

Salticidae from the Himalayas.¹ 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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FORSTER (1982) considers *Spartaeinae* to be extremely specialised, not primitive. The predatory behaviour of *Spartaeinae* is atypical for salticids. All spartaeines rely on lunging, instead of leaping, to attack their prey. *Brettus*, *Cyrba* and *Portia* are specialised web-invaders that prey on other spiders. *Phaeacius* is a specialised ambush predator that sits on the trunks and waits for its prey to come (JACKSON 1990b).

Abbreviations used: AEW = anterior eye width, AL = abdomen length, CL = cephalothorax length, CW = cephalothorax width, EFL = eye field length, PEW = posterior eye width.

The study is based on material from the following collections:

SMF = Naturmuseum und Forschungsinstitut Senckenberg, Frankfurt a. M. (collected by Drs. J. MARTENS, W. SCHAWALLER, A. AUSOBSKY, B. DAAMS)
 JS = collection by Dr. J. SVAŤON deposited in Andrei Kmet Museum, Martin.

***Brettus* THORELL, 1895**

Brettus WANLESS 1979: 183; 1980: 220; 1984a: 181.

This genus consist of six species and occurs in Sri Lanka, India, Burma, Sulawesi (WANLESS 1984a) and Nepal (this paper). Taxonomical status of *B. madagascarensis* (PECKHAM et PECKHAM) found in Madagascar (WANLESS 1980) must be verified, because its figures are not sufficient.

Behaviour of *Brettus* is little known. It is primarily a rain forest species, found on the green leaves of trees. The spiders do not build their own webs (JACKSON & HALLAS 1986a) but invade alien webs, wher they prey on spider eggs and steal insects.

***Brettus anchorum* WANLESS, 1979**

Brettus anchorum WANLESS, 1979: 188; 1984a: 181.

MATERIAL EXAMINED

Nepal. 1M, 1F, Gorkha Distr., Arughat - Suteo, 600-700 m, Waldreste Kulturland, 27.VII.1983, leg. MARTENS & SCHAWALLER, SMF.

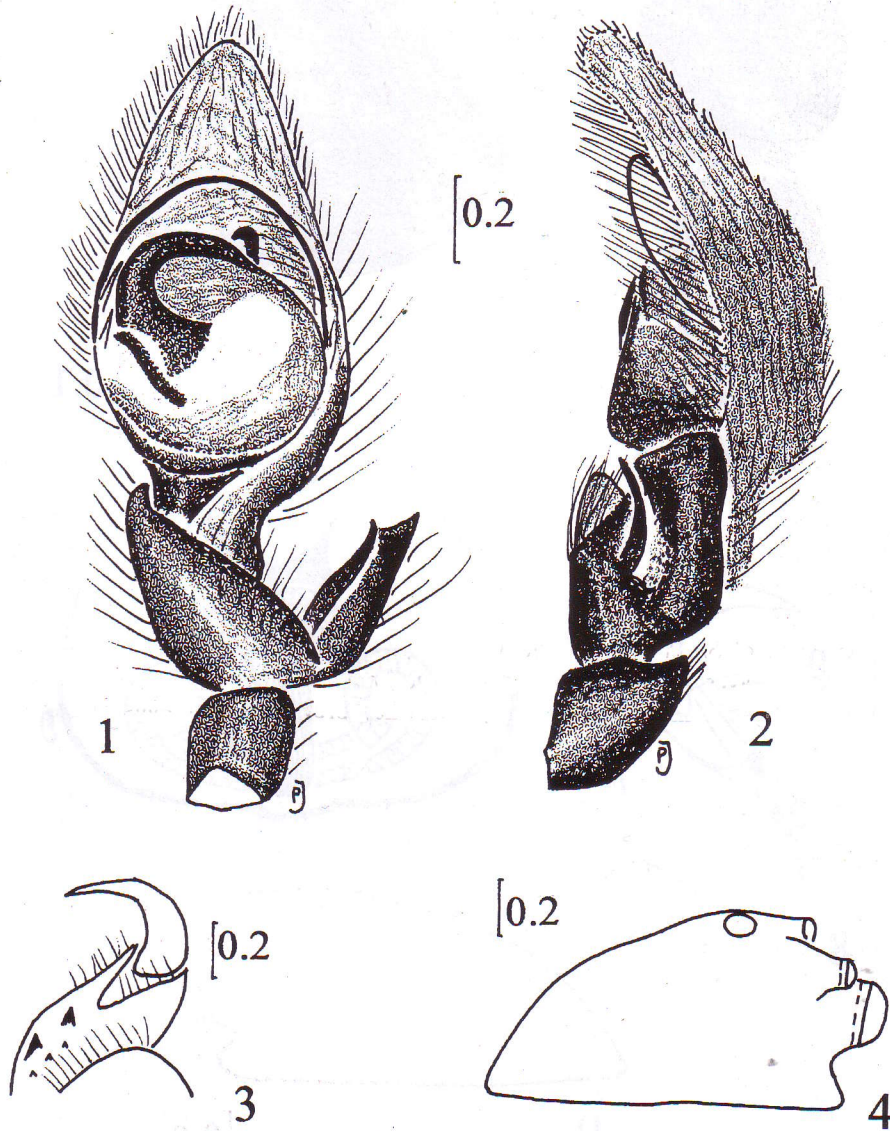
DIAGNOSIS

This species is characteristic in that: males have hook-shaped process on the upper part of tegulum and peculiar details of tibial apophysis and apophysae M_1 and M_2 ; while females have small spermathecae placed laterally.

DESCRIPTION

Male (Figs 1-4). Measurements (in mm): CL 2.40; CW 1.98; EFL 1.02; AEW 1.26; PEW 1.02; AL 3.00. Spines formula: tI p 1-1, r 1-1; mI p 1-1, r 1-1. Legs

formula: 1-4-2-3. Cephalothorax dark brown, only surroundings of eyes darker. The lower margins with belt of white hairs. PME rather large. Abdomen elongated,



1-4. Male of *Brettus anchorum*: 1 - ventral view of palpal organ, 2 - lateral view of palpal organ, 3 - cheliceral dentition, 4 - lateral view of cephalothorax