

**ON TWO NEW SPECIES OF SPIDERS OF THE GENUS *XYSTICUS* KOCH
(ARANEAE : THOMISIDAE) FROM MADHYA PRADESH, INDIA.**

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The spiders of the genus *Xysticus* are very little known in Indian fauna. The genus was established by Koch in 1835, with the type species *Xysticus cristatus* (Clerck). Since the establishment of the genus, Tikader (1980) reillustrated and redescribed fifteen species and one new species from different parts of India in *Fauna of India* series.

While studying the spider collection collected by the second author from different areas of Jabalpur city we came across two new species of the genus *Xysticus* which are described here.

The type specimens will in due course be deposited in the National Collection, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta.

1. *Xysticus jabalpurensis* sp. nov.

General : Cephalothorax, legs and abdomen deep brown. Total length 7.80 mm. Cephalothorax 2.80 mm. long, 2.90 mm. wide; abdomen 4.80 mm. long, 4.50 mm wide.

Cephalothorax : Wider than long, clothed with fine hairs; eyes black, both rows recurved; ocular quad nearly as long as wide. All eyes tuberculated. Sternum heart-shaped, pointed behind, dark brown, provided with fine hairs. Legs long and stout, clothed with spines and hairs. Tibiae and metatarsi of I and II legs with spines.

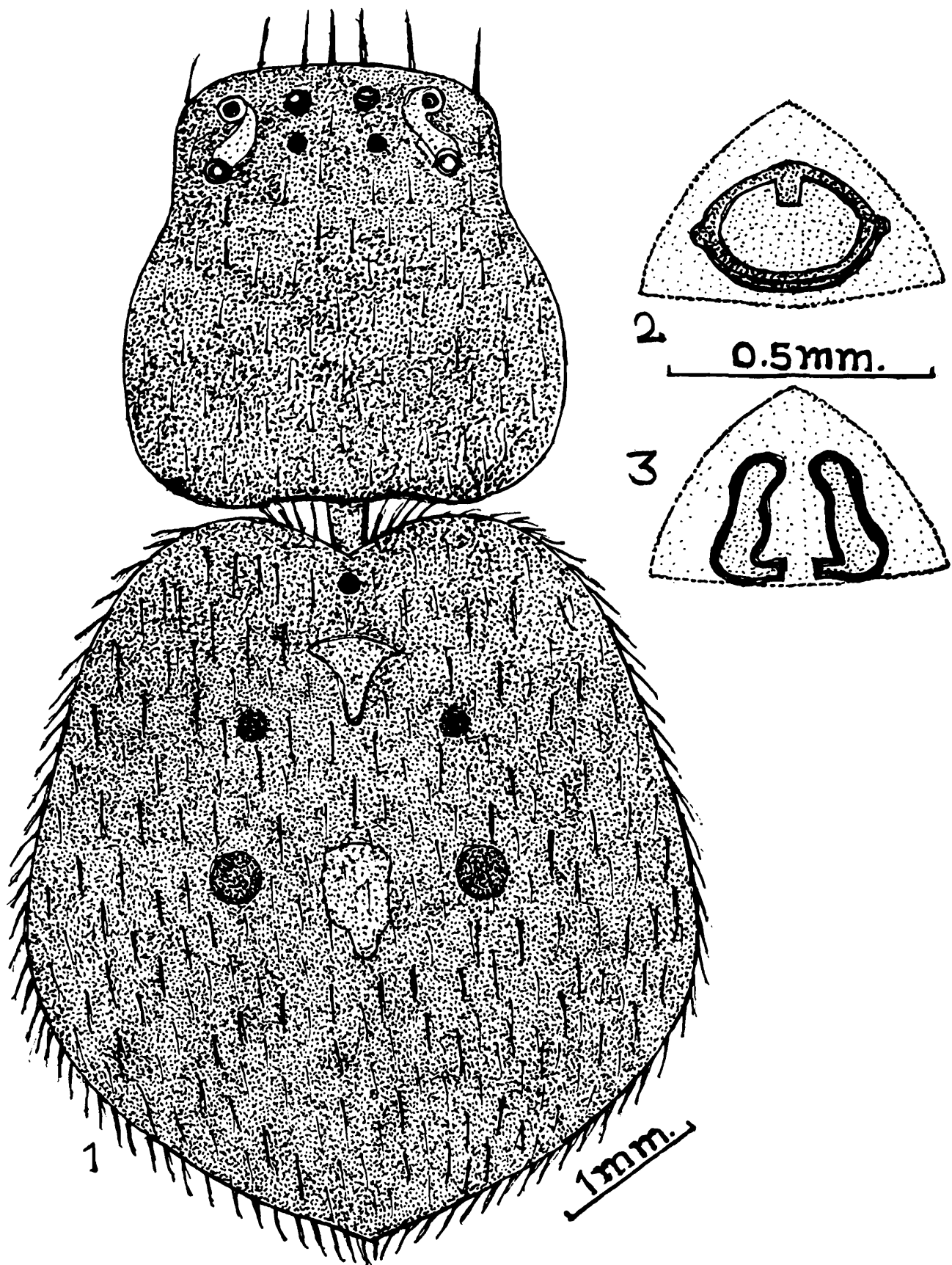
Abdomen : Longer than wide, clothed with fine hairs, broadest in the posterior region, dorsally provided with two pairs of black spots, two light brown patches in the middle, between the black spots, as in figure 1. Ventral side as such as dorsal, without any band. Epigyne as in fig. 2. Internal genitalia as fig. 3.

