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Salticidae from the Himalayas. The genus *Epeus* PECKHAM & PECKHAM, 1885
(Araneae: Salticidae)¹

PIOTR JASTRZEBSKI

Katedra Zoologii, Akademia Podlaska, Prusa 12, 08-110 Siedlce, Poland, e-mail: pjast@ap.siedlce.pl

ABSTRACT. A new species *Epeus exdomus* is described from Nepal. *E. indicus* Prószyński, 1992 distributed also in Nepal is redescribed.

Key words: acarology, taxonomy, *Epeus*, new species, jumping spiders, Salticidae, Nepal, Himalaya.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Epeus* was established by PECKHAM & PECKHAM 1885. The type species of this genus is *E. tener* (SIMON, 1877 as *Evenus tenera*). At present the genus includes 13 nominal species (PLATNICK 2009) not including the new species described in this paper. The all species are well documented (ŽABKA 1985, PRÓSZYŃSKI 1992, BARRION & LITSINGER 1995, SONG *et al.* 1999, PENG & LI 2002, ZHANG *et al.* 2003, LOGUNOV 2004). This is an oriental genus, which is closely related to the genus *Plexippoides* (PRÓSZYŃSKI 1984, ZHANG *et al.* 2003).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Material for this study was provided by Naturmuseum und Forschungsinstitut Senckenberg, Frankfurt a. M. (the collection of Prof. J. MARTENS, Mainz) (SMF).

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The drawings were made using a grid system. Descriptions of colours pertain to wet specimens. Dissected epigynes were macerated in 10% KOH for 24 hrs. The photographs were made by means of Canon PowerShot A620 attached to a stereomicroscope Nikon SMZ800. Further adjustments of the images were made with Helicon Focus and Helicon Filter. The format of leg spination follows PLATNICK & SHADAB (1975). All measurements are in mm.

Abbreviations used: AEW - anterior eye width, AL - abdomen length, CL - cephalothorax length, CW - cephalothorax width, EFL - eye field length, m a.s.l. - meters above sea level, PEW - posterior eye width, pm - prolateral metatarsal spines, pt - prolateral tibial spines, rm - retrolateral metatarsal spines, rt - retrolateral tibial.

***Epeus indicus* PRÓSZYŃSKI, 1992**

(Figs 1-2, 5-7)

E. i. PRÓSZYŃSKI, 1992: 171.

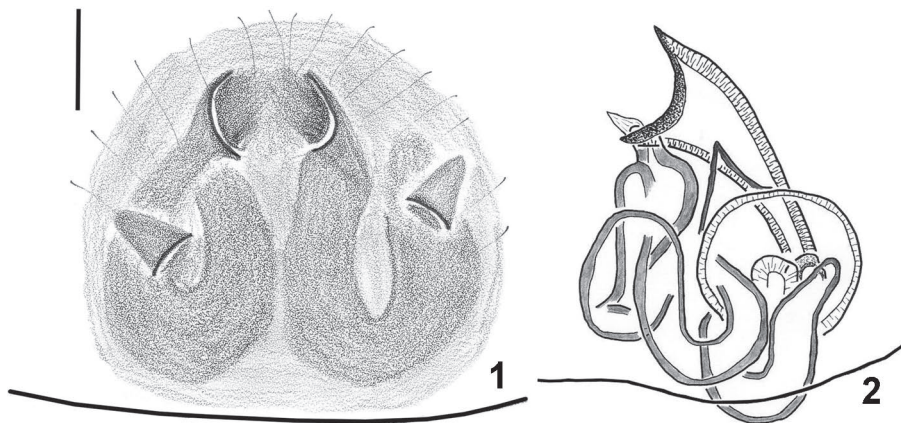
DIAGNOSIS

This species can be recognised by pattern on the dorsal part of abdomen and coloration of body.

DESCRIPTION

Male unknown.

Female. Eye field light yellow. Surroundings of eyes: AME - brown, the other - black; around all eyes short white hairs. The rest of cephalothorax light brown. Abdomen dirty white, covered with white, shiny hairs, posteriorly with black rhombus-shaped mark. Spinnerets black. Clypeus light yellow, covered with dense white hairs. Chelicerae yellow. Maxillae and labium light brown, its tips white with white hairs. Sternum shiny white. Venter dirty white. Palps pale yellow. Epigynum with two



1-2. *Epeus indicus* PRÓSZYŃSKI, 1992: 1 – epigynum, ventral view; 2 – internal genitalia, ventral view. Scale 0.2 mm

small pockets. Copulatory openings semicircular. Internal structure as in Fig 2. Legs I and II: from coxae to patellae - pale yellow; tibiae - light brown, jointly with lateral dark brown marks; metatarsi and tarsi - yellow. Legs III and IV - pale yellow. All legs covered with sparse white hairs and shiny bristles. Spines formula: tI: p1-1-1rt1-1-1; mI: p1-1 r1-1; tII: p1-1-1 rt1-1-1; mII: p1-1 r1-1. Measurements: CL 2.63, CW2.02, EFL 1.22, AEW 1.74, PEW1.55, AL 3.71.

