

Cinygmula sp. nov. indicates minimum oxygen level of 0.8 mg l (16 mm Hg).

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A NEW SPECIES OF THE SPIDER, GENUS *POECILOCHROA* (GNAPHOSIDAE) FROM INDIA

S. K. PATEL

Department of Life Sciences, Bhavnagar University,
Bhavnagar 364 002, India.

SPIDERS of the family Gnaphosidae have received scant attention in the oriental region and even representative works like *Fauna of British India, Arachnida* by Pocock (1900), *Spiders of Burma* by Thorell (1895), and *Malaysian spiders* by Workman (1896) contain no references to this family. The spiders of Gnaphosidae are little known from India. Practically there was no work in the past on gnaphosid spiders from India, although they are abundant throughout the country. Recently Tikader, Gajbe and Patel have published some papers on this group of spiders.

While examining the spiders of Gujarat, an interesting member of the genus *Poecilochroa* Westring (Family, Gnaphosidae)¹⁻² was noticed. It showed marked differences from known species^{3,4} and therefore designated as a new species and named as *Poecilochroa tikaderi* sp. nov. after Dr B. K. Tikader, a well-known arachnologist of India.

The type specimen will be deposited in the National Zoological Collections, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta.

Poecilochroa tikaderi sp. nov.

General

Cephalothorax and legs dark-brown, abdomen grey; total length 6.50 mm. Carapace 2.50 mm long, 2 mm wide; abdomen 4 mm long, 2 mm wide.

Cephalothorax

Longer than wide, narrowing in front, clothed with hairs, cephalic region slightly elevated and dark, thoracic region provided with distinct fovea. Ocular quad longer than wide, wider behind than in front; anterior medians smallest, laterals bigger in size than medians; posterior row slightly procurved. Sternum heart-shaped, pointed behind, dark and clothed with hairs; labium longer than wide and

