

## A New *Eilica* from India (Araneae, Gnaphosidae)

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Through the courtesy of Dr B. K. Tikader and Mr U. A. Gajbe of the Zoological Survey of India, I have recently had the opportunity of examining the first specimens of *Eilica* to be found in Asia; the genus was formerly known only from America, Africa, and Australia (Platnick, 1975). The biogeographic considerations which led to the discovery of the specimens are being discussed elsewhere (Platnick, in press); this note includes a description of the new species and some comments on its possible relationships.

The Asian species has two translucent laminae on the cheliceral retromargin; of the previously described forms, only the Australian *Eilica serrata* Platnick also has two (rather than three) retromarginal laminae. However, unlike *E. serrata*, where the two laminae are

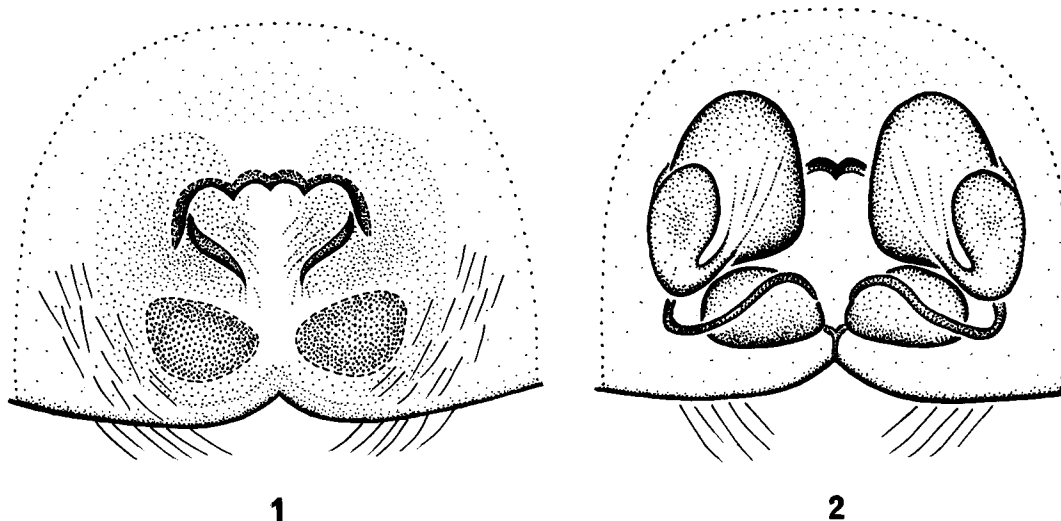
widely separated by a concavity, the laminae of the new species are contiguous and fused at their base; thus, this character may not even be homologous, much less synapomorphic, in the two species. The transverse anterior margin of the epigynum (Fig. 1) resembles that of the South American *Eilica uniformis* (Schiapelli and Gerschman), but the anteriorly situated and broken epigynal bar and the medially inflated but laterally narrowed spermathecal ducts (Fig. 2) are characters found in no other known *Eilica*.

Additional species of *Eilica* will probably be found in India, and possibly in south-east Asia as well, but until males are known from both Asia and Africa the intercontinental relationships of *Eilica* will remain obscure.

The format of the description follows that of Platnick (1975); the illustrations are by Dr Mohammad U. Shadab.

### *Eilica tikaderi*, new species

*Type*: Female holotype from Pashan, Poona, Maharashtra, India (28 October 1974, U. A. Gajbe), deposited in the National Zoological Collection, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta.



Figs 1 - 2: *Eilica tikaderi* new species. 1 Epigynum, ventral view; 2 Vulva, dorsal view.

*Etymology:* The specific name is a patronym in honour of Dr B. K. Tikader, in recognition of his numerous contributions to Asian arachnology and of his assistance in obtaining the type specimens.

*Diagnosis:* *Ellica tikaderi* may be easily distinguished from the other known *Ellica* by the basal spermathecal ducts being divided into globose median and tubular lateral portions (Fig. 2).

*Male:* Unknown.

*Female:* Total length 5.90, 7.27 mm. Carapace 2.45, 2.85 mm long, 2.25, 2.32 mm wide. Femur II 1.69, 1.85 mm long (two specimens). Carapace dark brown with black reticulations; abdomen uniformly dark grey; legs light brown with femora darkest. Eye sizes and inter-distances (mm): AME 0.12, ALE 0.14, PME 0.10, PLE 0.14; AME-AME 0.10, AME-ALE 0.04, PME-PME 0.16, PME-PLE 0.11, ALE-PLE 0.11. MOQ length 0.32 mm, front width 0.34 mm, back

width 0.35 mm. Epigynum with transverse anterior margin invaginated medially, curved posteriorly at sides; V-shaped bar situated anteriorly, broken at base (Fig. 1). Spermathecae with basal ducts divided into wide median and narrow lateral portions, small dorsal lobe, and large ventral lobe (Fig. 2). Leg spination: tibiae: I v2-2-2; II v1r-2-2; IV v1p-2-2.

*Material examined:* India: Maharashtra: Range Hill, Poona, 14 October 1974 (U. A. Gajbe, Zoological Survey of India), 1♀.

## References

- PLATNICK, N. I. 1975: A revision of the spider genus *Ellica* (Araneae, Gnaphosidae). *Am. Mus. Novit.* 2578: 1-19.
- PLATNICK, N. I., in press: Drifting spiders or continents?: Vicariance biogeography of the spider subfamily Laroniinae (Araneae, Gnaphosidae). *Syst. Zool.* (in press).