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## Three new species of *Idiops* Perty, 1833 (Araneae: Idiopidae) from India

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### Abstract

Three new species of the front-eyed trapdoor genus *Idiops*, viz., *Idiops joida* **sp. nov.** from the Western Ghats of Karnataka, *I. mettupalayam* **sp. nov.** from the foothills of the Western Ghats in Tamil Nadu and *I. oriya* **sp. nov.** from Odhisa, are described. Natural history information for all these species is provided as is an identification key to *Idiops* species from South and Southeast Asia.

**Key words:** Mygalomorphae, new species, synonymy, Odhisa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, taxonomy, Western Ghats

### Introduction

The genus *Idiops*, of the trapdoor family Idiopidae, is a diverse group widely distributed across different parts of the World, including South and Central America, Africa, Middle East and South and South-east Asia (Dippenaar-Schoeman 2002; Platnick 2013; Siliwal & Molur 2007). The genus includes 86 species and one subspecies worldwide (Platnick 2013). Of those, only six species, viz., *I. bombayensis* Siliwal *et al.* 2005, *I. constructor* (Pocock, 1900), *I. fossor* (Pocock, 1900), *I. fortis* (Pocock, 1900), *I. madrasensis* (Tikader, 1977) and *I. rubrolimbatus* Mirza & Sanap, 2012 have been reported from India (Mirza & Sanap 2012; Sen *et al.* 2012; Siliwal & Molur 2007; Siliwal *et al.* 2010). Four of those species were described more than a century ago by Pocock (1900) and only two species were later added by Tikader (1977); to date, all are known only from their respective type localities, except for *I. constructor*. So far, descriptions of all those *Idiops* species from India are based on few morphological characters and are not effective for present day comparative taxonomic work and biosystematic study. Hence, key characters of *Idiops* species using fresh specimens, need to be examined.

Two *Idiops* species have been also reported from neighboring countries, e.g., *Idiops crassus* Simon, 1884 from Myanmar, and *I. designatus* O. P.-Cambridge, 1885 from Murree, Pakistan (Platnick 2013; Siliwal & Molur 2007). Thus many new species of the genus from India await discovery. Poor knowledge about the diversity and ecology of *Idiops* is due to their specialized trapdoor burrows which remains unnoticed even a few inches close (Siliwal 2009). Further, they have been poorly documented due to lack of surveys in the region. Therefore, if surveys are carried out in potential areas then many new species of *Idiops* can be discovered and will help in understanding the distributions of *Idiops* species in India.

In this paper, we describe three new species, *Idiops joida* **sp. nov.** from Karantaka, *Idiops mettupalayam* **sp. nov.** from Tamil Nadu and *Idiops oriya* **sp. nov.** from Odhisa (Map 1). *I. joida* **sp. nov.** is based on both males and females. *Idiops mettupalayam* **sp. nov.** is based on only males and *Idiops oriya* **sp. nov.** is based on a single female.