Type-specimen : Holotype female, in spirit, other details as above.

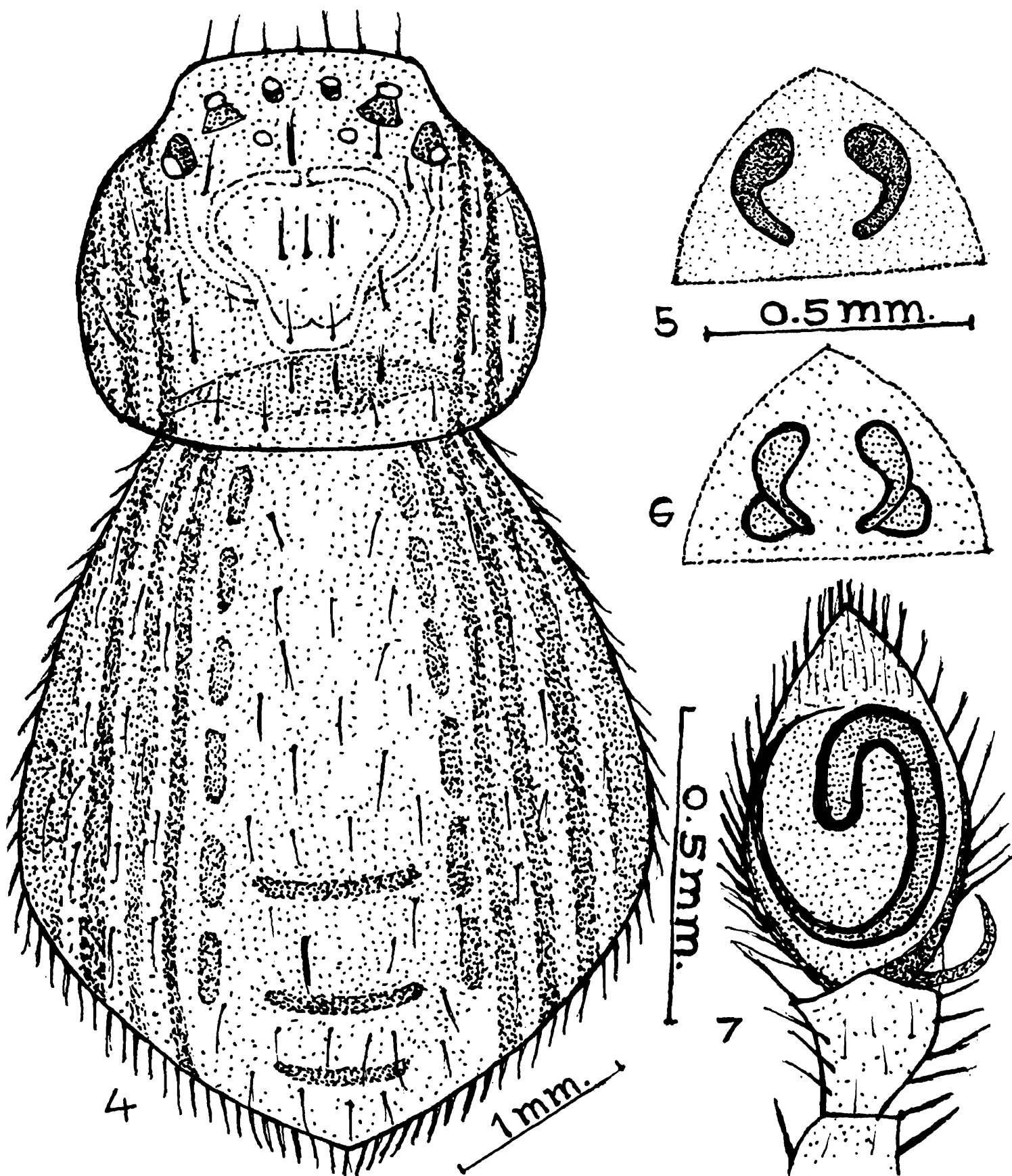
Type-locality : Adhartal, near Jawaharlal Nehru University, Jabalpur, M.P. Coll. Pawan Gajbe, 30.12.1997

