

STUDIES ON SOME JUMPING SPIDERS FROM INDIA (FAMILY—SALTICIDAE)

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INTRODUCTION

PRACTICALLY there was no work in the past on jumping spiders of India, although jumping spiders are abundant throughout the country. Recently, Tikader (1965-67) has published a few papers on this group of spiders.

While studying the jumping spiders of the family Salticidae, I came across several new species of spiders, some of which are described elsewhere. In the present paper I have dealt with jumping spiders of the genus *Rhene* Thorell. This genus is being recorded here for the first time from India. I have described in this paper two new species of jumping spiders.

All type specimens will be in due course deposited in the collection of Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta.

Genus *Rhene* Thorell

1869. *Rhene* Thorell, *Nat. Act. reg. Soc. Sci.*, Upasal, 7 (3) : 37.

1897. *Rhene* Simon, *Hist. Nat. Araig. Paris*, 2 : 641.

Characters.—Cephalothorax wider than long, posterior portion of cephalothorax more wider than anterior; clothed with conspicuous thick hairs. Posterior eyes situated far behind the anterior row of eyes. Small beetle-like spider.

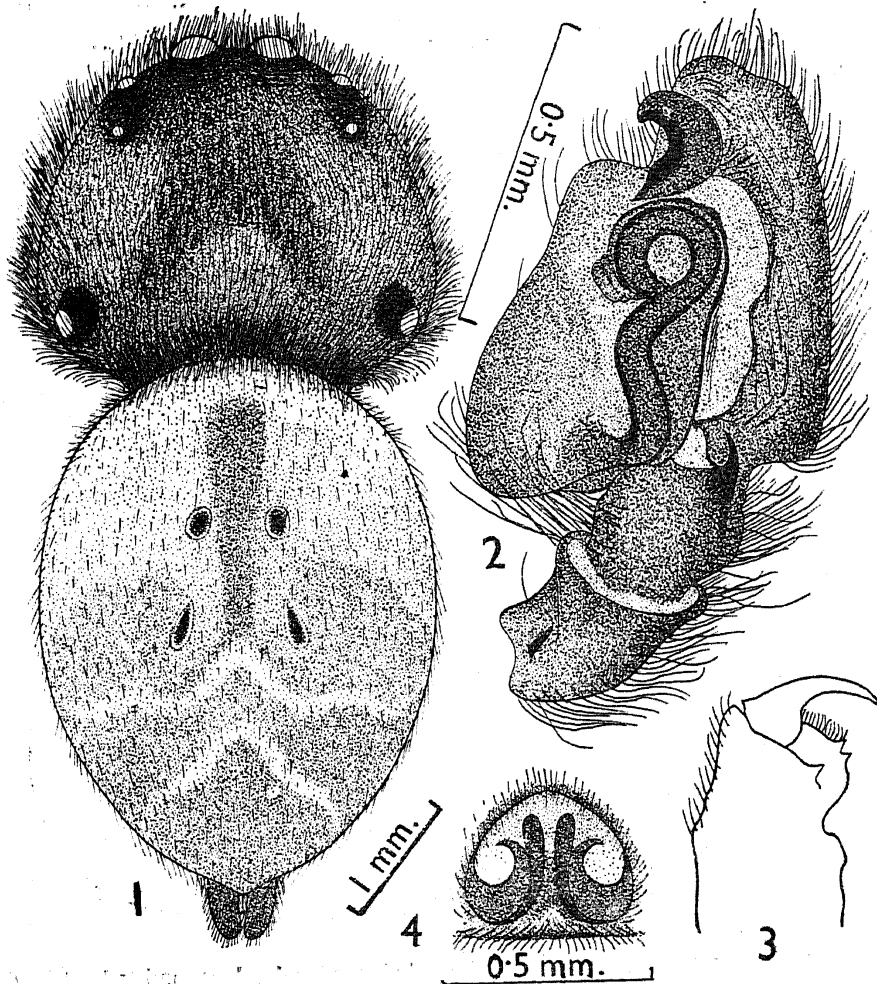
Type.—*Rhene flavigera* Koch.

Distribution.—Africa, Madagascar, Asia, Malaysia, Australia, Central America.

Rhene indicus sp. nov.

General.—Cephalothorax and legs deep brown, abdomen light pale. Male reddish-yellow. Total length 6.20 mm. Cephalothorax 2.20 mm long, 3.00 mm wide; abdomen 4.00 mm long, 3.00 mm wide.

Cephalothorax.—Wider than long, clothed with thick mouse-hairs. Anterior and posterior end slightly narrower than middle. Eyes black but anterior eyes pearly white. Anterior row slightly recurved. Anterior lateral eyes and posterior eyes nearly same size; second pair of eyes very small and situated very near to the anterior lateral eyes. Base of eyes encircled with a black patch. Chelicerae with a small tooth on inner margin and two more small teeth on the outer margin. Male chelicerae as in Fig. 3. Sternum nearly oval, narrowing in front clothed with thick hairs. Male legs short and robust, clothed with hairs. First pair of legs conspicuously stout and dorsal side of femur bulging prominently. Ventral side of tibiae of I legs provided with scopulae-like hairs. Tibiae and metatarsi I and II provided with two pairs of ventral spines.



