

First record of *Menemerus marginatus* (Kroneberg, 1875) (Araneae: Salticidae: Chrysillini) from India

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Abstract. The jumping spider *Menemerus marginatus* (Kroneberg, 1875) is reported for the first time from India, from the Desert National Park in Rajasthan. The male and female *M. marginatus* are redescribed from Indian specimens and the known distribution of this species, in southwestern Asia, is mapped.

Keywords. Desert National Park, distribution, jumping spider, Rajasthan

The genus *Menemerus* (Simon, 1868) is most diverse on the African, Asian, and European continents (Mariante & Hill, 2020). Presently this genus includes 65 species worldwide. Of these, *M. albocinctus* (Keyserling, 1890), *M. brachygnathus* (Thorell, 1887), *M. brevibulbis* (Thorell, 1887), *M. fulvus* (L. Koch, 1878) and *M. nigli* (Wesołowska & Freudenschuss, 2012) are known from India (Keyserling, 1890; Jastrzębski, 1997; Roy et al., 2016; Chatterjee et al., 2017; World Spider Catalog, 2021). During a recent *Arachnological Diversity Assessment* of the Desert National Park Wildlife Sanctuary of Rajasthan, India, three *Menemerus* spiders were collected. Later, we identified these as *M. marginatus* (Kroneberg, 1875) through the use of taxonomic keys provided by Wesołowska et al. (2011) and Bauer et al. (2015).

The known distribution of *Menemerus marginatus* includes parts of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Central Asia (southwestern European part of the former USSR, to include Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan), Iran, Pakistan, and the United Arab Emirates (Figure 1; World Spider Catalog, 2021). This new record (Figure 1: locality 32) extends the known distribution of this species in southwestern Asia to the southeast, into India. As previously suggested (Pook et al., 2009; Linder et al. 2017), climatic conditions in the Thar Desert that divides India and Pakistan are similar to those in contiguous, arid areas of southwestern Asia, and this area can be expected to harbor species previously found only to the north and west.