

*Salticidae* from the Himalayas.<sup>1</sup> Subfamily *Spartaeinae* WANLESS, 1984  
(*Araneae: Salticidae*)

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ABSTRACT. Five salticid *Spartaeinae* species: *Brettus anchorum* WANLESS, *Cyrrba ocellata* (KRONEBERG), *Phaeacius fimbriatus* SIMON, *P. wanlessi* WIJESINGHE, and *Portia fimbriata* (DOLESCHALL), all from Nepal are diagnosed, described and illustrated.

Key words: Arachnology, zoogeography, *Araneae, Salticidae, Spartaeinae*, Himalaya.

#### INTRODUCTION

During the last 25 years the salticid fauna of the Himalayas has been a subject for intense taxonomic and biogeographic investigation. The Himalayas, being under Oriental and Palaearctic influence, offer a huge variety of habitats and climatic conditions and various zoogeographical elements can be found there.

The subfamily *Spartaeinae* consists of 13 genera; some of them distributed only in tropical Asia (*Brettus*, *Gelotia*, *Mintonia*, *Neobrettus*, *Phaeacius*, *Spartaeus*, *Taraxella*), others of wider distribution. The subfamily itself is one of the best studied thanks to the revisionary works by WANLESS (summarised in 1984a) and it can be distinguished by eye size and position, genitalic structure and unique mating and hunting behaviour. According to JACKSON & HALLAS (1986) *Spartaeinae* are a primitive salticid subfamily, which originated from web-building ancestors. They are intermediate group between primitive web-building spiders and typical salticids (jumping on their pray, not web-building) - especially *Portia*. *Brettus* and *Cyrrba* are more derived and can be placed closer to "typical" *Salticidae*. On the other hand

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