

**FIRST RECORD OF GENUS *SILER* SIMON, 1889  
(ARANEAE: SALTICIDAE) FROM INDIA**Siddharth Kulkarni<sup>1</sup> & Sunny Joseph<sup>2</sup><sup>1</sup> Biome Conservation Foundation, 18, Silver Moon Apts., 1/2A/2, Bavdhan Kh., Pune, Maharashtra 411021, India<sup>2</sup> Kidangeth, Chilavannur Road, South Kadavanthra, Cochin, Kerala 682020, India<sup>1</sup> sskspider@gmail.com (corresponding author), <sup>2</sup> sunnyjosef@gmail.com

The oriental genus *Siler* Simon, 1889, which was erected with the description of female *Siler cupreus* Simon, 1889 from Japan, comprises globally of nine valid species (World Spider Catalog 2015), (Table 1). Of these, *Siler semiglaucus* (Simon, 1901) is the most widely distributed species and has been geographically recorded nearest to India.

Specimens collected from Chilavannur (9.965N & 76.306E) were preserved in 70% alcohol and examined with Brunel IMXZ™ stereozoom microscope and imaged using Canon 1200D™ mounted camera. The examined specimens are deposited at Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), Mumbai with registration numbers as given in the material examined below. Species identification was confirmed by comparing with Prószyński (1985) and matched with the species' lectotype (J. Prószyński pers. comm. 11 February 2015).

***Siler semiglaucus* (Simon, 1901)  
(Images 1–4)**

Material examined: 3 males (BNHS Sp.182–184), February 2015, Chilavannur, Cochin, Kerala, coll. Sunny Joseph; 1 female (BNHS Sp. 185), February 2015, Chilavannur, Cochin, Kerala, coll. Sunny Joseph.

Body colour pattern similar in male and female. Dorsum coloured with iridescent scales when live (Image 1), lose shine in alcohol, ventrally yellowish. Carapace pattern comprising red between dorsal and lateral blue stripe. Femora and patella I brown, rest yellow with longitudinal black stripes. Abdomen densely covered with two blue spots embedded in red patch, distally grey. Cymbium longer than palpal tibia, embolus curved with pointed tip (Image 2a); tibial apophysis pointed, arising 45 degrees (Image 2b). Female epigynum ventrally with common transverse oval opening, anterior margin partially enclosing copulatory opening and posterior margin bent inwards (Image 3a). In dorsal view, copulatory duct broadened inwards, broadest before joining spherical spermatheca (Image 3b).

**Discussion:** This is a new record of *Siler semiglaucus* from India, which was previously recorded from neighbouring region of Sri Lanka. Although, this is first scientific record of the genus *Siler*, the images of these

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Image 1. *Siler semiglaucus*. a - male habitus, dorsal view; b - female habitus, dorsal view

Table 1. Distribution of *Siler* species

Species	Known distribution
<i>Siler bielawskii</i> Zabka, 1985	China, Vietnam
<i>Siler collingwoodi</i> (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1871)	China, Japan
<i>Siler cupreus</i> Simon, 1889	China, Korea, Taiwan, Japan
<i>Siler flavocinctus</i> (Simon, 1901)	Singapore
<i>Siler hanoicus</i> Prószyński, 1985	Vietnam
<i>Siler lewaense</i> Prószyński & Deeleman-Reinhold, 2010	Sumba
<i>Siler pulcher</i> Simon, 1901	Malaysia
<i>Siler semiglaucus</i> (Simon, 1901)	Sri Lanka to Philippines
<i>Siler severus</i> (Simon, 1901)	China



Image 2. *Siler semiglaucus*. a - male right palp, dorsal view; b - male right palp, ectal view

spiders from India have been on internet since 2010 (Nature Magnified 2010). It is noticeable from them, that they could be more than one species of *Siler* and therefore, need further study.

Nelson et al. (2004) and Jackson & Olphen (1992) have experimentally proved *Siler semiglaucus* to be myrmecophilic from Philippines and Sri Lanka respectively. Jackson & Olphen (1992) discussed preference for ants as prey by *S. semiglaucus*, however they feed upon any insect when starved for more than two weeks. During field survey, these spiders were observed to feed on *Technomyrmex* sp. ants (Image 4). Apart from the adults of ants, these spiders also fed upon the eggs, larvae and pupae of those ants (Image 1b).

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Image 3. *Siler semiglaucus*. a - female epigynum, ventral view; b - female epigynum, dorsal view



Image 4. *Siler semiglaucus* feeding on *Technimyrmex* sp. ant

