



Open Access

10.11609/jott.2022.14.2.20539-20702
www.threatenedtaxa.org

26 February 2022 (Online & Print)
14(2): 20539-20702
ISSN 0974-7907 (Online)
ISSN 0974-7893 (Print)



ISSN 0974-7907 (Online); ISSN 0974-7893 (Print)

Publisher
Wildlife Information Liaison Development Society
www.wild.zooreach.org

Host
Zoo Outreach Organization
www.zooreach.org

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Cover: *Geodorum laxiflorum* Griff.—inflorescence (Orchidaceae) © Ashish Ravindra Bhojar.



TAXONOMY

Family Linyphiidae Blackwall, 1859

Genus *Prosoponoides* Millidge & Russell-Smith, 1992

Type species: *Prosoponoides hamatum* Millidge & Russell-Smith, 1992

Diagnosis: Males of *Prosoponoides* have a small paracymbium, filiform embolus and also a second membrane which is situated on the lamella. Female epigynum possess atrium with a septum, a highly cuticularized parma (Li et al. 2018) and a bold projecting scape/socket posteriorly (Millidge & Russell-Smith 1992).

***Prosoponoides idukkiensis* sp. nov.**

(Images 1–11; Figures 1–4)

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Material examined: Holotype: DMCKLIN023, male, 20.xi.2020, Munnar (10.085°N, 77.058°E), Idukki, Kerala, India, coll. A. Domichan.

Paratypes: DMCKLIN003, female, 30.i.2020, Idukki (9.909°N, 76.918°E), Kerala, India, coll. A. Domichan; DMCKLIN080, male & DMCKLIN027, female, 24.iv.2021, Cherthala (9.652°N, 76.318°E), Alappuzha, Kerala, India, coll. A. Domichan; (DMCKLIN084, male & DMCKLIN018, female, 20.vii.2021, Mailadumpara (9.889°N, 77.155°E), Idukki, Kerala, India, coll. A. Domichan; DMCKLIN079, DMCKLIN082, DMCKLIN085, 3 males, 03.x.2021, Ponkunnam (9.575°N, 76.760°E), Kottayam, Kerala, India, coll. A. Domichan.

Etymology: The species is named after the district 'Idukki' in Kerala, which is the type locality.

Diagnosis: The males of *P. idukkiensis* sp. nov. can be distinguished by the distally pointed paracymbium, anterior part of paracymbium which is positioned upward and posterior tip which is not arched (arched in *P. hamatum* Millidge & Russell-Smith, 1992 and *P. youyiensis* Liu & Chen, 2020 (Liu & Chen 2020)); suprategular apophysis not curved (curved in *P. hamatum*). The structure of tegulum and subtegulum is similar to that of *P. youyiensis* but is different in the shape of the lamella; lateral side of lamella narrow (broad in *P. hamatum* and *P. youyiensis*); the U-shaped curve between lateral and anterior ends of lamella found in *P. hamatum*, *P. simile* Millidge & Russell-Smith, 1992, *P. sinense* Chen, 1991, and *P. youyiensis* is absent in *P. idukkiensis* sp. nov.

The females of *P. idukkiensis* sp. nov. possess copulatory ducts with one and a half coils as in *P. hamatum* and *P. youyiensis* (*P. sinense* has two-and-a-half coils); parma with a shallow depression at the

