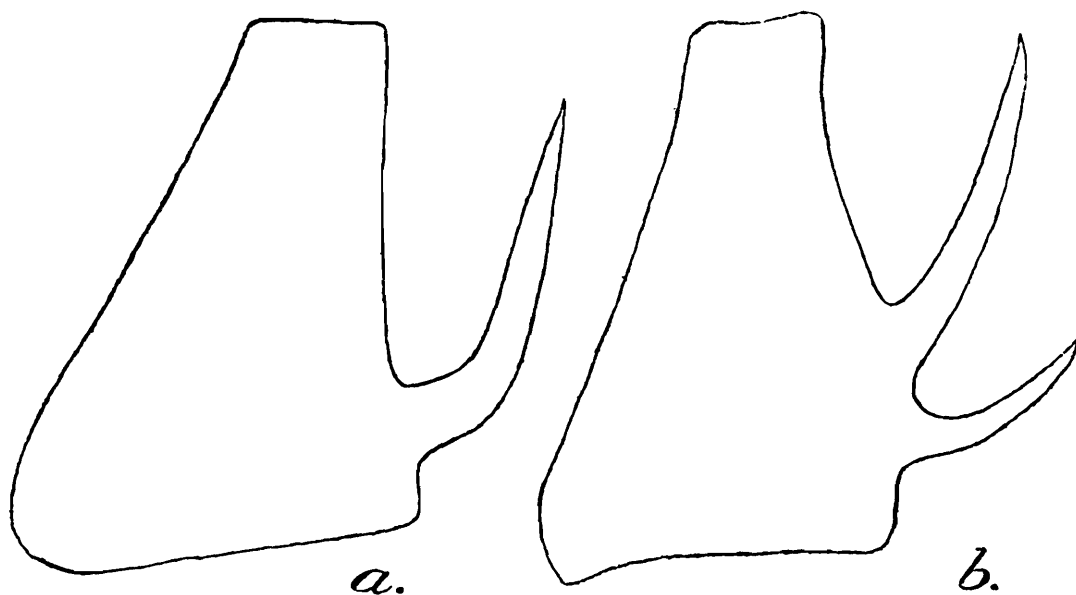


ON A NEW SUB-SPECIES OF *PHRYNICHOSARAX COCHINENSIS*
GRAVELY (PEDIPALPI : TARANTULIDAE).

By K. BHASKARAN NAIR, B.A., *Department of Zoology, Science College,
Trivandrum.*

Phrynichosarax cochinensis was recorded by Gravely in 1915, from the jungles on the lower slopes of the Western Ghats in Cochin and also from the hills near Trichur. All the localities from which the species was then collected are situated in one comparatively small area, but even in this area slight variations were noticed. In August, 1933 I collected two specimens belonging to this species from Kallar, 30 miles to the east of Trivandrum and about 2,000 ft. above sea level. Later I was able to get many more specimens from the same locality and also from the Mookunni Hill (842 ft.) near Trivandrum. They were found in damp places adhering to the under surface of stones and fallen timber. All these specimens showed a marked variation from the typical form. They possessed two conspicuous spines along the dorsal margin of the finger of the arm. I have since examined a large number of specimens and found that this character is constant. Of the two spines the distal



Fingers of *Phrynichosarax cochinensis* Gravely and *P. cochinensis* var. *bispinosus*, nov.

a. *Phrynichosarax cochinensis* Gravely (after Gravely).

b. *Phrynichosarax cochinensis* var. *bispinosus*, nov.

one is longer, about twice as long as the proximal one. The larger spine is bent slightly parallel to the length of the finger. On account of this difference between my specimens and the type, the former may, as was kindly suggested to me by Dr. F. H. Gravely in a letter, be regarded as belonging to a local race for which I propose the sub-specific name *bispinosus*, nov.

REFERENCES.

1915. Gravely, F. H. A revision of the oriental sub-families of Tarantulidae (Order Pedipalpi). *Rec. Ind. Mus.* XI, pp. 433-455, pl. xxxi.
1900. Pocock, R. I. Fauna of British India, "Arachnida."