

TAXONOMIC STUDIES OF SOME PHOLCID SPIDERS
FROM INDIA (ARANEAE : PHOLCIDAE)

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INTRODUCTION

Spiders of the family Pholcidae in India have not received much attention in the past. The *fauna of British India, Arachnida* by Pocock (1900) and Dyal (1935) had taken some interest on the pholcid spiders. Recently Tikader (1961-1963), Tikader (1977) and Tikader & Biswas (1981) described and studied on Pholcid spiders. Walckenaer (1805) was the first to observe that the earlier known species *Pholcus Phalangoides* under the family Pholcidae.

Genus *Artema* Walckenaer

1837. *Artema* Walckenaer, *Ins. Apteres*, 1 : 656.

Type species : *Artema mauricia* Walck.

Distribution : Africa, Asia, America, Arabia, India and Malaysia.

Artema atlenta Walckenaer

1837. *Artema atlenta* Walckenaer, *Ins. Apteres*, 1 : 656.

1900. *Artema atlenta* : Pocock, *Fauna Brit. India Arch.*, : 238.

1961. *Artema atlenta* : Tikader, *Rec. Indian Mus.*, 59 : 437.

1981. *Artema atlenta* : Tikader & Biswas, *Rec. zool. Surv. India*, occ. pap. No. 30 : 18.

Specimen examined : 12 ♀ ♀, 13 ♂ ♂, Poona City, Maharashtra, 18.12.1973. coll. B. K. Tikader. 15 ♀ ♀, 7 ♂ ♂, Dhakuria, Calcutta, West Bengal, 10.10.1958. coll. B. K. Tikader. 1 ♀, Sirpur, Saran, Bihar, 1930. coll. Machanzie. 15 ♀ ♀, 8 ♂ ♂, Petrapole, (N), 24 Parganas, West Bengal, 1.4.1984. coll. Bijan Biswas.

Distribution : India : Calcutta, West Bengal ; Travancore, Tamil Nadu ; Poona, Maharashtra ; Punjab.

Genus *Crossopriza* Simon

1893. *Crossopriza* Simon, *Hist. Nat. Araign.*, 1 : 476.

Type species : *Crossopriza pristina* Simon

Distribution : Egypt, Arabia and India.

Crossopriza lyoni (Blackwall)

1867. *Pholcus lyoni* Blackwall, *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.*, 19 (3) : 302.
 1960. *Crossopriza lyoni* : Pocock, *Fauna Brit. India Arach.*, : 240.
 1935. *Crossopriza lyoni* : Dyal, *Bull. zool. Punjab Univ.*, 1 : 162.
 1981. *Crossopriza lyoni* : Tikader & Biswas, *Rec. zool. Surv. India*, oco. pap. No. 30 : 18.

Specimen examined : 12 ♀ ♀, 5 ♂ ♂, Dhosa, Dist. Bhabnagar, Gujarat, 28.12.1973, coll. S. K. Gupta. 15 ♀ ♀, 3 ♂ ♂, Chotonagpur, Dist. Singhbhum, Bihar, 26.1.1955, coll. A. P. Kapoor, 5 ♀ ♀, 2 ♂ ♂, Wadgaon, Gujarat, 15.11.1976. coll. B. Dutta. 2 ♀ ♀, Pali, Jodhpur, Rajasthan, 4.2.1962. coll. A. K. Dutta.

Distribution : India : Calcutta, West Bengal ; Madras, Tamil Nadu ; Allahabad, U. P. ; Punjab ; Rajasthan and Gujarat.

Genus Pholcus Walckenaer

1805. *Pholcus* Walckenaer, *Tabl. Aran.*, : 80.T—8.F—79.

Type species : *Pholcus Phalangoides* Walckenaer

Distribution : Cosmopolitan.

Pholcus kapuri Tikader

1977. *Pholcus kapuri* Tikader, *Rec. zool. Surv. India*, 72 : 165.

Specimen examined : 3 ♀ ♀, 1 ♂, Neil Island, Reserve forest, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, 11.4.1979. coll. B. K. Tikader.

Distribution : Neil Island (Type-locality) Andaman and Nicobar Island.

SUMMARY

130 specimens were examined and identified. Altogether three species and three genera are treated here under the family Pholcidae.

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- Dyal, S. 1935. Spider fauna of Lahore, *Bull. zool. Punjab Univ.*, **1** : 168.
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