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A new species of *Cyrba* from South Africa (Araneae: Salticidae: Spartheinae)

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ABSTRACT. *Cyrba armata* n. sp., a new jumping spider from South Africa is described.

Key words: arachnology, taxonomy, Araneae, Salticidae, Spartheinae, *Cyrba*, new species, Afrotropical Region.

The genus *Cyrba* SIMON, 1879 belongs to the subfamily Spartheinae, the most primitive group of the Salticidae (WANLESS 1984a). The genus comprises seven species occurring in the old world, most of them in Africa. Distribution of the African *Cyrba* species is very poorly known, males of two species have not been described.

During an invertebrate biodiversity study of Game Reserves in KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa) an undescribed *Cyrba* male was found. The male, described below, may be the missing sex of *C. lineata* WANLESS, 1984 as it has similar cheliceral dentition and body coloration (i.e. the presence of white line along abdomen) to the latter species. However, large distance from the known collecting localities of *C. lineata* justifies description of this specimen as a new, separate species. The task of matching this male with proper female has to be postponed until new material is available.

***Cyrba armata* n. sp.**

Figs 1-5

TYPE MATERIAL

Holotype, 1 male, South Africa, KwaZulu-Natal, Kosi Bay Nature Reserve, 26°58'S 32°49'E, 15.IV.2006, coastal forest, leaf litter, leg. C. Haddad (National Collection of Arachnida, ARC-Plant Protection Research Institute, Pretoria).

DIAGNOSIS

This species is closely related to *Cyrba simoni* WIJESINGHE, 1993 from Central Africa. The male may be distinguished by the details of the pedipalp structure; a longer prong at the base of the embolus and a differently shaped tibial apophysis (compare Fig. 3-5 herein with Fig. 10E, F, I in WANLESS 1984b, sub *C. bimaculata*).