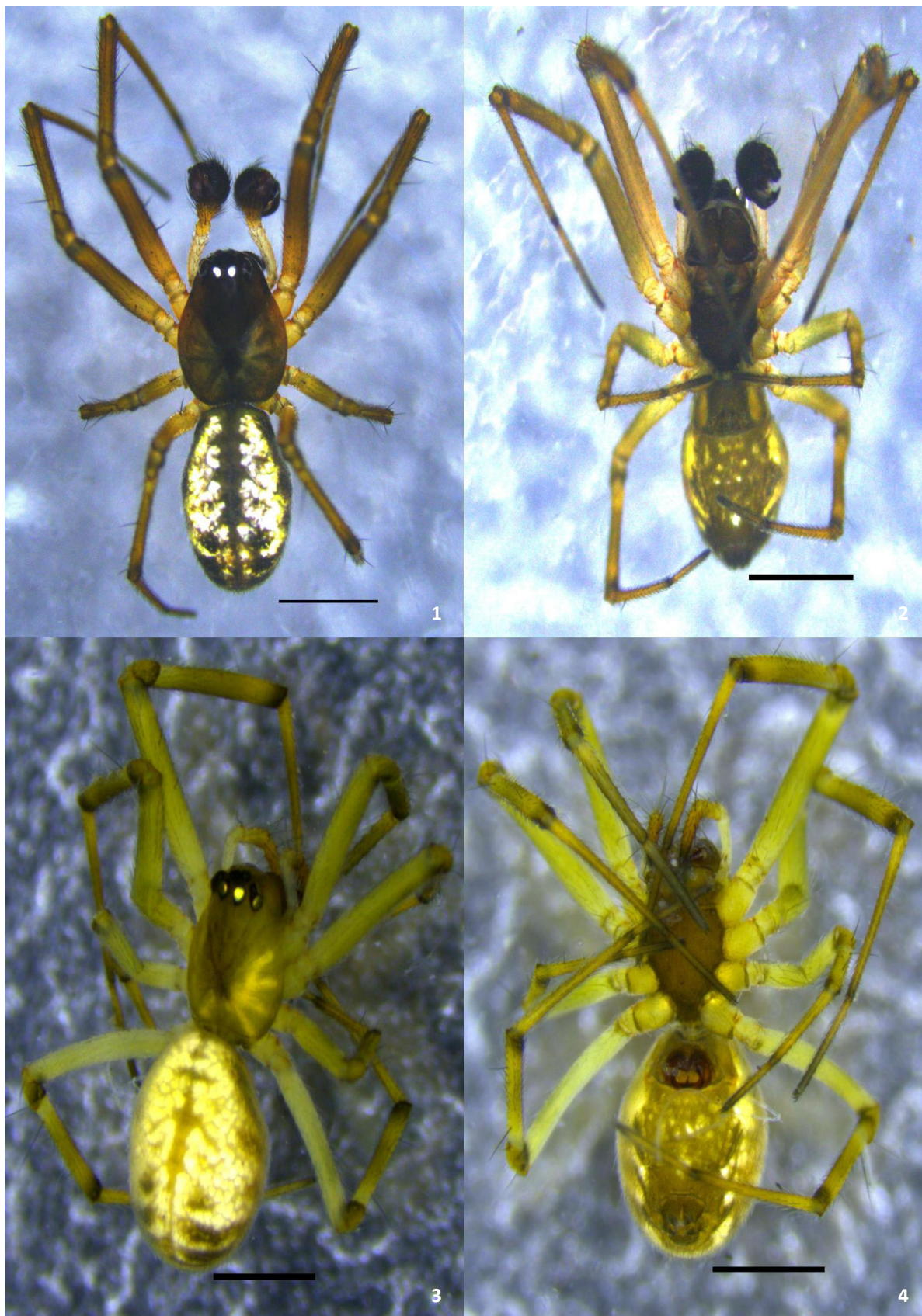
centre (deep in *P. hamatum*), the depression wider than long and semicircular as in *P. sinense* (tongue-shaped in *P. hamatum* and as wide as long in *P. youyiensis*); spermathecae located medially as in *P. youyiensis* (lateral in *P. hamatum*).

Description: Male: total length: 2.38. Cephalothorax length: 1.08, width: 0.71. Abdomen length: 1.29, width: 0.82. Chelicerae length 0.52. Eye interdistances: AME–ALE 0.05, AME–AME 0.03, PME–PLE 0.10, PME–PME 0.04. Eye diameter (PME) 0.08. Measurements of legs and palp: I 4.88 (0.93 + 0.17 + 0.87 + 0.68 + 0.23), II 4.38 (1.24 + 0.26 + 1.06 + 1.32 + 0.5), III 1.75 (0.64 + 0.14 + 0.34 + 0.43 + 0.2), IV 4.04 (1.17 + 0.27 + 0.86 + 1.29 + 0.45), palp 1.53 (0.45 + 0.35 + 0.39 + 0.34).

