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Entomology and Zoology

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

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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

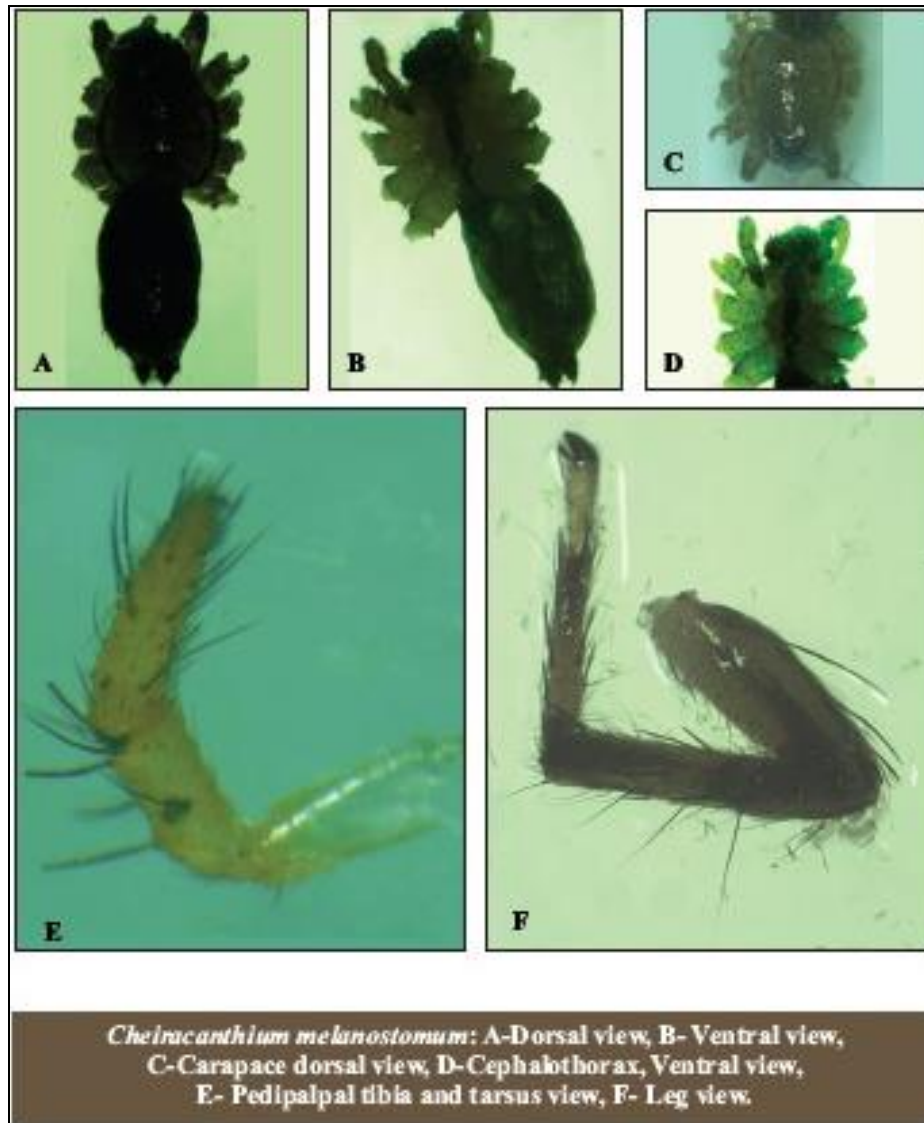


Fig 1: *Cheiracanthium melanostomum*

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