

**REDESCRIPTION OF A LESSER KNOWN JUMPING SPIDER  
*Tamigalesus Munnaricus* ZABKA (ARANEAE: SALTICIDAE)  
COLLECTED FROM KERALA, INDIA**

**\*<sup>1</sup>Padayatty Davis Samson and <sup>2</sup>P.A. Sebastian**

<sup>1,2</sup>Department of Zoology, Sacred Heart College, Thevara, Kochi–682013  
E-mails: <sup>1</sup>samson.davis@rediffmail.com / <sup>2</sup>drpothalil@rediffmail.com

**Abstract:** The jumping spider *T. munnaricus* is known only from the description provided by Zabka (1988) from Sri Lanka. After that there is no report on this species. This paper provides a redescription along with detailed illustrations of the male *T. munnaricus* collected from Kerala, India.

**Keywords:** Salticidae, Jumping spider, Kerala, India.

### INTRODUCTION

Family Salticidae consists of enormous number of genera; many of them represents with only few or even a single species. Genus *Tamigalesus* is one among them. Zabka (1988) constituted this genus examining the specimens from Sri Lanka; based on the downwardly projected, elongated, and triangular bulbous with three terminal mounds and the double apophyses on the patella of the male palpal organ. *T. munnaricus* is the only member of the genus. At present this species is known only from the area of distribution of the type, Sri Lanka. Collection of salticid spiders from different parts of Kerala, India provided few specimens of the male *T. munnaricus*. Detailed description and illustrations are provided here which will be helpful in further studies.

**General characters and diagnostic features of male *T. munnaricus*:** Very small actively jumping, ground dwelling spider in dull pale yellow colouration. Cephalothorax and abdomen roughly spherical, uniformly covered with hairs especially in young and newly moult adults. In older ones the cephalothorax may without hairs and the dark brown carapace remain exposed. A prominently curved male palp having a downward triangular projection with three terminal mounds is the strong diagnostic feature but it is difficult to observe in the field without a microscope.

**Distribution - Sri Lanka, India: Kerala**

**Specimens examined:** 1 ♂♂, 5 - XI - 2006, Achankovil, Pathanamthitta District, 3 ♂♂, 22 – VIII – 2007, Kanjoor, Ernakulam District, Kerala, Collected by Samson Davis.

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***T. munnaricus* - male** (Description based on live specimen)**Measurements:** (in millimeter)**Total length** – 4.28, **Cephalothorax** - maximum length – 1.96, maximum width – 1.35**Abdomen** – maximum length – 2.32, maximum width – 2.24**Diameter of eyes** - AME – 0.30, ALE – 0.16, PME – 0.03, PLE – 0.16**Mutual distance between eyes** – AME : AME – 0.02, ALE : ALE – 1.12, PME : PME – 1.23, PLE : PLE – 1.26, AME : ALE – 0.02, ALE : PME – 0.03, PME : PLE – 0.03

**Cephalothorax:** Swollen, high, thickly covered with small, fine hairs, dull yellow on posterior and lateral parts while dull yellow mixed with light brown on dorsal part. Ocular quadrangle roughly squarish covered with dull yellowish hairs. Anterior margin of it with thick row of moderately long lemon yellow hairs intermingled with few black hairs. Eyes in three rows, AME very prominent, ALE slightly projected outward, little smaller than half the size of AME, PME very small, midway between ALE and PLE, PLE almost equal in size to ALE. First eye row recurved, base of anterior eyes covered with flat orange setae. In older specimens the dark brown carapace may remain exposed. Clypeus narrow, few long black hairs project out from it. Sternum broad heart-shaped plate with scanty white hairs. Chelicera small, few long hairs project forward from the anterior end, with thin curved fangs. Legs slender, elongated, dorsal side of the femera with dull white and light brown hairs.

Palpal organ dark brown in colour, remains curved at patella, a tuft of dull white hairs present at the curve. The prominently curved nature of the male palpal organ is not reported in the description of the type specimen by Zabka (1988). Cymbium roughly triangular in shape, lower end of the bulbous extends downward as an elongated, broad, triangular projection with three mounds at the lower end. Embolus long, slender and curved. Instead of two apophyses as noted by Zabka (1988) in the original description the specimens observed here are only with one curved apophysis on the patella.

**Abdomen:** Spherical, smaller than cephalothorax, uniformly covered with dull pale yellow hairs intermingled with light brown. Faint spots on the dorsum in the posterior half. Spinnerets small, hairy.