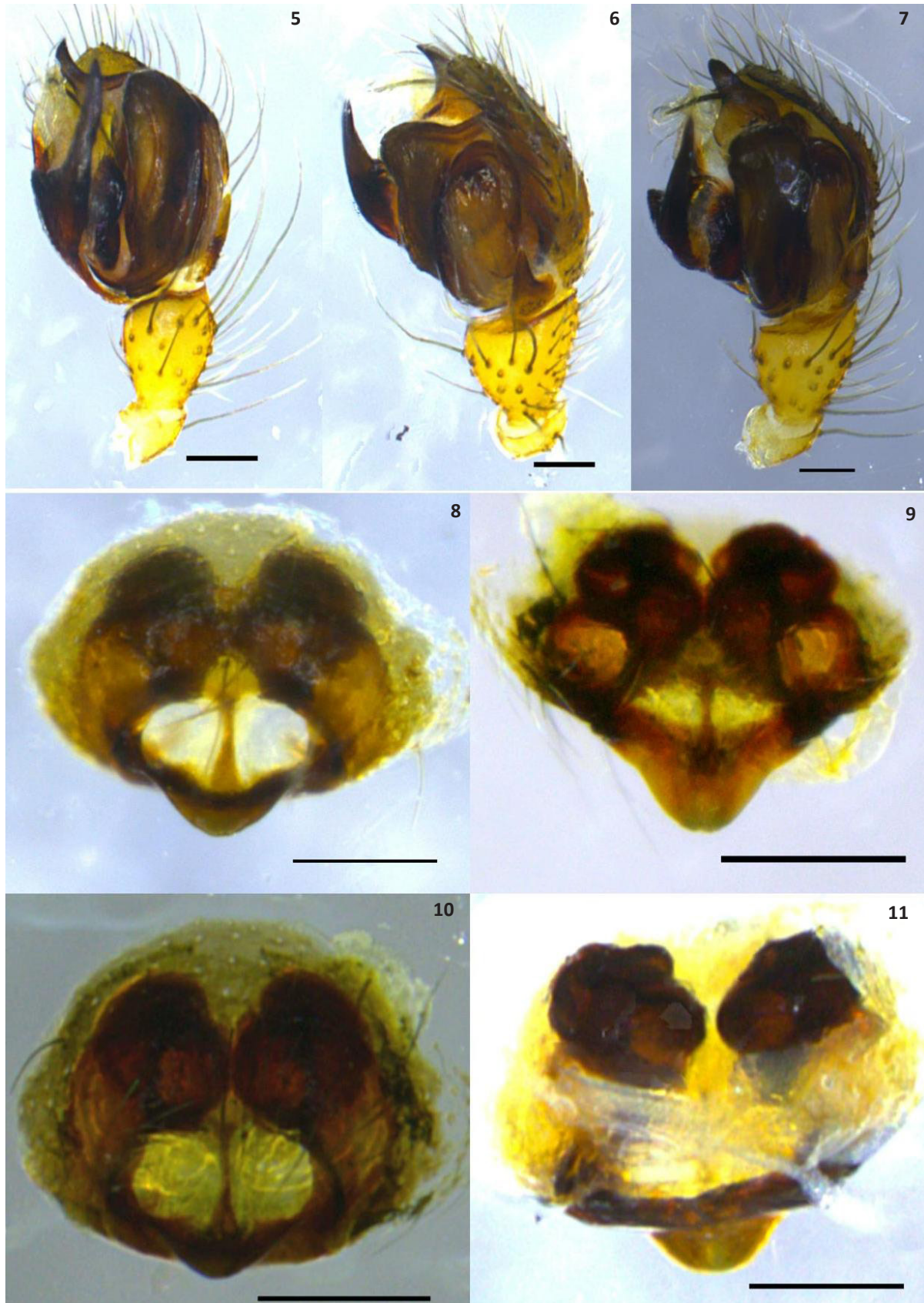
Cephalothorax yellowish-brown. Ocular area raised with long hairs. Eyes heterogeneous. White eyes placed in black rings; ALEs and PLEs juxtaposed. Stridulatory ridges not visible on lateral sides of chelicerae. Chelicerae with three promarginal teeth and two retromarginal teeth. Legs yellowish-brown with spines and short hairs. Leg formula 1243. Sternum blackish, heart-shaped (Image 2). Abdomen elongated oval, with white dorsal portion and black medial portion, postero-lateral half with pairs of dark brown spots (Image 1). Palp: anterior tip of paracymbium pointed, directed upwards; embolus and DSA elevated above cymbium; embolus long, originating near base of cymbium; pointed tip of DSA extends upwards; tegulum wide, bulges medially on ventral side; subtegulum bulges medially, with a pointed thin tip that curves anteriorly; radix small, gradually narrows medially, like a minor constriction; lamella well-developed, thin and narrow, lateral side projecting apically with pointed tip, anterior portion small without projection, posterior portion narrow and pointed (Images 5–7, Figures 1–2).

