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Jayaraman Dharmaraj
Department of Zoology,
Bharathiar University,
Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu,
India

Chinnappan Gunasekaran
Department of Zoology,
Bharathiar University,
Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu,
India

Vallavan Rajkumar
Department of Zoology,
Bharathiar University,
Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu,
India

Cheruvorthy Amita Paul
Department of Zoology,
Bharathiar University,
Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu,
India

Corresponding Author:
Jayaraman Dharmaraj
Department of Zoology,
Bharathiar University,
Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu,
India
E-mail: dharmaraj590@gmail.com

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Entomology and Zoology

The first report of the *Cheiracanthium melanostomum* (Thorell, 1895) from the Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu, India

Jayaraman Dharmaraj, Chinnappan Gunasekaran, Vallavan Rajkumar and Cheruvorthy Amita Paul

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Abstract

Sac-spiders (Family: Clubionidae) are one of the common predators of insect pests in the cropfields and gardens. The spider s of the genus Clubiona are practically unknown of the Indian Fauna. Very little in formations are available on this group of spiders in Bangladesh (Chowdhury & Pal, 1984; Biswas, *et. ai.*, 1993; Okuma, *et. al.*, 1993; Begum & Biswas, 1997; Biswas & Raychaudhuri, 1994) although a great number of works took place in Indian Sub-continent and elsewhere (Platnick & Shadab, 1974a, b; Reiskind, 1969; Roberta, 1985; Chen & Zhang, 1989; Koh, 1989; Yaginuma, 1986).

Keywords: Sac spider, predators, pests

Introduction

The specimens were studied in the Department of Zoology, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore. All measurements are in mm by using a Stereo Microscope and DSLR Camera. Spiders to be preserved in rectified spirit with a few drops of glycerin in collection vials.

Type species: *Cheiracanthium melanostomum*

Material Exmined

On 13.09.2019 at during a field visit in Emerald Valley (11.342908° N, 76.598176° E), Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu, India. We observed a live specimen of *Cheiracanthium melanostomum*.

General Description

Cephalothorax yellowish, dorsum convex, anterior part narrower, broadest in the posterior half. Total length of Female 6.12 mm, Carapace length 2.85 mm; carapace width 2.25 mm. Abdomen length 3.95 mm; abdominal width 2.72 mm; Spinnerets yellowish, posterior spinnerets much longer palp tarsal, apophysis slender (Fig 1).

Natural History

This nocturnal spider hides during the day in a silken retreat usually placed on the underside of leaves of broad leafed. Sometimes in dead leaves,

Distribution

India, Bangladesh, Myanmar

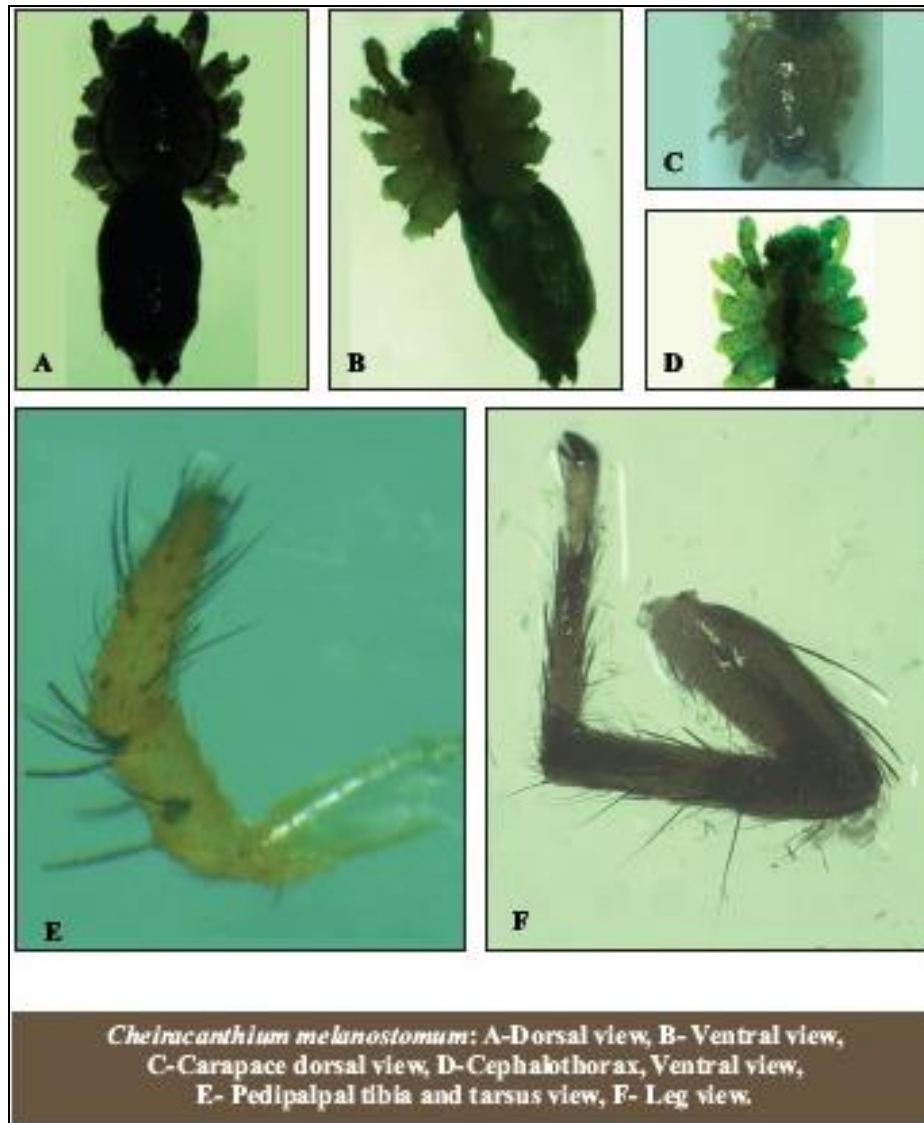


Fig 1: *Cheiracanthium melanostomum*

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