

A new species of spider of the genus *Marpissa* C.L. Koch (Salticidae) from India

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Introduction

The spiders of the genus *Marpissa* C.L. Koch of the family Salticidae are little known members of the Indian fauna. Only one species of this genus, namely *Marpissa tigrina* Tikader, has been described from this region (Tikader 1965).

While examining the collection made during a survey of predacious spiders of citrus pests from Ludhiana, we found a new species which is described here as *Marpissa ludhianaensis* sp. n.

Marpissa ludhianaensis sp. n. (figs. 1-5)

♀: *Carapace*: length 2.25-2.93 mm; greatest breadth 1.80-2.50 mm; oval, sloping gradually from mid-point to rear; yellowish with brown ocular area, sparsely covered with black spines and white hairs. *Eyes*: pearly white, encircled with black; first row slightly recurved, second and third rows straight; black eye brow-tufts bent at an angle of 120° situated on outer side of each posterior median eye. Diameter of eyes (mm): A.M. = 0.42-0.50, A.L. = 0.15-0.20, P.M. = 0.05-0.09, P.L. = 0.17-0.20. Mutual distance between the eyes: A.M.-A.M. = 0.05-0.07, A.M.-A.L. = 0.09-0.10, P.M.-P.M. = 1.15-1.25, P.M.-P.L. = 0.30-0.43. Ocular area almost square, occupying less than half the length of carapace. *Clypeus*: width 0.15-0.25 mm, yellowish with white hairs. *Chelicerae*: conical, longer than broad; furrow of chelicera armed with two teeth of almost equal size on promargin and a single comparatively large tooth on retromargin; both the margins provided with scopulae of brown hairs. *Labium*: yellowish, subtriangular. *Sternum*: yellow, oval, truncated anteriorly and pointed posteriorly. *Endite*: Pale, club-shaped. *Legs*: yellowish, covered throughout with black spines; first two pairs of legs stouter than the rear two pairs; tibia I and metatarsus I provided with three and two pairs of ventral spines respectively; tarsi with conspicuous claw tufts, anterior superior tarsal claw with four teeth and posterior superior tarsal claw with thirteen

closely set teeth. Length of legs (mm): I, 4.80-6.11; II, 4.25-6.08; III, 5.15-7.36 and IV, 5.30-6.57.

♀: *Abdomen*: length 3.20-4.50 mm, greatest breadth 1.75-2.62 mm; greyish yellow with a median, longitudinal dark band having a median brownish-black stripe in the anterior half and interrupted with two white spots in the centre and

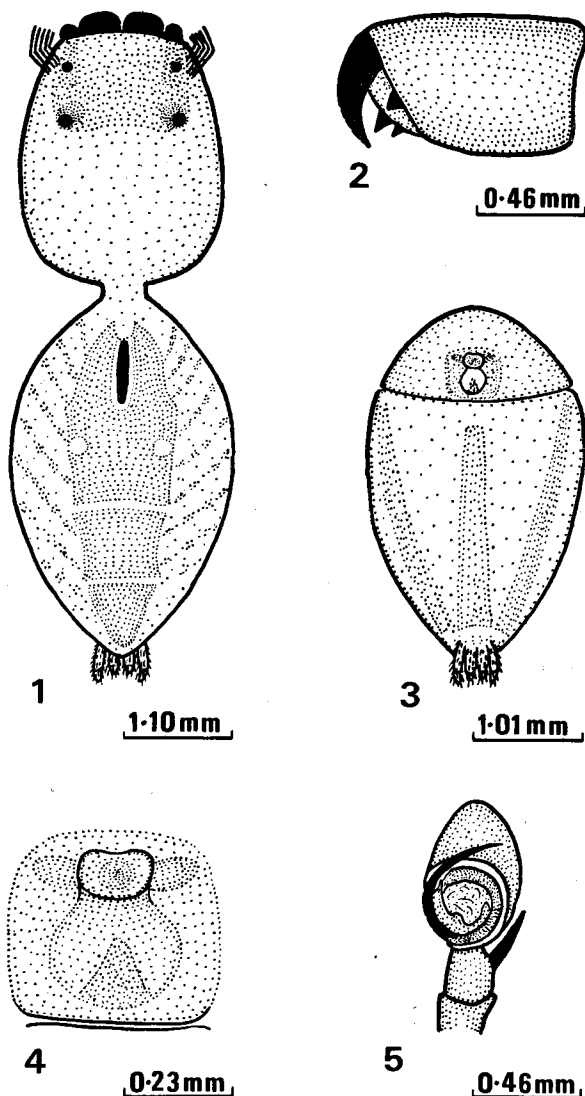


Fig. 1. Dorsal view of the cephalothorax and abdomen.

Fig. 2. Inner view of chelicera.

Fig. 3. Ventral view of abdomen.

Fig. 4. Ventral view of epigynum.

Fig. 5. Ventral view of palpal organ.

two transverse white bands in the posterior half; antero-lateral sides with black stippling. Ventral surface yellowish with three longitudinal brown bands. Posterior spinnerets black, long and slender; anterior spinnerets pale, short and thick. Epigynum as in fig. 4.

♂: *Carapace*: length 2.50-2.68 mm, greatest breadth 2.25-2.50 mm; pale yellow. Ocular area dark brown, with white silky hairs and white eye brow-tufts. Chelicerae, labium and endite dark brown. *Sternum*: brown, thickly covered with setae which give it a darker appearance. *Legs*: dark brown but with pale tarsi and basal part of femora; tibia I and metatarsus I with the same number of ventral spines as in the female but there is an additional spine behind the third pair on tibia I; first pair of legs darker than the others; all the legs with many long black setae and black scopulae; first pair of legs stouter than the second but both more robust than the rear two pairs. *Palps*: brown, tibia provided with a tibial spur at the outer antero-lateral margin; *Cymbium*: cup-shaped embolus circular and coiled, other sclerites of the genital bulb fused to form a saccular structure.

♂: *Abdomen*: length 2.68-3.06 mm, greatest breadth 1.31-1.81 mm; dorsum with pale spots and transverse bands in contrast to white of female. Ventral surface with a longitudinal brown band having a median dark stripe. Similar to female in other characters.

Total length: ♀ 5.45-7.43 mm, ♂ 4.75-5.18 mm.

Holotype: ♀ citrus orchard, Punjab Agricultural University, about 7 km south of Ludhiana, Punjab,

India, collected by the authors on 14 March 1972.

Allotype: ♂, collection data as for holotype.

Paratypes: 5 ♀♀ and 4 ♂♂ collection data as for holotype. Two specimens (♂ & ♀) with Dr. B. K. Tikader, Deputy Director, Western Regional Station, Zoological Survey of India, Poona.

Types will be deposited in the National Collection of the Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta.

Occurrence: Between the leaves of *Citrus sinensis* Osbeck.

Remarks

The present species can be distinguished from *Marpissa tigrina* Tikader in the following respects:

1. The carapace is without U-shaped black-brown marking
2. The ocular area is provided with eye-brow tufts being bent at an angle of 120°
3. The first two pairs of legs are more robust than the rear two pairs
4. The pattern on the abdomen is quite different and the structure of the genitalia also varies.

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References

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