Female: total length: 2.55. Cephalothorax length: 1.2, width: 0.84. Abdomen length: 1.33, width: 0.91. Chelicerae length 0.46. Eye interdistances: AME–ALE 0.05, AME–AME 0.04, PME–PLE 0.05, PME–PME 0.06. Eye diameter (PME): 0.04. Measurements of legs and palp: I 2.69 (0.99 + 0.24 + 0.93 + 0.28 + 0.25), II 2.31 (1.06 + 0.19 + 0.42 + 0.38 + 0.26), III 1.35 (0.43 + 0.16 + 0.36 + 0.23 + 0.17), IV 2.06 (1 + 0.22 + 0.25 + 0.36 + 0.23), palp 0.75 (0.29 + 0.13 + 0.19 + 0.14).

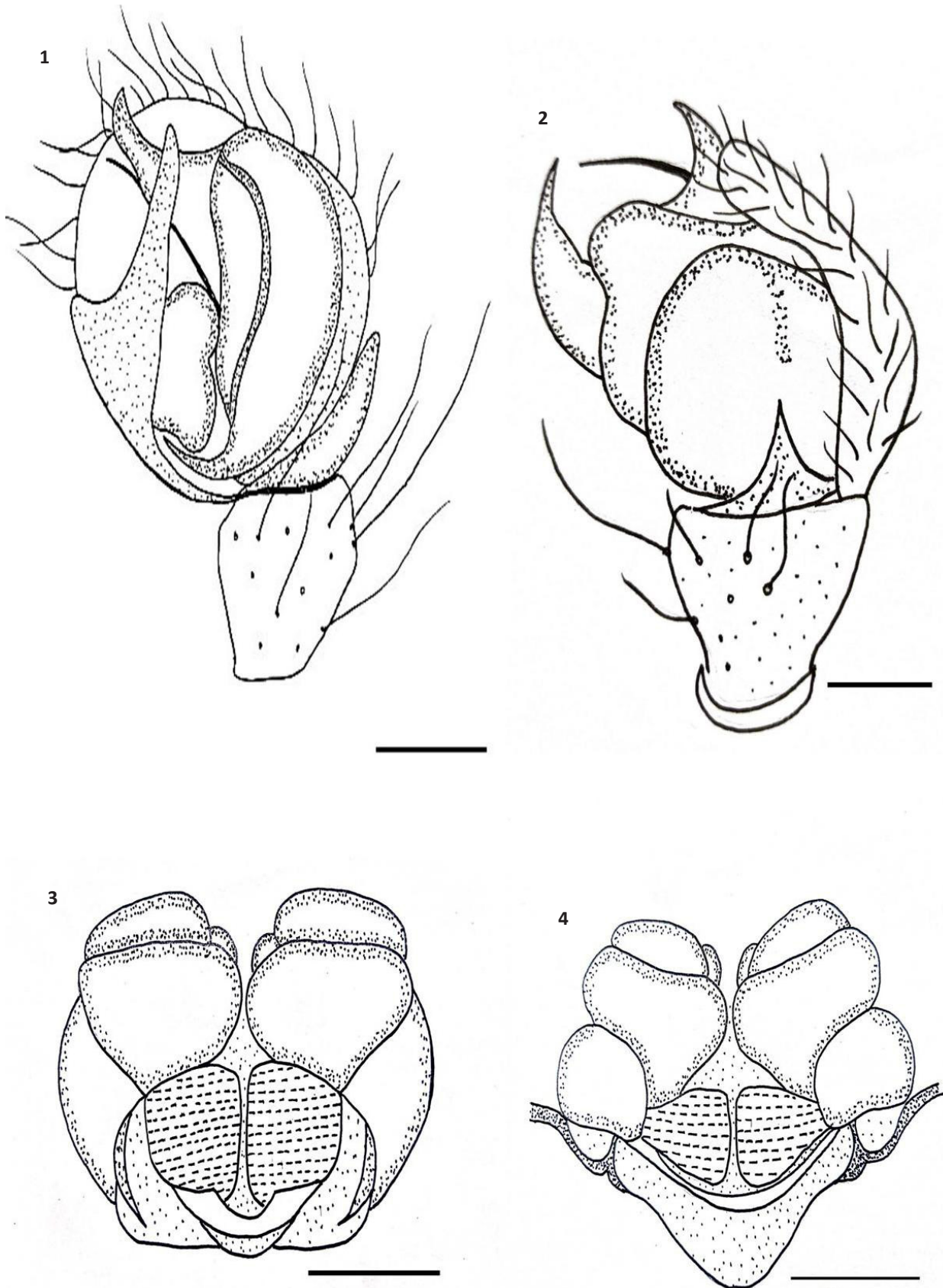
Cephalothorax brownish. Ocular region dark brown, V-shaped. Eyes heterogeneous; anterior row recurved and posterior row procurved. ALEs and PLEs juxtaposed. Legs yellowish-brown. Leg formula 1243. Tarsus of palp orangish with many long black spines. Sternum dark brownish, heart-shaped (Image 4). Chelicerae dark brownish with three promarginal teeth and two retromarginal teeth. Abdomen brownish with white