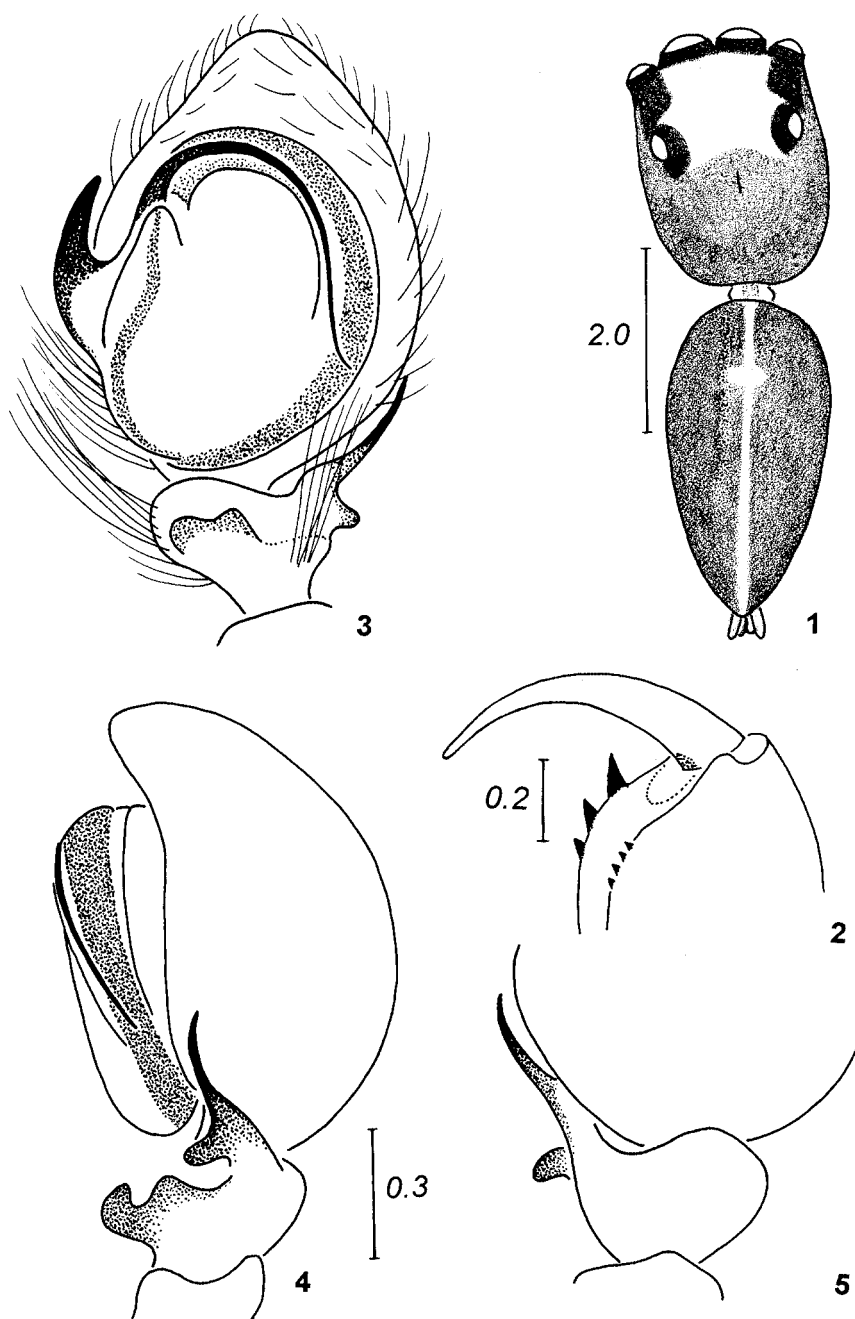
ETYMOLOGY

The specific name is derived from the Latin word meaning “armed” and refers to the presence of a big fang near the base of embolus.

DESCRIPTION

Measurements (in mm): Carapace length 2.4, width 1.7, height 1.1. Abdomen length 2.8, width 1.4. Eye field length 1.1, anterior width 1.6, posterior width 1.4.

Male. General appearance as in Fig. 1. Carapace ovoid, medium high. Eye field occupies about half of carapace length, distance between anterior lateral eyes slightly larger than between posterior lateral ones. Fovea long, sulciform. Thorax yellow tinged with grey, densely covered with short brownish hairs clinging to dorsum. Eye field without hairs, lighter than thoracic part, but vicinity of eyes black. Some brown bristles near eyes, anterior eyes fringed by small fawn scales. Clypeus very low, yellowish with white hairs. Mouth parts and sternum whitish yellow. Chelicerae with three teeth on promargin and four, very small, on retromargin (Fig. 2). Abdomen elongated, narrower than carapace, blackish, with longitudinal median very thin white stripe. Hairs clothing abdomen dense, short, dark, only hairs forming stripe light. Mytiform field (secretory organ) fairly distinct as ovoid patch in abdominal dorsum, anteriorly. Venter dark grey, with two lighter lines laterally. Spinnerets subequal in length, yellow with brownish hairs. Legs slender, whitish yellow, bearing dense brown hairs. Metatarsi I and II with darker streak along dorsal and ventral surfaces. Spines numerous, long. Spines of leg I: femur dorsally 1-1-4, patella prolaterally 0-1, tibia prolaterally and retrolaterally 1-1 ventrally 2-2-2, metatarsus ventrally 2-2. Pedipalps big, yellowish grey, covered with dark hairs. Palpal organ shown in Figs 3-5. Palpal tibia very short, its retrolateral apophysis long and slender with additional process at base (Fig. 4), and accompanying tuft of long white bristles. On ventral surface of tibia low apophysis in the form of two protuberances. Bulb rounded, with tegular furrow along embolus. Embolus long, slender, curved, with big prong at its base (Fig. 3).



1-5. *Cyrba armata*, holotype: 1 - general appearance, dorsal view; 2 - cheliceral dentition, 3 - palpal organ, ventral view, 4 - palpal organ, retrolateral view, 5 - palpal tibia, dorsal view. Scale in mm

Female unknown.

AFFINITIES

Cyrba armata along with two other African species - *C. simoni* and *C. bowei* LESSERT, 1933 - could be recognized as a related species group. All species in this group share a unique male genital character, namely a conspicuous embolic prong.

Cyrba armata has the southernmost distribution of all these species.

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