



Research Paper

ON THE DESCRIPTION OF A SALTICID SPIDER, *Burmattus pococki* THORELL 1895 (ARANEAE: SALTICIDAE) FROM MANIPUR, INDIA

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Abstract

A Salticid spider *Burmattus pococki* Thorell 1895 (order: Araneae, Family: Salticidae) is reported for the first time from Manipur, northeast India and it shares international border with Myanmar. Its previous record of occurrence has been from Myanmar, China, Vietnam and Japan (Jerzy Proszynski 2005). This paper provides descriptions, drawings of diagnostic characters along with photographs of *Burmattus pococki* 1895.

Key words: *Burmattus pococki* Thorell 1895, 1st report, Manipur (India).

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Burmattus* (Order: Araneae, Fam: Salticidae) was erected by Proszynski in 1992 to accommodate two species originally described by Thorell in 1895 and some new materials. *Burmattus* was medium sized spiders. *Burmattus* species are said to be comparable to *Evarca* in appearance (Proszynski 1997). *Burmattus* is known only from Myanmar, Vietnam and Southern China.

In India, Kishor Rithi (2012) put only the name of *Burmattus pococki* in Spider diversity list of Melghat Tiger Reserve Maharashtra, and also included in Spider Checklist 2012 (Keswani et al 2012). But no description of this species was given, while carrying out Spider Diversity Survey in Manipur, we came across a male specimen of *Burmattus*, later identified as *B. pococki* based on the literature provided by Proszynski (1992). The present paper deals with the report of the occurrence of *Burmattus pococki* Thorell 1895 from Manipur (India) along with the descriptions of species.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

One male spider was collected during UGC sponsored Spider Project [MRP ref. No. – F. No. 39-589/2010 SR dt. 10.01.2011] from Kwakeithel, Imphal West District, Manipur, a northeast state of India (92° 59' 00" E to 94° 45' 00" E longitude, 23° 56' 00" N to 25° 41' 00" N latitude, elevation, 800 MSL). The collected specimen was brought, studied and deposited in the Entomology Research Laboratory, P.G. Department of Zoology, D.M. College of Science, Imphal. Measurements were taken with Vernier Digital Caliper. All the measurements are in mm.

This species was identified by Manju Siliwal. Illustration were prepared with the help of Camera Lucida attached to Gibbon Stereomicroscopy by Bhubaneshwari M.

Abbreviation:

ALE – Anterior Lateral Eye
MOQ – Median Ocular Quadrate
PME – Posterior Median Eye.
d – dorsal, fe – femur, mt – metatarsus, p – prolateral,
pa – patella, r – retrolateral, ta – tarsus, v – ventral.
AME – Anterior Median Eye
PLE – Posterior Lateral Eye

Taxonomy

Burmattus pococki Thorell 1895 (Fig. 1)

Materials examined

One male (1.IV.2011) from Kwakeithel, Imphal West District, Manipur. Collected by A. Kananbala.

Description of Male

Total length – 6.08
Cephalothorax: length – 2.08, Wide – 2.22
Abdomen: length – 2.99, Wide – 1.44.
Spinnerets: Anterior – 0.29, Posterior – 0.43.

Colour in Alcohol

Cephalic region brown, Thoracic region dark brown, ocular region deep brown, chelicerae dark brown, fang reddish brown, maxilla dark brown with white apex, labium dark brown with white apex, pedipalp dark brown, sternum yellowish brown, abdomen darker grayish brown, leg I dark brown and light brown in tarsus region, legs II, III, IV intermingled with light and dark brown in metatarsus and tarsus region.

Cephalothorax

Oval, high with flat cephalus sloping gently and the thorax sloping steeply from the rear eyes. Eyes 8 arranged in three rows, recurved and clypeus provided with white setae. Ocular group 1.32 long, 2.07 wide. Eye diameter AME: ALE: PME: PLE is 0.64: 0.27: 0.24: 0.16 respectively. MOQ wider posteriorly. In between the PLE and PME, a small area is covered with white hairs, fovea presents along with striation and lateral sides of the thorax is provided with whitish lateral bands on each sides. Chelicerae 1.12 long, 0.60 wide provided with alternate 1 promarginal and 1 retromarginal teeth and fang, maxillae 0.77 long 0.45 wide and provided with scopulae, labium 0.57 long and 0.45 wide and provided with scopulae, sternum oval with slightly tapering at posterior end and clothed with hairs, legs provided with spines (Table 2) and one pair of claws and claw tuff. Leg formula: 3412 (Table1). Pedipalp elongated with moderately broad cymbium, bulbus broad with tubular embolus, sperm duct provided with tibial apophysis. (Fig 2).

