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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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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.

References


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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Locality</th>
<th>Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bianor angulosus</td>
<td>Cuttack</td>
<td>Logunov 2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrhotus sannio</td>
<td>Daitari</td>
<td>Prószyński 1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eppeus albus Prószyński</td>
<td>Jajpur-Keonjahr District</td>
<td>Prószyński 1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eppeus indicus Prószyński</td>
<td>Jajpur-Keonjahr District</td>
<td>Prószyński 1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Habrcestoides bengalensis</td>
<td>Daitari</td>
<td>Prószyński 1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jajpurattus incertus</td>
<td>Daitari</td>
<td>Prószyński 1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myrmaplata platinoideoides</td>
<td>Daitari</td>
<td>Prószyński 1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Okinawicius daicornus</td>
<td>Daitari</td>
<td>Prószyński 1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pancorius daicornus</td>
<td>Daitari</td>
<td>Prószyński 1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pandisus indicus Prószyński</td>
<td>Jajpur-Keonjahr District</td>
<td>Prószyński 1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phintella bifurcata</td>
<td>Daitari</td>
<td>Prószyński 1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phintella debilis</td>
<td>Daitari</td>
<td>Prószyński 1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhene daicornensis</td>
<td>Daitari</td>
<td>Prószyński 1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toxeus jajpurensis</td>
<td>Daitari</td>
<td>Prószyński 1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nasoona orissa</td>
<td>Padiakutibari</td>
<td>Tanasevitch 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 Table 1:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Myrmaplata plataleoides (O.P.-Cambridge, 1869)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nasoona orissa Tanasevitch, 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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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