New distribution records of two jumping spiders
(Araneae: Salticidae) from Gujarat, India

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Indian Plexippini is represented by 18 genera and 56 species (Maddison 2015; Caleb & Sankaran 2023). Of these, seven genera are reported from Gujarat State: Epeus Peckham & Peckham, Bianor Peckham & Peckham, Harmochirus Simon, Hyllus C.L.Koch, Plexippus C.L.Koch, Telamonia Thorell and Thyene Simon (Prajapati et al. 2016; Yadav et al. 2017). During recent surveys in Aravalli Hills, we identified two more plexippine jumping spider species which are new to Gujarat State. The present paper thus deals with the discovery and record of two species—Vailimia ajmerensis Caleb & Jangid, 2020 and Modunda staintoni (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1872)—for the first time from the Aravalli Hills in Gujarat, India.

The specimens were hand collected and studied under a Leica M205 A stereomicroscope and the microphotographic images were taken by a Leica DFC2900 digital camera attached to the stereomicroscope and enabled with the software package Leica Application Suite (LAS), version 4.5.0. Left pedipalps were removed, studied and were photographed by placing them in a cavity block filled with ethanol. The species were identified by using Logunov (2001) and Basumatary et al. (2020). The examined specimens have been deposited in the reference collection of the Web of Nature (WON) Research Foundation, Gujarat, India.

Family Salticidae Blackwall, 1841
Genus Modunda Simon, 1901
Type species: Modunda phragmitis Simon, 1901

Modunda staintoni (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1872)
Image 1, 4–5
Salticus staintoni O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1872: 331, pl. 14, fig. 20

Material examined: WON100351, 21.v.2021, 1 male, India, Gujarat, Danta Village (24.191668°N, 77.7706°E), 777 m, from foliage, leg. S. Parmar.

Diagnosis: The species can be easily distinguished by the following characters: male pedipalp with rounded bulb; embolus long and slender, surrounding the bulb; Retrolateral tibial apophysis (RTA) robust, slightly curved (Image 4–5).

Distribution in India: Punjab (Logunov 2001) and Gujarat (new record) (Figure 1).

Genus Vailima Kammerer, 2006
Type species: Vailima masinei G.W. Peckham & E.G. Peckham, 1907.
Vailimia ajmerensis Caleb & Jangid, 2020

Vailimia ajmerensis Caleb & Jangid, in Basumatary et al. 2020: 180, figs. 1–11.


Diagnosis: The species can be easily distinguished by the following characters: male pedipalp with long embolus, its base thick and broad and the tip narrowed, directed at 2 o’clock position (Image 6); RTA long and simple, broad at the base and tapered at the tip, with a
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slight curve distally (Image 7).

Distribution: Rajasthan (Basumatary et al. 2020) and Gujarat (new record) (Figure 1).

References


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