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**A NEW SPECIES OF THE GENUS *OXYTATE* L. KOCH, 1878 (ARANEAE:
THOMISIDAE) FROM INDIA AND CHINA**

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Summary. A new species *Oxytate indosinica* Caleb, **sp. n.** is described from Manipur (India) and Yunnan (China). New species similar to *O. bhutanica* Ono, 2001 but differs distinctly in the structure of the male palp and female epigyne. Description, diagnosis, illustrations, and notes on natural history of a new species are provided.

Key words: crab spider, taxonomy, new species, Manipur, Yunnan.

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Резюме. Из Манипура (Индия) и Юньнани (Китай) описан новый вид *Oxytate indosinica* Caleb, **sp. n.** Новый вид сходен с *O. bhutanica* Ono, 2001, но существенно отличается от него строением палпы самца и эпигины самки. Приведены описание, диагноз, иллюстрации и заметки о местообитании нового вида.

INTRODUCTION

The crab spider genus *Oxytate* L. Koch, 1878 currently comprises 30 valid species distributed across Africa, Asia and Australia (World Spider Catalog, 2025). *Oxytate* species are widely distributed in tropical and subtropical Asia, with the highest diversity, particularly China (14 species) and the Indian subcontinent (5 species) (Caleb & Sankaran, 2026; World Spider Catalog, 2025). Six species are known from Africa. A single species is recorded from Australia. The Asian representatives extend from India, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, and Myanmar through China, Korea, Japan, and Vietnam, reaching Taiwan and the Russian Far East. The genus exhibits a preference for vegetation-dwelling habitats in forested regions, where individuals are often collected from foliage or by canopy fogging (Tang & Li, 2010; Liu *et al.*, 2017).

During a recent field survey in Manipur State, India, we found a specimen belonging to *Oxytate*. Comparative examination revealed close similarity in the male palpal morphology to the Chinese specimens identified as *O. bhutanica* Ono, 2001 (Tang *et al.*, 2008). However, a

detailed comparison with the original descriptions and illustrations of *O. bhutanica* (Ono, 2001) revealed several consistent morphological differences. These distinctions indicate that the Indian population, along with conspecific material from China, represents an undescribed species. The present study therefore provides the description of a new species of *Oxytate* from India and China, along with notes on its natural history. This work is continuation of our recent study of spiders in East and South-East Asia (Caleb & Ismavel, 2024; Caleb & Joseph, 2025).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The specimen was hand-collected and preserved in 70% ethanol. Morphological examination was carried out under a Leica SAPO stereomicroscope and photomicrographs were obtained with a Leica MC190 HD camera and processed with the Leica Application Suite (LAS) version 4.13. Male left palp was detached and examined in detail and photographed. Leg measurements are given as follows: total length (femur, patella, tibia, metatarsus, tarsus). All measurements are in millimeters. The holotype is deposited in the National Zoological Collection, Southern Regional Centre, Zoological Survey of India (ZSI-SRC), Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India and the paratypes are in the College of Life Sciences, Hunan Normal University (HNU), China and Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing (IZCAS), China.

Abbreviations used in the text: ALE – anterior lateral eye; AME – anterior median eye; PLE – posterior lateral eye; PME – posterior median eye; RTA – retrolateral tibial apophysis; VTA – ventral tibial apophysis.

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES

Family Thomisidae Sundevall, 1833

Genus *Oxytate* L. Koch, 1878

Oxytate indosinica Caleb, sp. n.