MATERIAL

NEPAL: 1F (SMF) Nuwakot Distr., Trisuli, 600-650 m, Kulturland, Waldreste, 21.-22.07.1983, MARTENS & SCHAWALLER.

REMARK

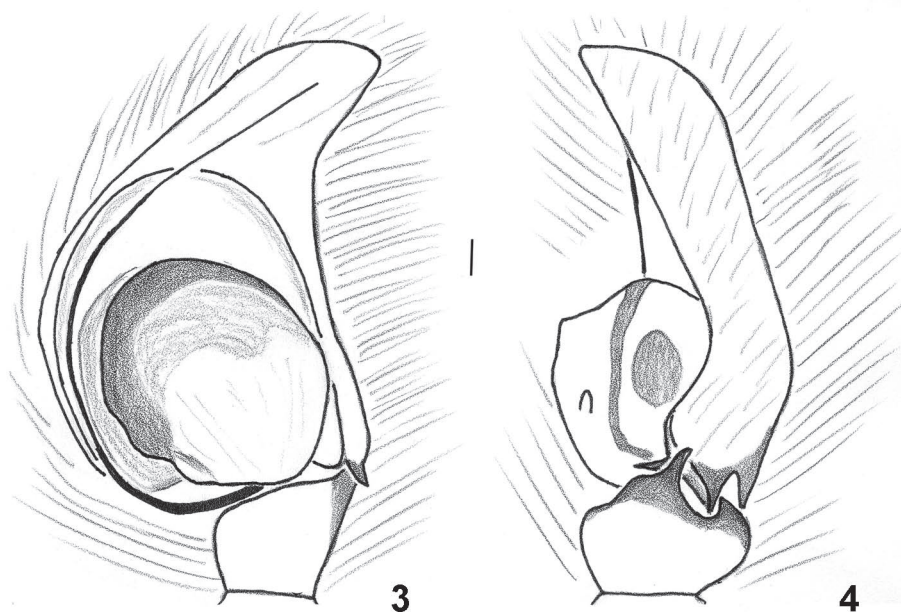
Species for the first time reported from the Himalayas. Known to occur in India (PRÓSZYŃSKI 1992).