Images 1–4. *Prosoponoides idukkiensis* sp. nov.: 1—male habitus, dorsal view | 2—same, ventral view | 3—female habitus, dorsal view | 4—same, ventral view. Scale: 1–4, 1mm.



Images 5–11. *Prosoponoides idukkiensis* sp. nov.: 5—male palp, ventral view | 6—male palp, retrolateral view | 7—male palp, ventro-lateral view | 8–10—epigyne, ventral view | 11—vulva, dorsal view. Scale: 5–11, 0.1mm.



Figures 1–4. *Prosoponoides idukkiensis* sp. nov.: 1—male palp, ventral view | 2—same, retrolateral view | 3—female epigyne, ventral view | 4—vulva, dorsal view. Scale: 1–4 = 0.1mm.

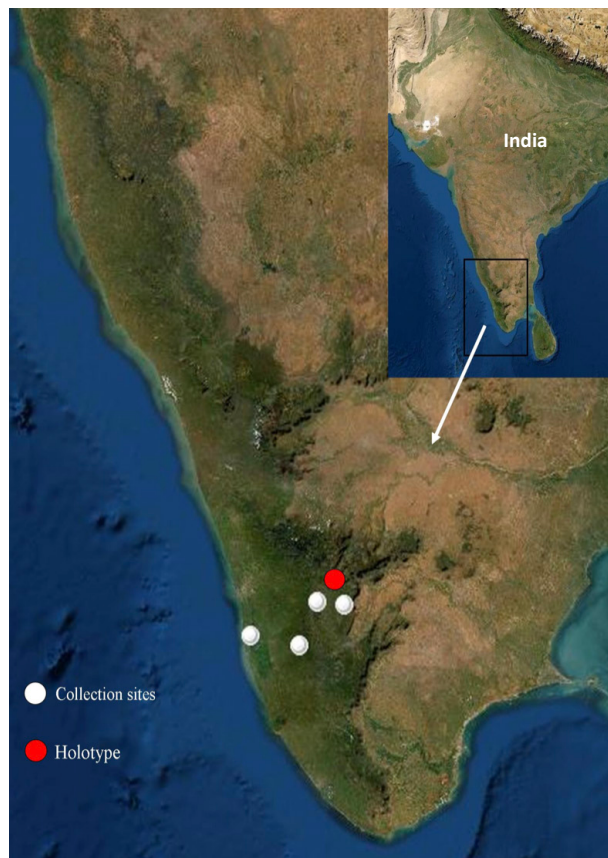


Image 12. Distribution map showing collection sites of *Prosoponoides idukkiensis* sp. nov. in central Kerala, India.

markings; brown patches present on either side postero-medially (Image 3). Epigynal atrium semi-elliptical, separated by a short septum, arises from dorsal wall; parnula semicircular, wider than long, with a shallow, wide depression at centre; scape shallow; copulatory ducts starts from the openings of atrium with one and a half coils; fertilisation ducts run downwards from spermathecae (Images 8–11, Figures 3–4).

Distribution: India (Kerala) (Image 12).

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Journal of Threatened Taxa is indexed/abstracted in Bibliography of Systematic Mycology, Biological Abstracts, BIOSIS Previews, CAB Abstracts, EBSCO, Google Scholar, Index Copernicus, Index Fungorum, JournalSeek, National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, NewJour, OCLC WorldCat, SCOPUS, Stanford University Libraries, Virtual Library of Biology, Zoological Records.

NAAS rating (India) 5.64

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 The Managing Editor, JoTT,
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ISSN 0974-7907 (Online) | ISSN 0974-7893 (Print)

February 2022 | Vol. 14 | No. 2 | Pages: 20539–20702

Date of Publication: 26 February 2022 (Online & Print)

DOI: 10.11609/jott.2022.14.2.20539-20702

www.threatenedtaxa.org

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