

STUDIES OF SOME RARE SPIDERS OF THE FAMILIES SELENOPIDAE AND PLATORIDAE FROM INDIA

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THE spiders of the family Selenopidae are little known from Indian fauna. The family includes a single genus *Selenops* Latreille, of which about a dozen species are known from America. This is the third species of the family described in this paper from India. The spiders of the family Platoridae are also very little known from our fauna. *The Fauna of British India, Arachneda*, by Pocock (1900) contains two species of the family, namely, *Plator indicus* Simon and *Plator ixodintus* Pocock.

While examining the spider collection from Mysore and Uttar Pradesh, I came across two new species of spiders of the families Selenopidae and Platoridae, which are described in this paper.

All type-specimens will in due course be deposited in the collection of the Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta.

Family SELENOPIDAE

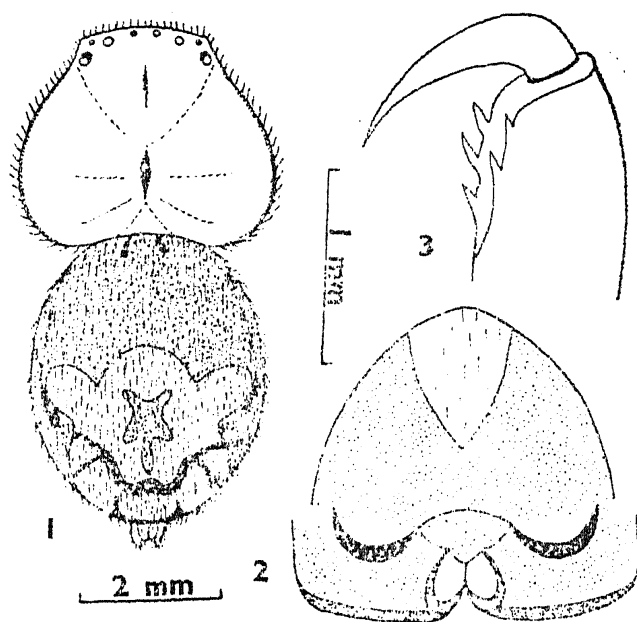
Selenops agumbensis sp. nov.

General.—Cephalothorax and legs green, abdomen brownish-green. Total length 7.00 mm. Carapace 3.10 mm. long, 3.80 mm. wide; abdomen 4.10 mm. long, 3.40 mm. wide.

Cephalothorax.—Wider than long, dorso-ventrally compressed and flat, margin provided with conspicuous spines; cephalic region slightly high, the arrangement of eyes unusual, posterior median eyes moved to a position in front of the posterior lateral eyes and in line with the four anterior eyes; the anterior row may be said, there, to consist of six eyes. Anterior row of eyes recurved, posterior lateral larger and posterior median (situated in front of posterior lateral) smaller. Chelicera prominent, outer row with three and inner row with two teeth (Fig. 3). Sternum nearly circular, clothed with hairs. Legs clothed with hairs and spines, I and II legs longer than III and IV; dorsal side of legs with inconspicuous black transverse bands;

ae of I and II provided with four pairs of ventral spines. Tarsi of all legs provided with prominent clawtufts.

Abdomen.—Longer than wide, dorso-ventrally flat, clothed with prominent thick hairs; dorsally provided with some black markings, as in Fig. 1. Ventral side light colour. Epigyne (Fig. 2).



FIGS. 1-3. *Selenops agumbensis* sp. nov. Fig. 1. Dorsal view of female, legs omitted. Fig. 2. Epigyne. Fig. 3. Chelicera.

Holotype.—One female, in spirit.

Type-locality.—Agumbe Ghat, Dist. Shimoga, Mysore, Coll. B. K. Sader, 15-3-1965.

This species appears to be closely related to *Selenops aissus* from Kerala. However *Selenops agumbensis* differs from *S. aissus* by the structure of the female epigyne. The tibiae of I and II pairs of legs with four pairs of ventral spines but in *S. aissus* the tibiae of I and II pairs of legs with three pairs of ventral spines.