Abdomen

Oval, grayish brown and darker at posterior region. Anteriorly a longitudinal band with rows of small light brown patch on each sides, middle with an inverted chevron distinct, posteriorly with two pairs of white tufts present and clothed with gelatinous grey white and brown hairs. In ventrum just below epigastric furrow a longitudinal median band extending upto posterior region, spinneret anterior grayish brown, 0.29 long and posterior 0.43 long.

Distribution

India (Manipur, Maharashtra); Myanmar; China; Vietnam; Japan.

Table 1: Morphometry of legs and Pedipalp of *B. pococki* from Manipur

	Femur	Patella	Tibia	Metatarsus	Tarsus	Total
Leg I	1.73	0.82	1.44	1.06	0.82	5.87
Leg II	1.51	0.77	1.03	0.83	0.57	4.71
Leg III	1.84	1.20	1.09	1.15	0.82	6.10
Leg IV	1.66	0.90	1.49	1.31	0.64	5.98
Pedipalp	1.83	0.44	0.34		0.80	3.41

Leg formula: 3412.

Table 2: Spinnation

Leg I - (f): d=4, r=1, (tib): p=3, r=1, v=3, (met): p=2, v=1

Leg II - (f): r=2, d=2, (pat): d=1, (tib): p=3, r=2, v=3, (met): d=1, r=1, p=2

Leg III - (f): p=2, d=1, (pat): p=1, r=1, (tib): v=1, p=2, r=1, d=2, (met): p=3, r=3, d=2

Leg IV - (f): d=2, r=1, (pat): r=1, (tib): p=3, r=2, v=1, d=1, (met): v=1, p=2, r=3, d=3



Figure 1: Habitus of *Burmattus pococki*
a. Dorsal and b. Ventral

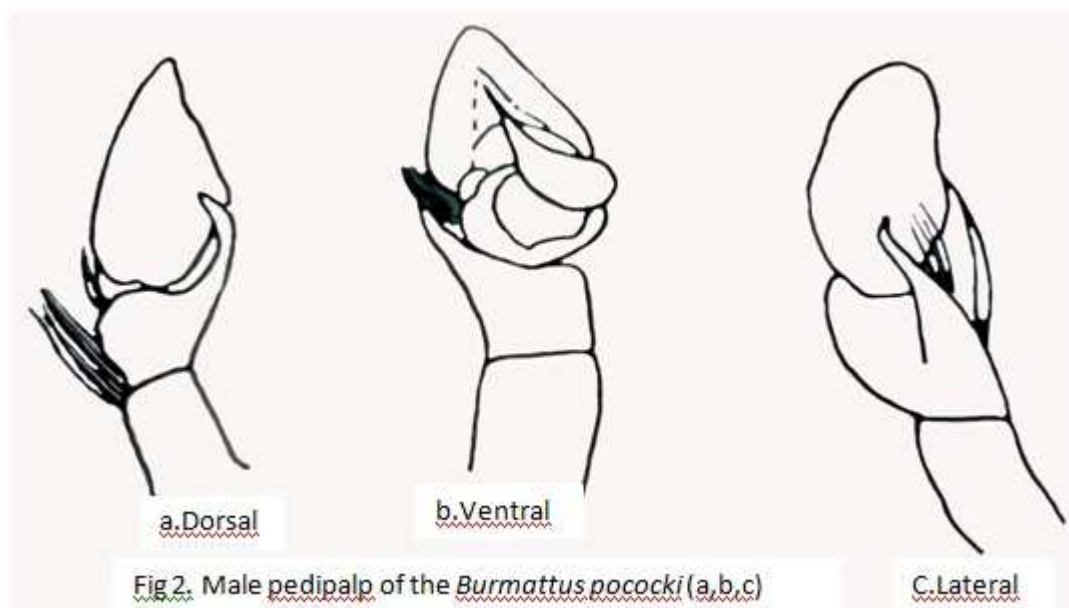


Fig 2. Male pedipalp of the *Burmattus pococki* (a,b,c)

C.Lateral

Remark:

Burmattus species are comparable somewhat with *Evarca* in appearance (Proszynski 1997). The drawing of *B. pococki* (Jerzy Proszynski 1997) is matching with the present species.

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