***Epeus exdomus* sp. n.**

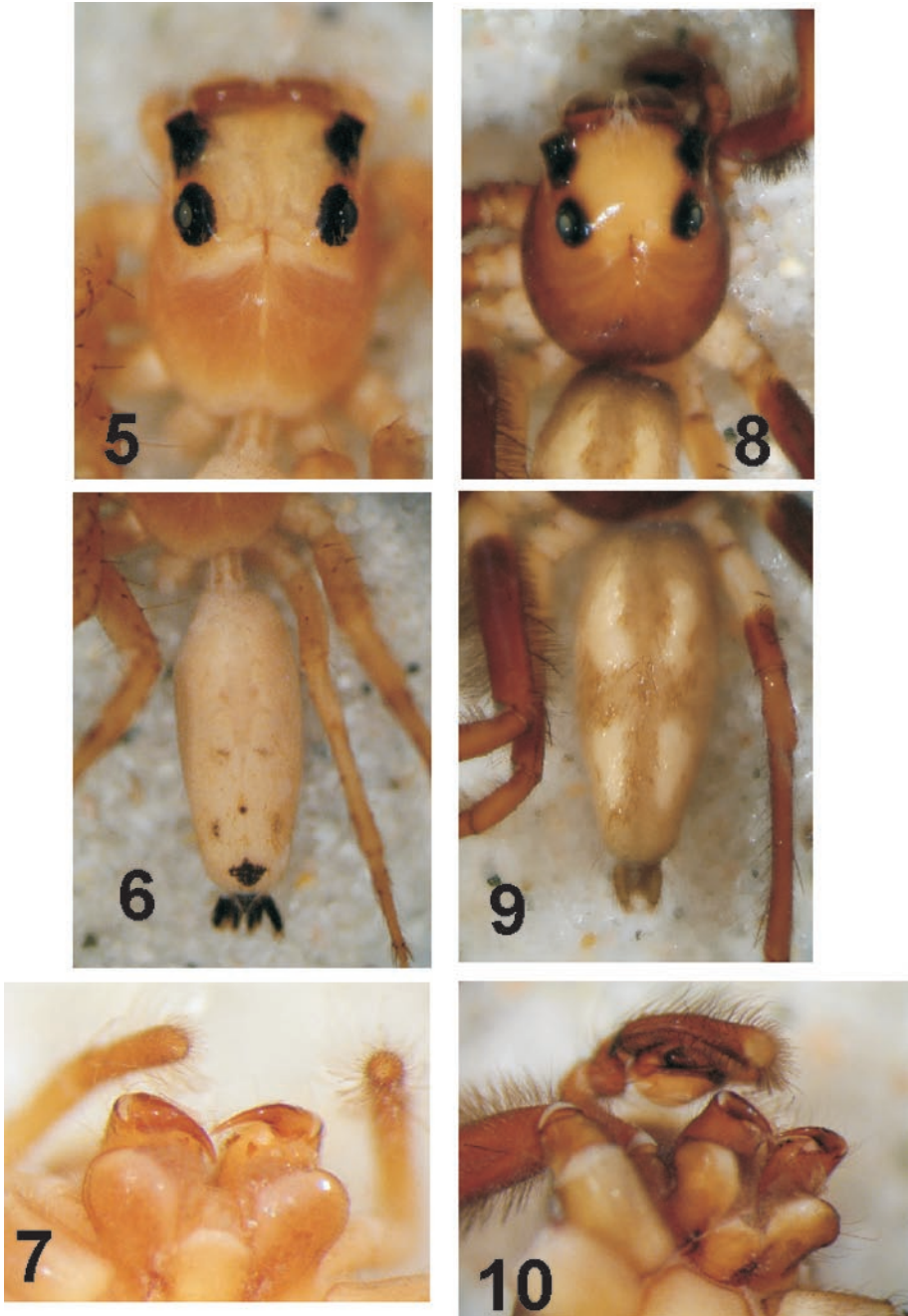
(Figs 3-4, 8-10)

ETYMOLOGY

From Latin word: *exdomus* - homeless.



3-4. *Epeus exdomus* sp. n.: 3 – left palpal organ, ventral view; 4 – same, lateral view. Scale 0.2 mm



5-10. General character of *Epeus*: 5-7. Female of *E. indicus* PRÓSZYŃSKI, 1992: 5 – dorsal aspect of cephalothorax; 6 – dorsal aspect of abdomen; 7 – chelicerae, endites and palps. 8-10. Male of *Epeus exdomus* sp. n.: 8 – dorsal aspect of cephalothorax; 9 – dorsal aspect of abdomen; 10 – chelicerae, endites and palpal organ

DIAGNOSIS

Cymbium large, flattened, triangular; in the base cone-shaped, short, with sharp tips apophysis: posteriolateral and dorsolateral. Embolus elongated, thin. On the ventral side of all legs and on the dorsal side of femora I-III - row of long hairs.

DESCRIPTION

Male. Holotype. Eye field pale. Surroundings of eyes: AME - dirty yellow, the other - black. Between AME bunch of dense white hairs. The rest of cephalothorax dirty yellow. Abdomen light grey, dorsally with four longitudinal dark stains. Spinnerets grey. Clypeus yellow, covered with dense, white hairs. Chelicerae orange. Maxillae and labium yellow, its tips white. Sternum white. Venter anteriorly - white and posteriorly - grey. Pedipalps brown. Cymbium in the distal part - white, large, flattened, triangular; the base with cone-shaped, short, with sharp tips apophysis: posteriolateral and dorsolateral. Bulbus oval. Embolus elongated, thin. Tibial apophysis short, pointed. Legs very long. Coxa, trochanterae, 1/3 of third pair of femora and 1/2 of fourth part of femora - white. The other segments brown. On the ventral side of all legs and dorsal side of femora I-III - row of long, dense, straight, black hairs. Spines formula: tI: p1-1-1rt1-1-1; mI: p1-1 r1-1; tII: p1-1-1 rt1-1-1; mII: p1-1 r1-1. Measurements: CL 2.95, CW2.50, EFL 1.30, AEW 2.10, PEW1.85, AL 4.60.

Female unknown.

MATERIAL

Holotype: NEPAL: 1M (SMF) lack of locality. Paratype: 1M (SMF) - same data.

REMARK

The lack of data dealing with locality and habitat (no label) makes it impossible to ascertain, but the known distribution of the genus *Epeus* suggest that this species could occur in tropical forest.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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