) vol. 1(1) : 1-247.