

NEW RECORD OF THE JUMPING SPIDER *Curubis tetrica* Simon, 1902 (ARANEAE: SALTICIDAE) FROM INDIA

*¹Padayatty Davis Samson and ²Pothalil Antony Sebastian

¹Associate Professor, ²Associate Professor (Rtrd),
Department of Zoology, Sacred Heart College,
Thevara, Kochi-682013

E-mails: ¹samson.davis@rediffmail.com (*Correspondent Author)
²drpothalil@rediffmail.com

Abstract: The salticid spider *Curubis tetrica* known only from Sri Lanka was collected from different parts of Kerala state, India. This paper provides a detailed description of the male along with illustrations and brief note on its natural history.

Keywords: *Curubis tetrica*, salticidae, jumping spider, Kerala, India.

INTRODUCTION

Curubis is a genus originally described by Simon in 1902 with *C. erratica* as the type. The genus yet remains with nominal representation. There are only five reported species; three from Sri Lanka, one from India and one unnamed from Indonesia. Generally very small salticids with dull brown or beige body colouration. Palps stumpy with a comparatively broad palpal organ having a complex structure. Bulbus covered with a flat plate; usually a lobe-like conductor and a small conical embolus appear as projected out from the plate over the bulbus. Zabka (1988) provided a description and illustrations of *C. tetrica* from Sri Lanka.

Curubis tetrica Simon, 1902

General characters and diagnostic features: Very small spiders in dull sandy yellow colouration. Usually found on tree trunks. Clypeus and dorsal surface of the tibia of male palps with thick tuft of long white hairs.

Distribution: India: Kerala, Sri Lanka

Specimens examined: 3 ♂♂ Kadavanthra, Ernakulam District, Kerala 14 - V - 2007, 2 ♂♂, 18 - IV - 2008, Kanjoor, Ernakulam District, Kerala and 2 ♂♂, 4 - X - 2008, Palaruvi, Kollam District, Kerala. Collected by Samson Davis.

***Curubis tetrica* – Male:** (Description based on live specimen)

Measurements: (all in millimeter)

Total length – 3.9

Cephalothorax - maximum length – 1.64, maximum width – 0.85

Received Mar 21, 2014 * Published April 2, 2014 * www.ijset.net

Abdomen – maximum length – 2.26, maximum width – 1.63

Diameter of eyes - AME – 0.25, ALE – 0.12, PME – 0.03, PLE – 0.11

Mutual distance between eyes – AME : AME – 0.02, ALE : ALE – 0.48, PME : PME – 0.58, PLE : PLE – 0.76, AME : ALE – 0.02, ALE : PME – 0.03, PME : PLE – 0.03

Cephalothorax: High, roughly convex with forwardly arching ocular quadrangle and abruptly sloping thoracic region. Uniformly and completely covered with dull sandy yellow and dark orange small hairy setae; providing a dull colouration which perfectly matches with the tree bark. Ocular quadrangle little broader than long, with black skin usually covered completely with hairs in a combed pattern. Eyes black in colour, anterior row only slightly recurved, consists of AME and ALE. ALE about half the size of AME. PLE equal to ALE. PME minute, midway between ALE and PLE. Few stiff, small black hairs project forward from the first row of eyes and lateral sides of the ocular quadrangle. In between AME a tuft of pale yellow hairs present. Clypeus broad about a width equal to the diameter of AME thickly covered with long white hairs directed towards the middle line of the clypeus. A broad patch of white hairs extend downward covering the chelicerae. Tuft of white hairs also present on dorsal side of the tibia of palps. Labium small triangular plate with scopulae at the tip. Maxillae roughly triangular covered with hairs and scopulae along anterior margin. Chelicerae moderately elongated, black with small curved dark brown fangs. Sternum broad, moderately convex, anteriorly truncated plate, black in colour and richly covered with pale yellow, thick hairs. Legs small, stumpy, comparatively thick, covered dorsally with hairs similar to general body surface. Tips of leg segments dark brown in colour providing a banded appearance. Ventral surface especially of basal segments of legs black in colour with scanty pale yellow thick hairs. Pedicel not visible dorsally in living specimens but the separation between cephalothoraxes and abdomen is prominent. Palp small, broad, with complex structure, white tuft of hairs on basal segments, cymbium broad, bulbus flat, embolus small spine-like, tibial apophysis appears as a flat, conical structure.

Abdomen: Small, conical, broadest at anterior end. Thickly covered with hairs similar in colour pattern of the cephalothorax. Stiff curved hairs project out abundantly from the anterior end to the gap between cephalothorax and abdomen. Spinnerets small and hairy. Ventral side of abdomen is also hairy.

Natural History

Commonly found on tree barks, visible only on careful observation due to very small size of the body. Though very small in size the spider often found actively moving around. Males

continuously move the palps having thick white tuft on dorsal side up and down. Rest in narrow crevices of tree bark. Make small thick tubular retreat and lay minute dull yellow eggs.

Acknowledgement

We thank Rev. Fr. Prasant Palackappillil C.M.I., Principal, Sacred Heart College, Thevara for providing the laboratory facilities.

References

- [1] Simon E., (1902). Description d' Arachnides nouveaux de la famille des Salticidae (Attidae) (suite). Annales de la societe entomologique de Belgique, Bruxelles 46: 24–56, 363–406.
- [2] Zabka M., (1988). (Salticidae (Araneae) of Oriental, Australian and Pacific Regions III. Annales zoologici, Warszawa, 41 (14): 446.



Plate - I: *Curubis tetrica*

Male : a - dorsal view, b - lateral view, c - frontal view
Palp: d - dorsal view, e - ventral view, f & g - lateral views