

The first described male of the Asian jumping spider genus *Piranthus* Thorell, 1895 (Araneae: Salticidae: Baviini)

Karunnappilli S. Nafin¹, Wayne P. Maddison² and Ambalaparambil V. Sudhikumar³

¹ Centre for Animal Taxonomy and Ecology, Department of Zoology, Christ College, Irinjalakuda, Kerala, 680 125, India, *email* nafinks5@gmail.com

² Departments of Zoology and Botany and Beaty Biodiversity Museum, University of British Columbia, 6270 University Boulevard, Vancouver, British Columbia, V6T 1Z4, Canada, *email* wayne.maddison@ubc, corresponding author

³ Centre for Animal Taxonomy and Ecology, Department of Zoology, Christ College, Irinjalakuda, Kerala, 680 125, India, *email* avsudhi@rediffmail.com

Abstract. We give the first description of males of the jumping spider genus *Piranthus* Thorell, 1895, of the Indian species *Piranthus planolancis* Malamel, Nafin, Sudhikumar & Sebastian, 2019. Their palp is unusual in two aspects: the long embolus (longer than in most baviines) arises toward the proximal from its base before curling and proceeding distally, and the retrolateral tibial apophysis is an especially long blade. We present new illustrations of the female, and extend the range of the species from Kerala to Karnataka.

Key words. India, Salticinae, Salticoida.

Introduction

For more than a century after Thorell (1895) described the jumping spider genus *Piranthus*, it was known from only the single female and two juveniles of *P. decorus* he described from Myanmar, apart from a species misplaced in the genus (Caleb et al., 2019). Recently, *P. decorus* was discovered in Mumbai, India (Caleb & Sanap, 2017) and redescribed. Caleb & Sanap provided photographs of a living male, but did not have the specimen to describe. A second species of *Piranthus* was recently described from Kerala, *P. planolancis* Malamel, Nafin, Sudhikumar & Sebastian, 2019, likewise only from the female (Malamel et al., 2019). Here we provide the first description of a male *Piranthus*, that of *P. planolancis*, provide new images of female *P. planolancis*, and extend its range northeastward.

Material and methods

Preserved specimens were examined under both dissecting microscopes and a compound microscope with reflected light. Drawings were made by digitally tracing photographs taken using a Leica DMC4500 camera attached to Leica M205 C stereomicroscope (Kerala specimens), and a drawing tube on a Nikon ME600L compound microscope (Karnataka specimens).