



An updated review of the genus *Martensopoda* Jäger, 2006 (Araneae: Sparassidae: Heteropodinae)

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Abstract

A new species of the huntsman spider genus *Martensopoda* Jäger, 2006, *M. sanctor* **sp. nov.**, is described and illustrated from the southern Western Ghats of India. Detailed first description and illustration of the male of *M. minuscula* (Reimoser, 1934) with a redescription and illustration of its female are provided. The female of *M. transversa* Jäger, 2006 is red-described and illustrated. An identification key and a distribution map of all three *Martensopoda* species are presented.

Key words: dichotomous key, distribution map, new species, redescription, taxonomy

Introduction

Jäger (2006) erected the sparassid genus *Martensopoda* for specimens from the southern Western Ghats of India, one of the biodiversity hotspots of the world (Myers *et al.* 2000). The genus represents small, litter-dwelling Heteropodinae living in mountainous habitats. Members of the genus differ from other Heteropodinae by having a male cymbium with a prolateral bulge, with a retrobasal cymbial spur, a filiform embolic apophysis and a long, divided or undivided retrolateral tibial apophysis (RTA), and the female epigyne with anteriorly and posteriorly diverging septum, with posterior median pocket and with the median part of the internal duct system running parallel along the median line (Jäger 2006). The genus is so far restricted to southern India and currently contains two described species: *M. minuscula* (Reimoser, 1934) (hitherto known only from female), described from Tamilnadu, and *M. transversa* Jäger, 2006 (known from both sexes), described from Kerala (Jäger 2006; World Spider Catalog 2014). The present paper provides the description of a new species of *Martensopoda* from the southern Western Ghats of India. The description of the male of *M. minuscula* for the first time is also given along with the redescription of its female and that of *M. transversa*. A dichotomous key is provided for separating both sexes of all the three described *Martensopoda* species based on genital features. A distribution map of all the three *Martensopoda* species is presented.

Material and methods

The specimens were preserved in 70% ethanol and studied under a Zeiss Stemi 2000-C stereomicroscope. Morphological terminology follows Jäger (2006). All measurements are in millimetres (mm) and were made with an ocular micrometer. Length of palp and leg segments are given as: total (femur, patella, tibia, metatarsus (except palp), tarsus). Spine positions are as follows: prolateral, dorsal, retrolateral and ventral. Drawings were made by the aid of a drawing tube attached to the microscope. The microphotographic images were taken with a Leica DFC295 digital camera attached to a Leica M205 C stereomicroscope with the software package Leica Application Suite (LAS, version 4.3.0) for stacking images taken at different focal planes. The specimens are deposited in a reference collection housed at the Division of Arachnology, Department of Zoology, Sacred Heart College, Thevara, Cochin, Kerala, India (ADSH).

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