This species closely resembles *Xysticus pynurus* Tikader but differs from it as follows : (i) Cephalothorax uniform but in *X. pynurus* cephalothorax, provided laterally with two bands. (ii) Abdomen dorsally provided with four black spots but in *X. pynurus* abdomen provided with paired transverse white lines. (iii) Epigyne also structurally different.

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Figs. 1-3. *Xysticus jabalpurensis* sp. nov.
 1. Dorsal view of female, legs omitted; 2. Epigyne; 3. Internal genitalia.



Figs. 4-7. *Xysticus bhadatae* sp. nov.

4. Dorsal view of female, legs omitted; 5. Epigyne; 6. Internal genitalia; 7. Left male palp, ventral view.

2. *Xysticus bhadatae* sp. nov.

General : Cephalothorax and legs reddish green, abdomen chalk white. Total length 6.00 mm. Cephalothorax 2.10 mm long; 2.50 mm. wide; abdomen 3.80 mm long, 3.50 mm. wide.

Cephalothorax : Wider than long, spined, laterally with three pairs of longitudinal deep brown patches, antero-medially with pear-shaped marking and posteriorly with transverse deep brown patch as in fig. 4. Clypeus median, margin with seven strong spines directed forward. Eyes black, round, ringed with dark green tubercles. Ocular quad slightly wider than long, space of the anterior median eyes a little wider than that of posterior; lateral eyes larger, posterior median eyes larger than the anterior medians. Legs long and strong, clothed with spines and hairs. Male same in colour as female but smaller than female. Male palp as in fig. 7.

Abdomen : Longer than wide, nearly pentagonal, over-lapping the posterior region of cephalothorax, abdomen dorsally provided with four pairs of longitudinal brown bands starting from the anterior end to the posterior end and three transverse bands as in fig. 4. Ventral side slightly lighter than the dorsal, clothed with hairs and spines. Epigyne as in fig. 5. Internal genitalia as in fig. 6.

Type-specimens : *Holotype* female, *allotype* male in spirit, other details as above.

Type-locality : On the bank of Gour river on Jabalpur-Mandla road, Jabalpur, M.P. Coll. Pawan Gajbe, 2.1.1998.

This species resembles *Xysticus minutus* Tikader but differs from it as follows : (i) Cephalothorax light reddish green but in *X. minutus* cephalothorax light brown. (ii) Eyes ringed with dark greenish tubercles but in *X. minutus* eyes ringed with dirty white tubercles. (iii) Cephalothorax with three pairs of longitudinal deep brown patches on lateral sides and posteriorly with transverse deep brown patch but *X. minutes* cephalothorax laterally with broad longitudinal dark brown patches. (iv) Abdomen provided with four pairs of longitudinal brown bands but in *X. minutus* abdomen provided with mid-dorsal brown patches. (v) Epigyne and male palp also structurally different.

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Tikader, B. K. 1980 *Fauna of India, Spiders*, 1(1) : 1-245.