

A new record of an ant – like Salticid Spider, *Myrmarachne kiboschensis* Lassert, 1925 from Manipur, India

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Abstract

An ant-like Salticid spider, *Myrmarachne kiboschensis* Lassert, 1925 was first recorded from Manipur, India

Keywords: *Myrmarachne kiboschensis*, Manipur, India 1st record.

INTRODUCTION

The Salticids are characterized by their large prominent forwardly directed anterior median eyes accompanied by small anterior lateral eyes, arranged in the front row or in some genera form second row. The two posterior median eyes, smaller than anterior medians form the next row. Two posterior laterals, almost same as anterior laterals constitute the last row. They play an important role in the biological control of insect pests. Internationally, family : Salticidae represents 553 genera with 5025 species, (Siliwal and Molur, 2007). In India, Salticids represented 66 genera with 192 species – (Mathew, M.J, et. al.2009).

The Genus : *Myrmarachne* Macleay 1839, includes ant-like salticids spiders with long and narrow cephalothorax about twice as long as wide with the cephalus raised and squarish. The abdomen is about as long as cephalothorax and can be oval, long and thin often with noticeable waist. Pedicel is visible from above. Legs long, slender, Chelicerae with several teeth in the retromargins. Male palp with swollen tibia and tarsus. This genus has got 200 species, occurring throughout the tropics and one of the most abundant among Salticids. In India, 25 species of *Myrmarachne* had been reported (Siliwal, Molur & Biswas 2005; siliwal & Molur 2007) of which this species *Myrmarachne kiboschensis* is not included. Descriptions and data on this species are very scanty. Only drawing on dorsal view of the habitus of a female *M. kiboschensis* from Zabka, 1985, (Specimen from Vietnam) could be found without description.

The present paper deals with the report of occurrence of *Myrmarachne kiboschensis* Lassert 1925, from Manipur which is the first record of this species in India. Here, we provide the morphological characters along with the photographs.

MATERIALS AND METHOD

Spiders were collected during the UGC sponsored Spider

Project survey trips from different districts of Manipur, the north-eastern most state of India with an area of 22,327 sq. km. The state falls on 92°59'00"E to 94°45'00"E; 23°56'00"N to 25°41'00"N. Specimens were studied and deposited in the Entomology Research Laboratory, P.G. Block Department of Zoology D.M. College of Science, Imphal. Photographs were taken after preserving in 70% alcohol. Measurement of the body parts were taken with a Vernier caliper. All measurements are in mm.

Abbreviation :

fe = femur, pat = patella, tib = tibia, P = prolateral, met = metatarsus, r = retrolateral, d=dorsal v= ventral, mm = millimeter.

Description of male from Imphal West Measurement

Total length – 7.57.

Cephalothorax length – 3.32, wide - 1.43.

Abdomen length – 4.25, wide – 1.31.

Colour in alcohol

Cephalic region black, thoracic reddish brown, abdomen black, chelicera brownish black, eyes black, maxilla-brown, labium-black, legs brown with black lines and black patches except the first legs. Pedipalp brown with black palp region; pedicel light brown below and deep brown above adjacent to cephalothoracic region, sternum yellowish brown, abdomen black, spinnerets black.

Cephalothorax (Plate 1 b)

Cephalic region elevated, roughly rectangular, constriction between cephalic and thoracic regions wide. Eyes (Plate 1 c) black, 8 in number in four rows; anterior medians are large and prominent; labium (Plate 1 e) slightly rounded, 0.42 long, 0.37 wide; scopulae present; maxilla (Plate 1 e) elongated and slightly divergent, longer than wide, (0.50 long, 0.17 wide), scopulae present, numerous on the anterior and lateral sides. Trichobothria present. Chelicerae strong, thick, 2.61 long, more than half of the carapace length, fang toothless, length almost similar to the chelicerae and hooked at the tip, promargin with 5 bigger teeth and retromargin with small regular 11 teeth. Sternum (plate 1 d) smooth, five times longer (1.52 long, 0.29 wide) than wide, broadest between coxa (II) and (III), where the

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carapace is extended, posterior end shortly tapered between coxa (III) and (IV). Legs long, thin, provided with hairs, trichobothria and

spines. Tarsi with black spots, 2 claws with tuft of hairs.



Spinnation of legs

Legs (I) – (fe) – d=1; (pat) – v=1; (tib) – r=5, p=5; (met) – r=2, p=2.
Legs (II) – (fe) – d=1; (pat) – v=1; (tib) – r=5, p=5; (met) – r=2, p=2.
Legs (III) – (fe) – r=1.
Legs (IV) – (fe) – r=1.

Pedipalp (Plate 1 f)

Brownish yellow, apex of the cymbium with an apical spine, embolous long, coiled, distinct, clothed with small hairs laterally, trichobothria are present on tibia, patella and femur.

Measurement of legs segment

Leg	Femur	Patella	Tibia	Metatarsus	Tarsus	Total
I	1.31	0.62	1.61	0.83	0.45	4.82
II	1.21	0.51	0.99	0.72	0.31	3.47
III	1.07	0.56	0.93	0.96	0.32	3.78
IV	1.84	0.73	1.93	1.45	0.52	6.47
Leg formula 4132						
Pedipalp	0.33	0.29	0.30	-	0.32	1.24

Abdomen

Dark-brown, pedicel long, distinctly visible dorsally, longer than wide, 2 segments, greyish brown bounded by dark rims, apical segment longer than second segment, provided with a node-like tubercles on the mid-dorsal end with hairs. 3 pairs of spinnerets, anterior pairs larger, (0.57) long, median short and posterior pair (0.47) long and thin.

Materials Examined

6♂ - Imphal West district – 2005, 27.v.2011, 22.vii.2011, 22.x.2011.
3♂ - Imphal East district - 1.v.2010, 1.vii.2010, 6.ii.2011.

1♂ - Bishenpur district – 14.iv.2010.

Distribution

India : Manipur, (1st record) ; Vietnam.

Habitat

Abundantly found in the wild shrubs near the foot hills, bamboo tree leaves.

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