

## A NEW SPECIES OF THE GENUS *OXYOPES* LATRIELLE (ARANEAE: OXYOPIDAE) FROM SAHYADRI RANGES OF WESTERN GHATS

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### INTRODUCTON

Thorell established the family Oxyopidae in 1870 consisting of the type genus *Oxyopes* which was established by Latrielle in 1804. Walckenaer for the first time recorded the genus from Indian sub-continent in 1805. Remarkable works in India on the family Oxyopidae were done by Thorell (1887), Tikader (1965), Gajbe (1999, 2000, and 2008), Biswas and Roy (2005). While examining the collections from plateau region of Satara Dist (Maharashtra), we found an *Oxyopes* species that is new to science. We diagnosed it and describe, illustrate here as sp.nov. in the present study under the name *Oxyopes sataricus*.

The study area i.e. Satara Lat 17°42' N and Lon 74°02' E lies in the western part of Maharashtra State and the climate here is tropical wet and dry.

The specimen was collected from Udtare village (Dist: Satara) (see map) in a Banana plantation (*Musa indica*) and preserved in 70% ethanol. Observations were done using the dissecting microscope; the genitalia was dissected and kept in clove oil for 24hrs. The genitalia was observed and drawn. All measurements are in millimetres.

Family OXYOPIDAE Thorell 1870

Type-genus: *Oxyopes* Latrielle 1804

*Distribution*: All tropical and sub-tropical regions of world.

*General* : Type-material ♀ holo-type specimen is deposited in the National Zoological Collections vide Ar/425 at Zoological Survey Of India, Pune.

*Type-locality* : India, Maharashtra, Satara, Pachwad village, NH4 road; Coll. A.S. Shewale, Sidharth Kulkarni on 10 Oct 2011.

*Other material* : 2 ♀, Satara, Kurneshwar Garden, 1 running along the branch of Jasmine tree (*Hibiscus rosa sinensis*) and other underside of the leaf on the same plant. 1 ♀, Satara, Ajinkyatara fort, near South gate, on underside of leaf of Pala Indigo (*Wrightia tinctoria*). Coll. Sidharth Kulkarni.

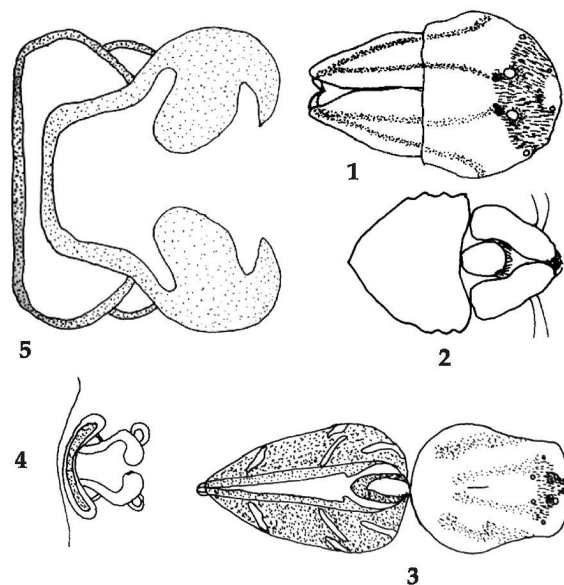
*Distribution* : India, Maharashtra, Satara.

*General* : Cephalothorax and legs brownish-yellow. Abdomen brown. Total length: 9.8 mm. Carapace 4.8 mm long and 3.7 mm wide; abdomen: 5 mm long and 3.5 mm wide.

