## FIRST RECORD OF GENUS SILER SIMON, 1889 (ARANEAE: SALTICIDAE) FROM INDIA

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The oriental genus *Siler* Simon, 1889, which was erected with the description of female *Siler cupreus* Simon, 1889 from Japan, comprises globally of nine valid species (World Spider Catalog 2015), (Table 1). Of these, *Siler semiglaucus* (Simon, 1901) is the most widely distributed species and has been geographically recorded nearest to India.

Specimens collected from Chilavannur (9.965N & 76.306E) were preserved in 70% alcohol and examined with Brunel IMXZ™ stereozoom microscope and imaged using Canon 1200D™ mounted camera. The examined specimens are deposited at Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), Mumbai with registration numbers as given in the material examined below. Species identification was confirmed by comparing with Prószyński (1985) and matched with the species' lectotype (J. Prószyński pers. comm. 11 February 2015).

## Siler semiglaucus (Simon, 1901) (Images 1–4)

Material examined: 3 males (BNHS Sp.182-184), February 2015, Chilavannur, Cochin, Kerala, coll. Sunny Joseph; 1 female (BNHS Sp. 185), February 2015, Chilavannur, Cochin, Kerala, coll. Sunny Joseph.



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Body colour pattern similar in male and female. Dorsum coloured with iridescent scales when live (Image 1), lose shine in alcohol, ventrally yellowish. Carapace pattern comprising red between dorsal and lateral blue stripe. Femora and patella I brown, rest yellow with longitudinal black stripes. Abdomen densely covered with two blue spots embedded in red patch, distally grey. Cymbium longer than palpal tibia, embolus curved with pointed tip (Image 2a); tibial apophysis pointed, arising 45 degrees (Image 2b). Female epigynum ventrally with common transverse oval opening, anterior margin partially enclosing copulatory opening and posterior margin bent inwards (Image 3a). In dorsal view, copulatory duct broadened inwards, broadest before joining spherical spermatheca (Image 3b).

**Discussion:** This is a new record of *Siler semiglaucus* from India, which was previously recorded from neighbouring region of Sri Lanka. Although, this is first scientific record of the genus *Siler*, the images of these







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Image 1. Siler semiglaucus. a - male habitus, dorsal view; b - female habitus, dorsal view

Table 1. Distribution of Siler species

Species	Known distribution
Siler bielawskii Zabka, 1985	China, Vietnam
Siler collingwoodi (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1871)	China, Japan
Siler cupreus Simon, 1889	China, Korea, Taiwan, Japan
Siler flavocinctus (Simon, 1901)	Singapore
Siler hanoicus Prószyński, 1985	Vietnam
Siler lewaense Prószyński & Deeleman- Reinhold, 2010	Sumba
Siler pulcher Simon, 1901	Malaysia
Siler semiglaucus (Simon, 1901)	Sri Lanka to Philippines
Siler severus (Simon, 1901)	China

spiders from India have been on internet since 2010 (Nature Magnified 2010). It is noticeable from them, that they could be more than one species of *Siler* and therefore, need further study.

Nelson et al. (2004) and Jackson & Olphen (1992) have experimentally proved *Siler semiglaucus* to be myrmecophagic from Philippines and Sri Lanka respectively. Jackson & Olphen (1992) discussed preference for ants as prey by *S. semiglaucus*, however they feed upon any insect when starved for more than two weeks. During field survey, these spiders were observed to feed on *Technomyrmex* sp. ants (Image 4). Apart from the adults of ants, these spiders also fed upon the eggs, larvae and pupae of those ants (Image 1b).

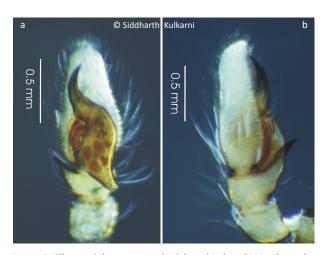


Image 2. Siler semiglaucus. a - male right palp, dorsal view; b - male right palp, ectal view

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Image 3. Siler semiglaucus. a - female epigynum, ventral view; b - female epigynum, dorsal view



 $\label{lem:lemmage} \textbf{Image 4. } \textit{Siler semiglaucus} \text{ feeding on } \textit{Technimyrmex} \text{ sp. ant}$ 