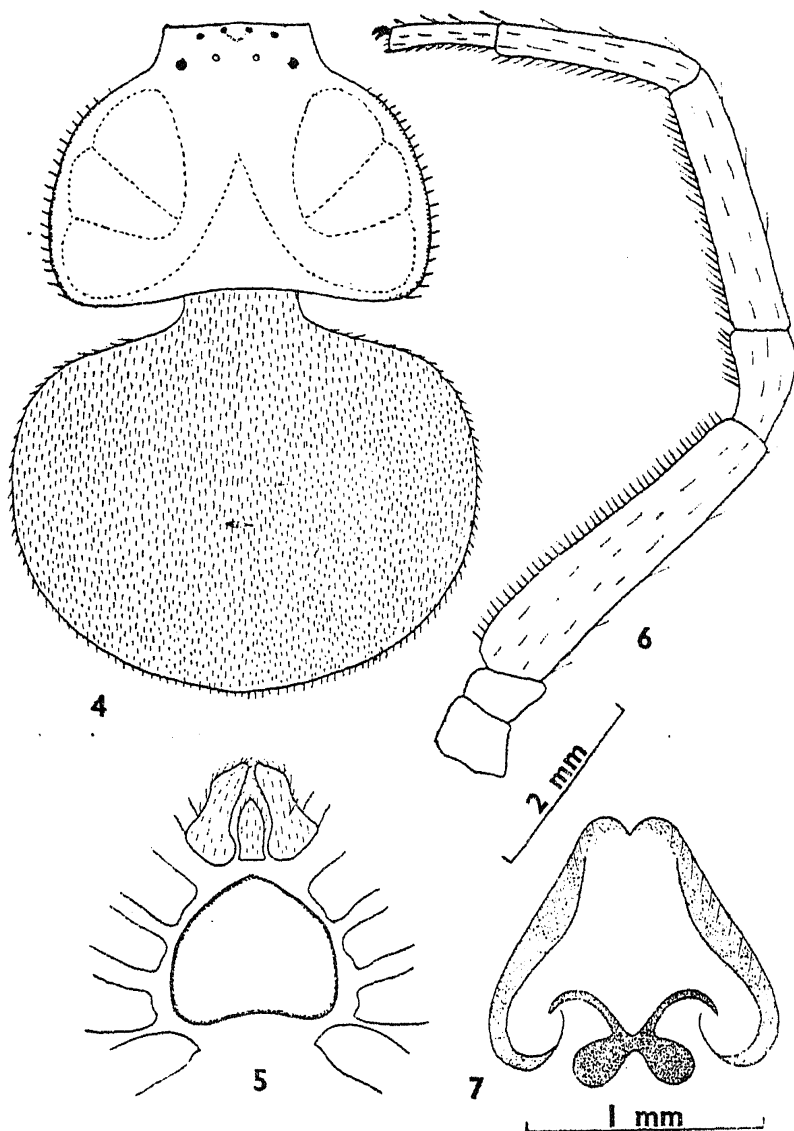
Family PLATORIDAE

Plator pandeae sp. nov.*

General.—Cephalothorax and legs reddish-green, abdomen brownish-green. Total length 6.80 mm. Carapace 2.60 mm. long, 4.20 mm. wide; abdomen 4.00 mm. long, 5.00 mm. wide.

* It is with much pleasure that I name this species after Miss S. Pande, 23, Zero Road, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, who collected these specimens.

Cephalothorax.—Very flat, much wider than long, cephalic region narrow. Lateral margin provided with a row of spines. Eyes eight, in two rows, both rows recurved but anterior row more recurved than posterior row. Posterior lateral eyes larger and black but posterior medians smaller



FIGS. 4-7. *Plator pandeae* sp. nov. Fig. 4. Dorsal view of female, legs omitted. Fig. 5. Sternum, labium and maxilla. Fig. 6. 1st leg. Fig. 7. Epigyne.

and white. Mandibles weakly armed, labium longer than wide. Sternum shorter than the rest, II longest, anterior two legs armed with conspicuous erect spiniform bristles (Fig. 6). Metatarsi without scopulae or unguis tufts.

Abdomen.—Very flat, leaf-like, nearly round, longer than wide; clothed with short thick hairs. Ventral side more lighter than dorsal side. Epigyne as in Fig. 7.

Holotype.—One female *paratypes* three females, in spirit.

Type-locality.—Nainital, Uttar Pradesh, India, Coll. Miss S. Pande, 1st June, 1968.

This species appears to be closely related to *Plator indicus* Simon. However *Plator pandeae* sp. nov. differs from *P. indicus* by the structure of the female epigyne. Abdomen nearly rounded but in *P. indicus* abdomen long or elliptical. Legs without any markings or bands but in *P. indicus* posterior legs with black line running down the middle of patella, tibia and metatarsus.

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