*Cephalothorax* : Longer than wide; widest just at fovea and narrower in front. Anterior row strongly recurved, posterior row broadly procurved. Top of eyes covered encircled with orange patches. Ocular quad covered with dirty white pubescence extending till posterior laterals continuing as two narrow lines ending up at base of fovea. Clypeus high. Small tooth-like projection or spur present just behind the boss [Fig.1]. Sternum heart-shaped and pointing towards the posterior side, sparsely covered with pubescence. Labium longer than wide. Maxillae slightly oval in shape; slant in position and bear two distinct spines on the posterior-lateral sides. [Fig.2] All legs two-clawed. Greenish longitudinal lines present on femora of all legs. All legs sparsely covered with pubescence. No spines present on ventral side of femur II, III, IV. Micro-setae present on dorsal side of femur of all legs. Long spines on tibia and meta-tarsus of all legs.

**Abdomen** : Longer than wide. Oval, narrowing behind. An orange longitudinal band present mid-dorsally, extending till the posterior end. Lateral sides brown with three pairs of white bands. [Fig.3]

Brownish black long band present mid-ventrally extending from posterior of epigastric furrow till the spinnerets. Epigyne as in Fig. 4. Internal genitalia containing bulged and internally bent genitalia and distinguishable fertilisation duct. [Fig.5]



**Figures 1-5** : *Oxyopes sataricus* sp. nov; 1. Face frontal view; 2. Sternum and labium; 3. Female body view; 4. Epigyne; 5. Internal genitalia. Kulkarni and Deshpande

## DISCUSSIONS

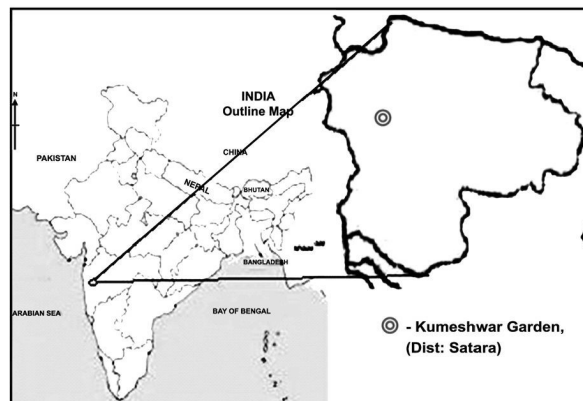
This species shows resembles with *Oxyopes pankaji* Gajbe & Gajbe 2000 but it differs in following characters compared with those given by Gajbe (2008):

1. Cephalothorax, legs and abdomen reddish-green in *O. pankaji* but in *O. sataricus* Cephalothorax, legs yellowish-brown and abdomen brown.
2. Base of each eye encircled with black patch in *O. pankaji* but top of each eye encircled with orange patch in *O. sataricus*
3. Ocular quad covered with dirty white patch in *O. sataricus* but absent in *O. pankaji*
4. Femora of all legs provided with longitudinal black lines in *O. pankaji* but present only on femora III and IV in *O. sataricus*.
5. Pair of ducts broad in *O. pankaji*, much thin in *O. sataricus* spermatheca much bent inwards than in *O. sataricus*.
6. Fertilisation duct bent in *O. pankaji*, but raised in *O. sataricus*

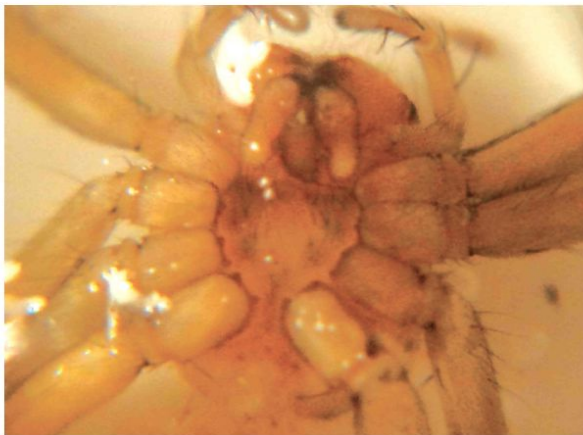
**Etymology** : The species is named after the locality Satara.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Map of India showing the study area



*O. staricus* female; sternum, maxillae and labium



*Oxyopes sataricus* female dorsal face view

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