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A new species of spider of the genus *Eilica* (Gnaphosidae) from India

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The spiders of the family Gnaphosidae are little known from India. The genus *Eilica* Keyserling was recently described by Platnick (1976) from India, and a second Indian species is described here.

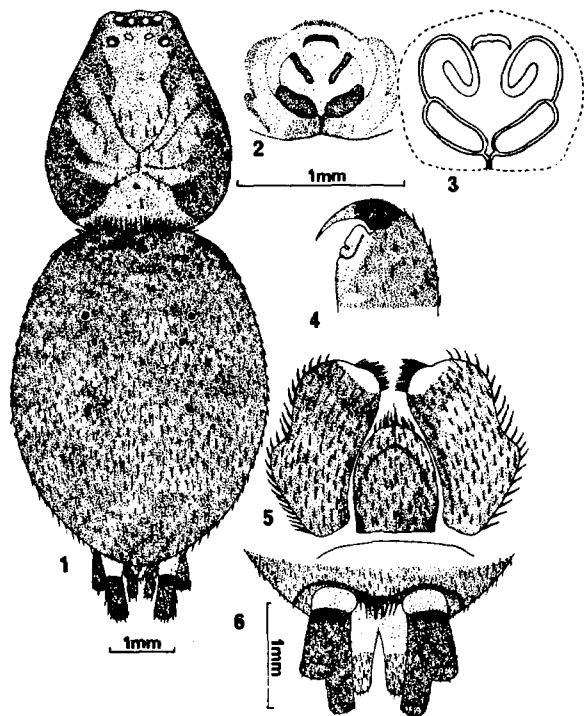
The type specimen will be deposited in the National Zoological Collections, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta.

The authors are grateful to Dr N. I. Platnick, The American Museum of Natural History, New York for help with literature on Gnaphosidae. The species is named after Dr Platnick, a well known arachnologist, as a token of the high regard which the present authors have for him.

Eilica platnicki sp.nov.

General: Cephalothorax dark brown with black reticulations; legs light brown; abdomen uniformly dark grey. Total length 9.0 mm; carapace 3.5 mm long, 3.0 mm wide; abdomen 5.5 mm long, 4.0 mm wide.

Cephalothorax: Longer than wide, oval, narrowing in front, flattened, posteriorly provided with a conspicuous fovea, clothed with hairs. Eyes pearly white except the anterior medians; posterior row of eyes longer than the anterior row. Anterior row of eyes slightly procurved (as seen from in front), circular, medians slightly smaller than the adjacent laterals and a little closer to laterals than to each other. Posterior row of eyes slightly recurved, medians elliptical, smaller than laterals and a little closer to adjacent laterals than to each other. Median ocular area longer than wide, and wider behind than in front. Chelicerae each with two translucent laminae which are contiguous, dissimilar in size and fused at their bases as in Fig. 4. Maxillae long, strongly convergent, labium elongate, clothed with hairs, shape as in Fig. 5. Sternum oval, pointed behind, clothed with hairs. Legs strong, clothed with hairs and some spines. Leg formula 4123.



Figs. 1-6: *Ellica platnicki* sp. nov.

1 Dorsal view of female, legs omitted; 2 Epigyne (ventral view); 3 Vulva (dorsal view); 4 Left chelicera; 5 Labium and maxillae; 6 Spinnerets.

Abdomen: Longer than wide, widest at middle and narrowing posteriorly, clothed with hairs and provided with three pairs of sigilla as in Fig. 1. Ventral side same colour as dorsal. Epigyne with transverse anterior margin invaginated medially, curved posteriorly at sides, as in Fig. 2. Vulva as in Fig. 3. Spinnerets prominent, anteriors widely separated, posteriors longer than others as in Fig. 6.

Holotype: Female, *paratype* two females in spirit.

Type-locality: Vishrantwadi, Poona, Maharashtra, India. Coll. U. A. Gajbe, 4 February 1976.

This species closely resembles *Ellica tikaderi* Platnick but differs from it as follows: (i) Posterior spinnerets longer than the anterior spinnerets; in *E. tikaderi* posterior spinnerets same size as anterior spinnerets. (ii) Epigyne and vulva structurally different.

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