<https://zoobank.org/NomenclaturalActs/8B90E04E-F2A1-4D5A-9ED5-2790E70D50D3>

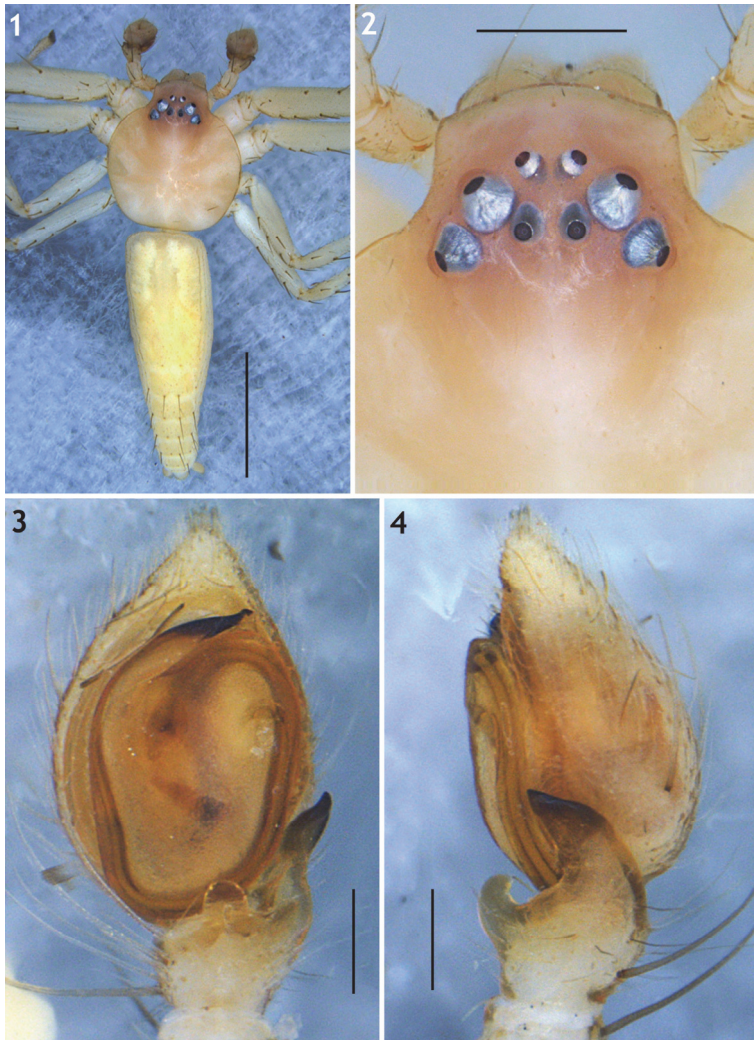
Figs 1–4

Oxytate bhutanica: Tang *et al.*, 2008: 242, figs 6-15 (male and female misidentified); Tang & Li, 2010: 41 (male and female misidentified).

TYPE MATERIAL. Holotype: ♂, **India**: Manipur, Churachandpur, Bijang, 24.352301 N, 93.698286 E, h=831 m, 10.I 2025, coll. Jamgoumin Baite (ZSI-SRC I/SP 52). Paratypes: **China**: Yunnan, Tengchong County, Jietou Township, Qiaotou Village, 25.3 N, 98.4 E, h=1652 m, 17.V 2006, 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (HNU-YHY0401); Yunnan, Xishuangbanna, Mengla County, Menglun Town, Menglun Nature Reserve, 1 ♂, leg. G. Zheng (IZCAS); plantation of *Paramichelia baillonii*, 21.9128 N, 101.2673 E, h=556 m, 18.VII 2007, 1 ♀ (Zheng_sp775); plantation of *Paramichelia baillonii*, 21.8975 N, 101.2845 E, h=613 m, 18.VIII 2007, 1 ♀ (Zheng_sp294) (not examined).

DIAGNOSIS. The male of the new species can be distinguished from *O. bhutanica* by the broad embolus tapering toward the distal region, tip hook-shaped (embolus slender and needle-like in *O. bhutanica*); RTA with a distinct sub-apical bend in ventral view, not reaching until tegular ridge, RTA tip directed retrolaterally in ventrally view (RTA broad, erect and reaches until tegular ridge, and tip directed apically in ventral view in *O. bhutanica*); VTA

simple, finger-like (broad with retrolateral pointed protrusion in *O. bhutanica*) (cf. Figs 3, 4 and figs 8–10, 13 in Tang *et al.* (2008) with figs 2, 3 in Ono (2001)). The female can be separated from *O. bhutanica* by the epigyne as long as wide, broad and obliquely aligned epigynal pockets, and relatively narrow copulatory ducts and spermathecae (epigyne wider than long, epigynal pockets opposing each other; copulatory ducts and spermathecae broad in *O. bhutanica*) (cf. figs 11, 12, 14, 15 in Tang *et al.* (2008) with figs 4, 5 in Ono (2001)).



