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A new genus and species of spider of the family Caponiidae from India

B. K. Tikader

Zoological Survey of India
1182/2, Fergusson College Road,
Poona - 411005, India

Spiders of the family Caponiidae have not until now been recorded from India. While examining a spider collection from Maharashtra, I came across a new genus and species of caponiid spider, which is described here. This family is being recorded here for the first time from the Indian sub-continent. The spiders of the family Caponiidae are very rare, small and primitive. So far only six genera are recorded from the world.

I am giving here a key of the known genera of the world and the new genus is also included in this key. These spiders were collected from under the bark of a large tree, *Diospyros malabarica* (Desr.).

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

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on caponiid spiders of the world. The illustrations used in this paper are prepared by Shri S. K. Chanda, artist, to whom thanks are also due.

Key to genera of Caponiidae

1. Anterior metatarsi bearing a translucent keel along ventral line and the tarsus with a translucent apophysis at base 2
- Anterior metatarsi bearing no such ventral keel and the tarsus with no such apophysis at base 4
2. Anterior tarsi with paired translucent laminae below paired claws and replacing the unpaired claw *Nops* McLeay
- Anterior tarsi with unpaired claw present, no such paired laminae 3
3. Cephalothorax ovate, a distinct false suture dividing anterior tarsus into two principal segments of which the distal is much shorter, as in *Nops* *Orthonops* Chamberlin
- Cephalothorax broader, subround, and more depressed; anterior tarsi with several false sutures of which the most distinct is toward the proximal end *Tarsonops* Chamberlin
4. Eyes two *Caponina* Simon
- Eyes more than two 5
5. Eyes eight, anterior tarsi without false suture *Caponia* Simon

- Eyes four, anterior tarsi with false suture 6
 6. Epigastric fold in normal position
 *Nopsides* Chamberlin
 — Epigastric fold far behind the middle of abdomen
 ventrally *Indonops* new genus

Indonops Tikader, new genus

Cephalothorax ovate, narrowing evenly forward, the anterior end obtuse. Just behind the middle of cephalothorax provided with a transverse conspicuous susa like mark. In the case of male, eyes situated just in front of this susa. Eyes four, pearly white and situated in a compact group. Maxillae narrow distally and labium wider than long, nearly triangular and separated from sternum. Sternum nearly triangular or heart-shaped, pointed behind. Very small spider

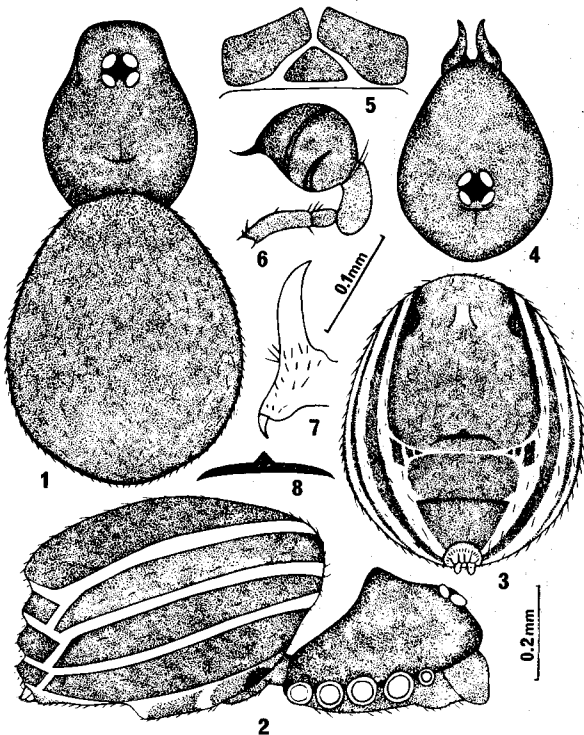
nearly 1 mm long. Epigastric fold situated far behind the middle of abdomen ventrally.

Indonops deccanensis Tikader sp.nov.