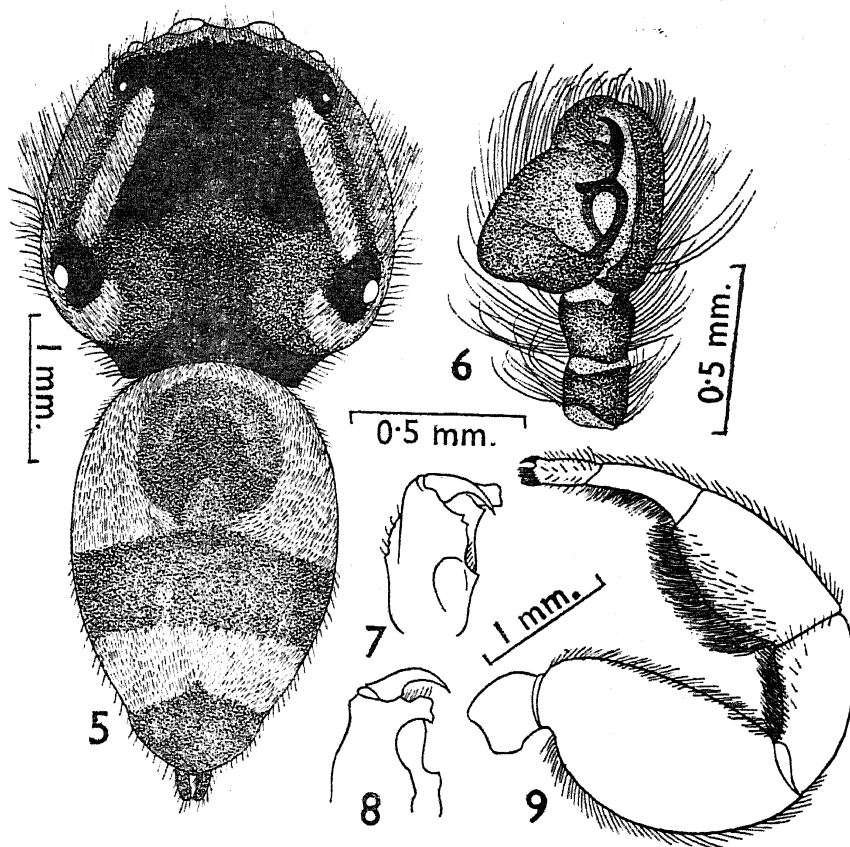
FIGS. 1-4. *Rhene indicus* sp. nov. Fig. 1. Dorsal view of female, legs omitted. Fig. 2. Male palp. Fig. 3. Chelicera of male. Fig. 4. Epigyne.

Abdomen.—Short, longer than wide, narrowing behind; clothed with fine pubescence and erected black hairs. Dorsum provided with two pairs of depression spots (as in Fig. 1). Ventral side uniform pale white, clothed with fine hairs. Male abdomen dorsally decorated with white and red hairs. Epigyne as in Fig. 4.

Holotype.—One female, *paratype* two females, *allotype* one male in spirit.

Type-locality.—Punjab Agriculture University compound, Ludhiana, India, Coll. Dr. G. L. Sadhana, 17-2-1972.

This species resembles *Rhene sulfurea* Simon but it is separated as follows: (i) Anterior row of eyes slightly recurved but *R. sulfurea* anterior row of eyes straight. (ii) Epigyne and male palp also structurally different.



FIGS. 5-9. *Rhene danieli* sp. nov. Fig. 5. Dorsal view of male, legs omitted. Fig. 6. Male palp. Fig. 7. Chelicera of male, inner view. Fig. 8. Chelicera of male, outer view. Fig. 9. Lateral view of 1st leg.

Rhene danieli sp. nov.*

General.—Cephalothorax, legs and abdomen deep to light brown. Total length 5·10 mm. Cephalothorax 2·20 mm long, 2·50 mm wide; abdomen 3·00 mm. long, 2·00 mm wide.

Cephalothorax.—Wider than long, clothed with thick mouse-hairs. Anterior and posterior end slightly narrower than middle. Eyes black but anterior median eyes milk-white. Anterior row slightly recurved and short. Anterior lateral eyes and posterior eyes nearly same size; second pair of eyes very small and situated very near to the anterior lateral eyes. Base of eyes encircled with a black patch. Posterior eyes situated far behind the anterior group of eyes. Cephalothorax provided with a broad longitudinal black or deep brown patch extending from anterior eyes to base of the cephalothorax. A conspicuous track-like marking from second row of eyes to posterior eyes as in Fig. 5. Chelicerae with a small tooth on inner margin and two big peculiar teeth on the outer margin (Figs. 7, 8). Sternum nearly oval, narrowing in front. Legs short and robust clothed with hairs, I pair of legs conspicuously stout and dorsal side of femur bulging prominently as in Fig. 9. Ventral side of tibiae of I legs provided with scopulae-like hairs. Tibiae and metatarsi I and II provided with two pairs of ventral spines.

Abdomen.—Short, longer than wide, narrowing behind, clothed with fine hairs. Dorsum decorated with transverse white and brown bands. Ventral side uniform pale or brown. Male palp as in Fig. 6.

Holotype.—One male in spirit.

Type-locality.—Borivili, Bombay, India. Coll. J. C. Daniel, 16-8-1972.

This species resembles *Rhene indicus* sp. nov. but it is easily separated as follows : (i) Structure and colour pattern of cephalothorax and abdomen different. (ii) Epigyne and male palp also structurally different.

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* It is with much pleasure that I name this species after Shri J. C. Daniel, Curator, Bombay Natural History Society, who kindly collected this spider for my study.

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