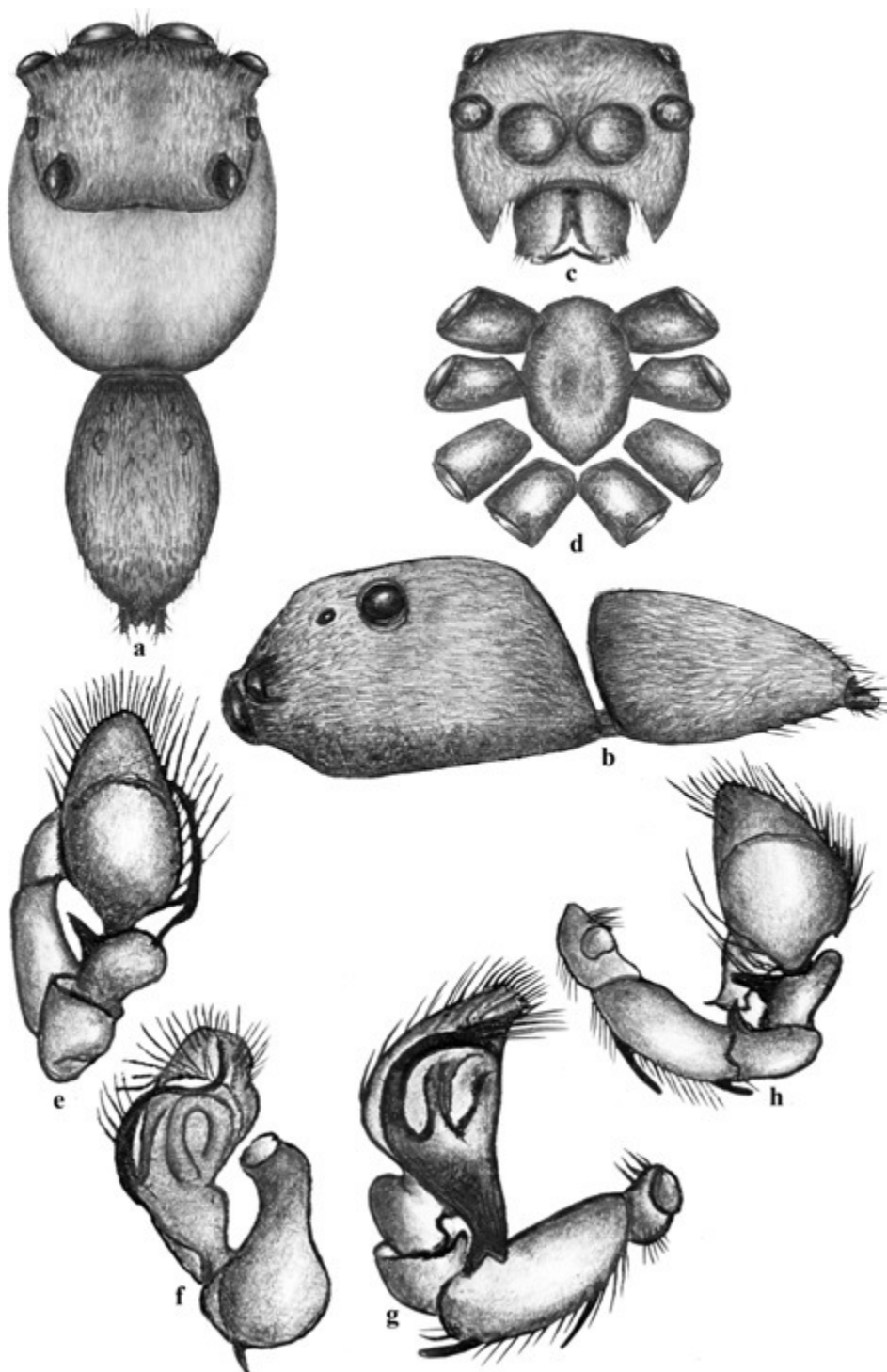
**Natural History:** Actively jumping, ground dwelling spiders living in forests and plains close to hilly areas.

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**References**

- [1] Zabka M., (1988). (*Salticidae (Araneae)* of Oriental, Australian and Pacific Regions III. *Annales zoologici*, Warszawa, 41 (14): 468-469.



**PLATE I:** *Tamigalesus munnaricus* - male  
 a- dorsal view, b- lateral view, c- frontal view, d- sternum  
**Palpal organ:** e- dorsal view, f- ventral view, g&h-lateral views