SOME SPIDERS OF THE GENUS *Xysticus* 
(FAMILY: THOMISIDAE) FROM DARJEELING, INDIA

B. K. Tikader* and Bijan Biswas†

MS received 3 August 1974

(Communicated by Dr. T. S. Mahabale, F.A.S.C.)

INTRODUCTION

Spiders of the family Thomisidae in India have not received much attention in the past. *The Fauna of British India, Arachnida* by Pocock (1900) contains no reference to this family. Recently, Tikader (1960–1971) described seventy-one species of Thomisid spiders from India.

While examining the spider collection made by one of us (BB) from Darjeeling, West Bengal, we came across three new species of spiders of the genus *Xysticus*, which are described in this paper.

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

*Xysticus bengalensis* sp. nov.

*General*—Cephalothorax light to deep brown, legs green, abdomen light brown. Total length 3.00 mm. Carapace 1.30 mm long, 1.10 mm wide; abdomen 1.80 mm long, 1.50 mm wide.

*Cephalothorax*—Nearly as long as wide, broader in front, clothed with spine-like hairs. Eyes round, black and ringed with dirty white tubercles; ocular quad slightly longer than wide narrowing in front. Both rows recurved but posterior row strongly recurved. Lateral eyes larger and conspicuous. Legs strong and stout clothed with spines and hairs, I and II pairs of legs darker in colour and stronger than III and IV. Tibae and metatarsi of I and II provided with two pairs of ventral spines. Sternum heart-shaped, pointed behind, clothed with fine hairs. Male nearly the same colour as female; male palp as in text-figure 4.

---

* Zoological Survey of India, Poona.
† Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta.
Some Spiders of Genus Xysticus from Darjeeling


Abdomen—Longer than wide, broader in behind the middle, clothed with conspicuous hairs and spine-like hairs. Anterior dorsal side provided with two longitudinal deep brown marks, followed by three transverse deep brown incomplete bands as in text-figure 1. Ventral side pale colour with deep brown dots as in text-figure 2. Epigyne as in text-figure 3.

Holotype—One female, allotype two males in spirit.


This species is closely related to X. minutus Tikader, but differs as follows: (i) Abdomen provided with two longitudinal deep brown marks on anterior dorsal side followed by three transverse deep brown incomplete bands, but in X. minutus abdomen light brown with dentated bands beautifully coloured with admixture of white, dark brown and red. (ii) Male palp and female epigyne also structurally different.

Figures 9, 10. *Xysticus kali* sp. nov. (9) Dorsal view of male, legs omitted, (10) Male.
Xysticus himalayaensis sp. nov.

General—Cephalothorax and legs pale green, abdomen whitish. Total length 2.10 mm. Carapace 1.00 mm long, 0.80 mm wide; abdomen 1.10 mm long, 1.00 mm wide.

Cephalothorax—Slightly longer than wide, broader in front and high, clothed with spine-like hairs. Eyes black and tuberculated, ocular quad longer than wide, narrowing in front. Both rows recurved but posterior row strongly recurved. Anterior lateral eyes larger than others. Both lateral eyes nearly contiguous. Legs strong, stout and clothed with hairs and conspicuous spines. Tibae and metatarsi provided with two pairs of long conspicuous ventral spines. I and II pair of legs long and stronger than III and IV. Sternum heart-shaped, pointed behind, clothed with fine hairs. Male nearly same colour and size as female. Male palp as in text-figure 8.

Abdomen—Nearly oval, slightly longer than wide, clothed with fine hairs and some spine-like hairs. Anterior dorsal side of abdomen provided with two longitudinal dark and chalk white bands followed by three transverse dark brown and chalk white incomplete bands as in text-figure 5. Ventral side white, lateral side provided with a conspicuous longitudinal deep brown bands and posterior ventral side provided with 'V'-shaped marking as in text-figure 6. Epigyne as in text-figure 7.

Holotype—One female, paratype one female, allotype three immature males and one mature male in spirit.


This species is close to X. bengalensis sp. nov. but differs as follows: (i) Cephalothorax light green colour but in X. bengalensis sp. nov. cephalothorax deep brown colour. (ii) Abdomen also different in colour and pattern of colour. (iii) Epigyne and male palp also structurally different.

Xysticus kali sp. nov.

General—Cephalothorax metallic black, legs green, abdomen brown. Total length 2.50 mm. Carapace 1.10 mm long, 1.10 mm wide; abdomen 1.10 mm long, 1.00 mm wide.

Cephalothorax—Longer than wide, high in front, clothed with black hairs and spines. Eyes black, both rows recurved; ocular quad nearly as
long as wide. All eyes tuberculated but lateral eyes prominently tuberculated. Legs strong and stout, clothed with spines and hairs. I and II pair of legs stronger than III and IV. Tibae and metatarsi of I and II legs with two pairs of ventral spines respectively. Extreme end of the I and II pair of legs provided with conspicuous black band. Sternum heart-shaped, deep shiny brown coloured with fine hairs. Male palp as in text-figure 10. Female cephalothorax is slightly light metallic black in colour than male and legs comparatively shorter than male.

Abdomen—Longer than wide, clothed with fine hairs and spines. Anterior portion of abdomen provided with a semi circular chalk white markings as in text-figure 9. Posterior portion of abdomen provided with an inconspicuous dark band as in text-figure 9. Ventral side light coloured with a broad longitudinal brown bands extending from epigastric fold to nearly the base of spinnerets.

Holotype—One male, paratype two males, allotype one immature female in spirit.


This species somewhat resembles X. bengalensis sp. nov. but is different as follows: (i) Cephalothorax of male metallic black but in X. bengalensis cephalothorax of male only deep brown. (ii) Markings of abdomen also different. (iii) Male palp and female epigyne also structurally different.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The illustration used in this paper are prepared by Shri S. Chanda and Shri P. W. Garde, Artist of this station.

REFERENCES