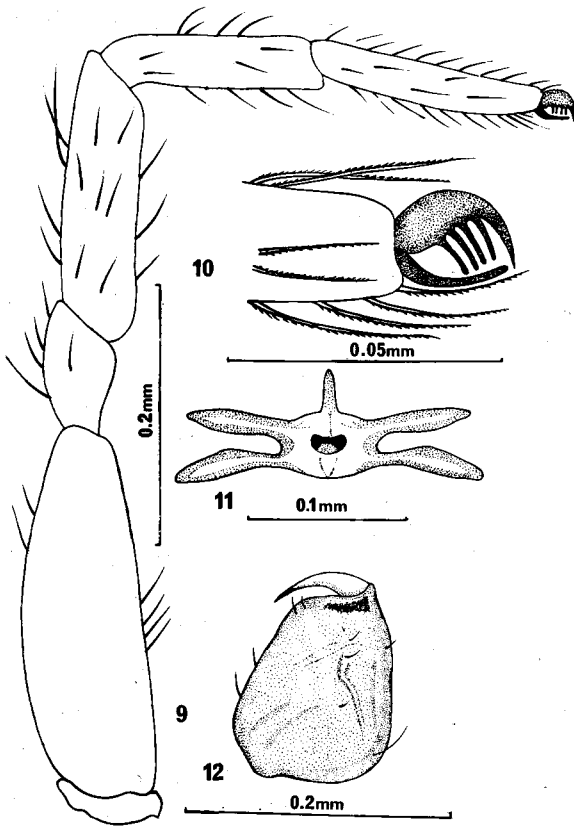
General: Cephalothorax and abdomen reddish-brown, legs brownish-green. Total length 1.00 mm; carapace 0.380 mm long, 0.375 mm wide; abdomen 0.625 mm long, 0.50 mm wide.

Cephalothorax: Longer than wide, narrowing in front and anterior end obtuse. Middle of cephalic region high. Just behind the middle of cephalothorax provided with a conspicuous transverse susa or mark, and behind the susa or mark the thoracic region abruptly sloping down behind as in Fig. 2. Eyes four, elliptical, pearly white, situated in a compact group, all eyes contiguous and middle space provided with conspicuous black patch. Anterior pair of eyes slightly larger than the posterior pair. But in the male, eyes situated behind the middle of cephalothorax, i.e. just in front of transverse susa or mark, as in Fig. 4. Sternum longer than wide, nearly triangular or heart-shaped, pointed behind. Maxillae narrow distally and labium wider than long and nearly triangular in shape, narrowing distally as in Fig. 5. Legs clothed with hairs and few spines, legs formula 1423. Femur of leg I narrow at the anterior end and broader at the posterior end, tarsi provided with strongly curved paired claws bearing four long teeth, and back of the claw with a false suture as in Figs 9-10. Tarsi provided with serrated hairs as in Fig. 10. Male palp as in Fig. 6. Chelicera of male provided with a conspicuous horn-like projection directed forward as in Figs 4 and 7. Chelicera of female simple without any horn and without tooth on the margins of fang, as in Fig. 12. Male and female nearly of same size and colour.

Abdomen: Longer than wide, nearly elliptical in shape, slightly overlapping cephalothorax and clothed with fine pubescence. Lateral side provided with four longitudinal deep brown ridges extending nearly end to end as in Fig. 2. Ventral side slightly less dark than dorsal side. Epigastric fold situated far behind the middle of abdomen ventrally as in Fig. 3. Epigyne simple like a vulva as in Fig. 8, and internal genitalia also very simple, four finger-like tubes as in Fig. 11. Spinnerets very small and arranged in two transverse rows, first line with four spinnerets and second line with two spinnerets as in Figs 2, 3. The internal



Figs 1-8: *Indonops deccanensis* Tikader, sp.nov. 1 Dorsal view of female, legs omitted; 2 Lateral view of female, legs omitted; 3 Ventral view of abdomen of female; 4 Cephalothorax of male; 5 Maxillae and labium of female; 6 Male palp; 7 Chelicera of male; 8 Epigyne.



Figs 9-12: *Indonops deccanensis* Tikader, sp.nov. 9 First leg; 10 Distal end of tarsus of leg I with claw; 11 Internal genitalia; 12 Chelicera of female.

structure of respiratory organs is absolutely lacking in pulmonary sacs. The first pair of epigastric stigmata communicate with the tracheae which consist of a short principal trunk, and branch into fine ramifications in the form of bushes. The second pair of stigmata communicate with the principal branches and run parallel in front of the abdomen.

Type-specimens: Holotype one female, paratypes 33 females, allotypes 15 males in spirit.

Type-locality: Poona University Compound, Poona, Maharashtra, India, Coll. *B. K. Tikader*, 24 September 1974. Other localities: 6 ♀♀, 3 ♂♂, Botanical garden, Fergusson College, Poona, Coll. *M. S. Malhotra*, 4 August 1974; 9 ♀♀, 4 ♂♂, Vetal Hill, Poona, Coll. *M. S. Malhotra*, 1 September 1974; 11 ♀♀, 4 ♂♂, Cantonment, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra, India, Coll. *M. S. Malhotra*, 11 August 1974.

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Erratum

Vol. 3(5) p. 140, line 13. Delete "*E. tuberculata* Oxford"