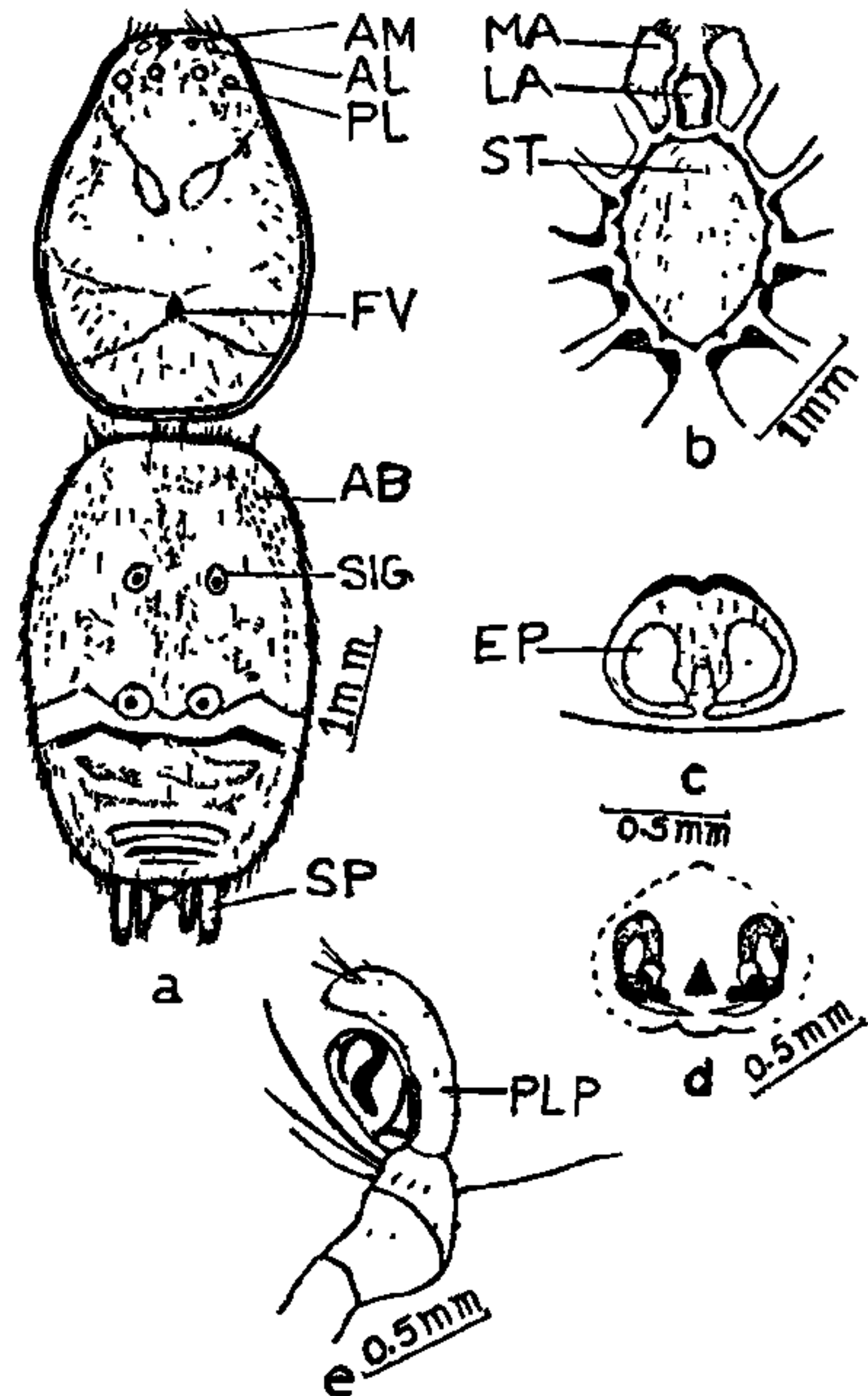


Figure 1a-e. *Poecilochroa tikaderi* sp. nov. a. Dorsal view of female, legs omitted [AB, Abdomen; AL, Anterior lateral eyes; AM, Anterior median eyes; FV, Fovea; PL, Posterior median eyes; SIG, Sigillae; SP, Spinnerets]. b. Sternum, labium and maxillae [LA, Labium; MA, Maxillae; ST, Sternum]. c. Epigyne (ventral view) [EP, Epigyne]. d. Internal genitalia, and e. Male palp [PLP, Palp].

dark in colour, maxillae converging distally, yellowish in colour with scopulae (figure 1b). Chelicerae strong with no boss. Legs long, stout and clothed with hairs and spines.

Abdomen

Longer than wide, nearly oval, blunt anteriorly. Dorsum provided with two pairs of sigillae and a white transverse band (figure 1a). Ventral side pale with two longitudinal pale lines between epigastric furrow and the spinnerets. Epigyne with scape-like structure. Epigyne and internal genitalia (figure 1c, d). Male: Smaller than female. Male pulp as in figure 1e. Holotype: One female, allotype: male stored in spirit. Type-locality: Gadhada, ca 72 km South-West of Bhavnagar, Gujarat, India.

The spider resembles *Poecilochroa sedula* (Simon), but it differs as (i) Carapace dark in colour (light in *P. sedula*). (ii) Dorsum of the abdomen provided with two pairs of sigillae and a white transverse

band (two pairs of sigillae and few black transverse bands present in *P. sedula*). (iii) There are marked differences in the structure of epigyne and internal genitalia.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

EIGHTH ALL INDIA CONGRESS OF ZOOLOGY AND FOURTH NATIONAL CONVENTION OF INDIAN HELMINTHOLOGISTS

The Eighth National Congress of Zoology and the Fourth National Convention of Indian Helminthologists will be held at Kakatiya University, Warangal. The Congress and the Convention are being organized with the assistance of an 'advisory board' consisting of eminent workers of the country in the field. The Congress/Convention is of three days, in the first or second week of May 1989. The exact dates will be intimated sufficiently in advance.

The Congress/Convention include the meetings of

the members of both the Societies for reading and discussion of research papers in zoology and helminthology and popular lectures by eminent scientists of the country.

Further particulars may be had from: Dr L. Narsimha Rao, Organizing Secretary, Eighth National Congress of Zoology and Fourth National Convention of Indian Helminthologists, Department of Zoology, Kakatiya University, Warangal 506 009.
