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RESPONSE & REPLY

RESPONSE TO SPIDERS OF ODISHA: A PRELIMINARY CHECKLIST ADDITIONS TO THE SPIDER CHECKLIST OF ODISHA

John T.D. Caleb

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RESPONSE TO SPIDERS OF ODISHA: A PRELIMINARY CHECKLIST ADDITIONS TO THE SPIDER CHECKLIST OF ODISHA

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Choudhury et al. (2019) presented a preliminary list of 248 spider species known to occur from Odisha State based on the compilation of all published literature and fresh collections carried out during 2016–2017. This is the most recent paper providing an overall view of the spider diversity known in the state, however, the presented checklist seems to be incomplete, since not all species have been identified up to the species level. Several species, as many as 77 morphospecies, were identified up to the genus level only. Furthermore, it has also missed out on recording several species described from Odisha State itself (Table 1).

The authors declare that they prepared the checklist based on ‘published literature’, but seem to have omitted a few important ones. Omission of a few species may happen inadvertently due to many reasons, one being the unavailability of the concerned literature. But that is no excuse in this case, since all published literature are available and accessible from the World Spider Catalog (2019). The magnanimous work of Prószyński (1992) was completely ignored by the authors while other faunistic works by non-specialists have been considered. Prószyński described numerous species from India and many of them were from Odisha State. Other works by Logunov (2001) and Tanasevitch (2018) have also not

been referred.

The aim of a checklist must be to rather provide information on the species present in the given locality and not add unidentifiable entities just to increase the species number. Having 77 unidentified species in the list may be considered an unnecessary addition, unless important morphological characters had been illustrated. On the other hand, species which have to be on the list have been ignored.

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Table 1. Additions to the list of spider species known from Odisha State.

	Species	Locality	Reference
1	<i>Bianor angulosus</i> (Karsch, 1879)	Cuttack	Logunov 2001
2	<i>Carrhotus sannio</i> (Thorell, 1877)	Daitari	Prószyński 1992
3	<i>Epeus albus</i> Prószyński, 1992	Jajpur-Keonjhar District	Prószyński 1992
4	<i>Epeus indicus</i> Prószyński, 1992	Jajpur-Keonjhar District	Prószyński 1992
5	<i>Habrocestoides bengalensis</i> Prószyński, 1992	Daitari	Prószyński 1992
6	<i>Jajpurattus incertus</i> Prószyński, 1992	Daitari	Prószyński 1992
7	<i>Myrmaplata plataleoides</i> (O. P.-Cambridge, 1869)	Daitari	Prószyński 1992
8	<i>Okinawicius daitaricus</i> (Prószyński, 1992)	Daitari	Prószyński 1992
9	<i>Pancorius daitaricus</i> Prószyński, 1992	Daitari	Prószyński 1992
10	<i>Pandisus indicus</i> Prószyński, 1992	Jajpur-Keonjhar District	Prószyński 1992
11	<i>Phintella bifurcata</i> Prószyński, 1992	Daitari	Prószyński 1992
12	<i>Phintella debilis</i> (Thorell, 1891)	Daitari	Prószyński 1992
13	<i>Rhene daitarensis</i> Prószyński, 1992	Daitari	Prószyński 1992
14	<i>Toxus jajpurensis</i> (Prószyński, 1992)	Daitari	Prószyński 1992
15	<i>Nasoona orissa</i> Tanasevitch, 2018	Padiakutibari	Tanasevitch 2018

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Prószyński, J. (1992). Salticidae (Araneae) of India in the collection of the Hungarian National Natural History Museum in Budapest. *Annales Zoologici, Warszawa* 44: 165–277.

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REPLY TO RESPONSE: SPIDERS OF ODISHA

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Comment: The authors declare that they prepared the checklist based on ‘published literature’, but seem to have omitted a few important ones. Omission of a few species may happen inadvertently due to many reasons, one being the unavailability of the concerned literature. But that is no excuse in this case, since all published literature is available and accessible from the World Spider Catalog (2019).

Reply: It was a huge and scattered data that is compiled in this checklist, many of them are local reporting which are till date not available in the World Spider Catalog.

Its welcome always to add to the list if it can't be added during the compilation.

Comment: Having 77 unidentified species in the list may be considered an unnecessary addition, unless important morphological characters had been illustrated. On the other hand, species which have to be on the list have been ignored.

Reply: It is not at all unnecessary additions. In the present study we have 65 spiders identified up to the genus level only, of which many are either new report from India or new species that will be communicated separately with taxonomic details. Rest are reported by previous workers that cannot be ignored when we compile the checklist.

Comment Table 1:

Myrmaplata plataleoides (O.P.-Cambridge, 1869)

Nasoona orissa Tanasevitch, 2018

Reply: The first species already exists in the checklist.

The second species information was with us, but the paper was finalized and communicated before this species was discovered and we had in mind to include this in final checklist in future.

Moreover, our checklist was based on only one-year field survey data and is preliminary. The main aim was to compile the scattered data on spider fauna of this region. In future we will go for a detailed checklist.



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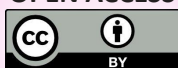
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