Figs 1–4. Somatic morphology of *Oxytate indosinica* sp. n., holotype male. 1 – habitus, dorsal view; 2 – ocular region magnified, dorsal view; 3 – male left palp, ventral view; 4 – same, retrolateral view. Scale bars: 1=2 mm; 2=0.5 mm; 3, 4= 0.2 mm.

DESCRIPTION. Holotype male: total length 6.28; carapace 2.08 long, 2.26 wide; abdomen 3.87 long, 1.35 wide. Eye measurements: AME 0.06, ALE 0.08, PME 0.06, PLE 0.07; AME-AME 0.13; AME-ALE 1.11; PME-PME 0.12; PME-PLE 0.25; MOA long 0.29, front width 0.23, back width 0.24. Carapace yellow brown with slightly elevated cephalic region (Figs 1, 2). Chelicerae, endites and labium yellowish brown. Sternum yellowish white, shield-shaped. All legs yellow. Abdomen longer than wide (Fig. 1), yellow. Spinnerets yellow-brown. Palp (Figs 3, 4): RTA with broad base and pointed tip. VTA well developed. Embolus broad and tapering toward tip, tip hook-shaped.

Female. For description see Tang *et al.* (2008).

NATURAL HISTORY. This species is currently known from northeastern India and southwestern China, occupying subtropical to montane forest habitats across a broad elevational range (556–1841 m).

In India, the species was collected from *Churachandpur*, Manipur State, at an altitude of approximately 831 m, within the Indo-Myanmar hill ranges. The locality is characterized by mid-elevation evergreen forests interspersed with secondary vegetation, suggesting that the species inhabits humid subtropical hill ecosystems.

In China, the species has been extensively recorded from Yunnan Province, with specimens collected across Tengchong, Gongshan, and Lushui counties (Tang *et al.*, 2008), as well as from Xishuangbanna and misidentified as *O. bhutanica* (Tang & Li, 2010). In Tengchong County, specimens were collected from a series of montane sites – Qiaotou Village (1652 m), Zhoujiapo (1660 m), Zhangjiaying Village (1665 m), Baofeng Temple (1790 m), Rehai (1470 m), and Milang (1400 m), indicating a preference for forested mid- to high-elevation environments. Additional records from Gongshan County (Dulongjiang Township: Dizhengdang Village, 1841 m; Longyuan Village, Bailai Group, 1676 m) and Lushui County (Pianma Township, Ganfang, 1780 m) further support its montane distribution within the Gaoligong Mountain range. These localities are dominated by subtropical broadleaf and mixed evergreen forests with high humidity throughout the year.

Specimens reported by Tang & Li (2010) as *O. bhutanica* from Xishuangbanna were collected at lower elevations (556–613 m) within Menglun Nature Reserve, Mengla County, from plantations of *Paramichelia baillonii* and *Anogeissus acuminata*, bamboo groves, and roadside evergreen forests. These were obtained primarily by canopy fogging and sweep sampling, suggesting that the species occupies both arboreal and understory microhabitats.

Across its known range, the species appears to tolerate a wide range of altitudinal and habitat conditions from lowland tropical forests to montane evergreen forests and occurs in both natural and disturbed environments. The temporal data indicate that adults are active from May to November, corresponding with the warm and humid seasons in these regions. Its wide distribution across northeastern India and Yunnan, along with its occurrence in plantations and forest edges, indicates ecological adaptability within humid subtropical and tropical ecosystems.

DISTRIBUTION. India and China (Tang *et al.*, 2008; Tang & Li, 2010 and present data).

ETYMOLOGY. The name highlights distribution of the new species across India (Manipur) and China (Yunnan) within the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot. The epithet is treated as an adjective.

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