

## NEW CRAB SPIDER OF THE GENUS *THOMISUS* WALCKENAER FROM KOLKATA, WEST BENGAL

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ABSTRACT: *Thomisus nirmali* sp. nov. is described and illustrated.

KEY WORDS: Crab spider, *Thomisus*, new species, Kolkata, West Bengal.

Crab spiders of the genus *Thomisus* Walckenaer of India have mainly been dealt with by Tikader (1980) and Biswas & Biswas (1992). Platnick (2006) listed 25 *Thomisus* species from India. Recently the first author came across with a *Thomisus* species collected from Kolkata, West Bengal. The species after necessary study is considered new and accordingly described and illustrated.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

The spider sample was collected and preserved following Tikader (1987). The study was made using Stereo Zoom Binocular Microscope, Model Zeiss SV-11. The measurements indicated in the text are in millimetres, made with an eyepiece graticule.

#### *Thomisus nirmali* sp. nov.

(Fig : 1-8)

**Measurements (in mm): Female (Holotype) :** Total length 7.0; carapace length 3.17, width 3.08; abdomen length 4.17, width 3.83; legs as in Table 1.

**General colour:** Cephalothorax yellow brown, legs yellow with distal tip brownish, abdomen off white.

Cephalothorax (Fig. 1) globose, as long as wide, anteriorly weakly narrow, broadest little below the middle, ocular area with a white patch, triangular, greyish between the anteromedians, extending as narrow bands, widening at the distal half of chelicerae continuing upto the cheliceral margin (Fig. 2), with 2 types of hairs, rather long, fine hairs on the ocular quad and short, stiff, spiny hairs situated below the anteromedians but out of the ocular quad; clypeus medially with a

concentrated bunch of rather small spiny hairs beside a long hair, clypeal margin with long, stiff, hairs; eyes black on white prominences, anteromedians largest, ocular quad elongately rectangular, narrowing in front; chelicerae (Fig. 3) brown, robust, with long, stiff, spiny hairs, outer margin with 2 teeth, fangs brown, short, strong, incurved; maxillae and labium (Fig. 4) yellow brown, both with long, spiny hairs, maxillae slipper-shaped, labium bell-shaped, constricted little below the middle; sternum (Fig. 5) yellow brown, elongate, longer than wide, nearly parallel-sided, abruptly narrowing to a blunt tip; legs long, stout, clothed with hairs and spines, metatarsi I (Fig. 6) and II with 4-5 and 5 pairs of ventral spines respectively, leg formula 1243.

**Table 1.** Length of legs of ♀ holotype of *Thomisus nirmali* sp. nov. (in mm)

Leg	Femur	Patella	Tibia	Metatarsus	Tarsus	Total
I	4.2/4.2	1.6/1.6	3.0/3.0	2.4/2.4	1.8/1.8	13.0/13.0
II	4.2/4.2	1.6/1.6	2.8/2.8 1.4/1.4	2.6/2.6	1.6/1.6	12.8/12.8
III	2.2/2.2	0.8/0.8	2.2/2.2	1.2/1.2	0.8/0.8	6.4/6.4
IV	2.4/2.4	1.0/1.0		1.2/1.2	0.6/0.6	7.4/7.4

Abdomen (Fig. 1) pentagonal, slightly overlapping the cephalothorax in front, broadest just below the middle, terminating to the 2 short, blunt, conical protuberances, each basally marked with a brown spot, anterior half laterally with a brown broad band, narrowing at the anterior margin, medially with 7 sigilla, 6 arranged in pairs of which the anteriormost smallest, the largest single, little above the smallest pair, posterior half with transverse muscular corrugations. Venter brown, medially with a chalk white reticulation and 3 pairs of longitudinally arranged brown spots; epigyne and internal genitalia as in Figs. 7 & 8.

**Material Examined:** Holotype, ♀, Kolkata, West Bengal, 24.7.2006; Coll. Nirmal Maity.

**Type Deposition:** Entomology Laboratory, Department of Zoology, University of Calcutta, Regn. no. EZC 0018-06.

**Distribution:** INDIA: West Bengal (Known only from the type locality).

**Remarks:** None of the Indian congeners (Tikader, 1980; Biswas and Biswas, 1992) appear close to the present species chiefly because of the typical epigyne and internal genitalia. The species however, shows affinity to *Thomisus labefactus* Karsch, 1882 (Cheng and Zhang, 1991) in the pattern of epigyne and internal genitalia. But the detail of the epigyne and internal genitalia of the present species do show wide difference with that

of *T. labefactus* Karsch. Therefore, the species is described as new to science.

**Etymology:** The species is named after the collector, Sri Nirmal Maity, Laboratory Assistant, Department of Zoology, Lady Brabourne College, Kolkata.

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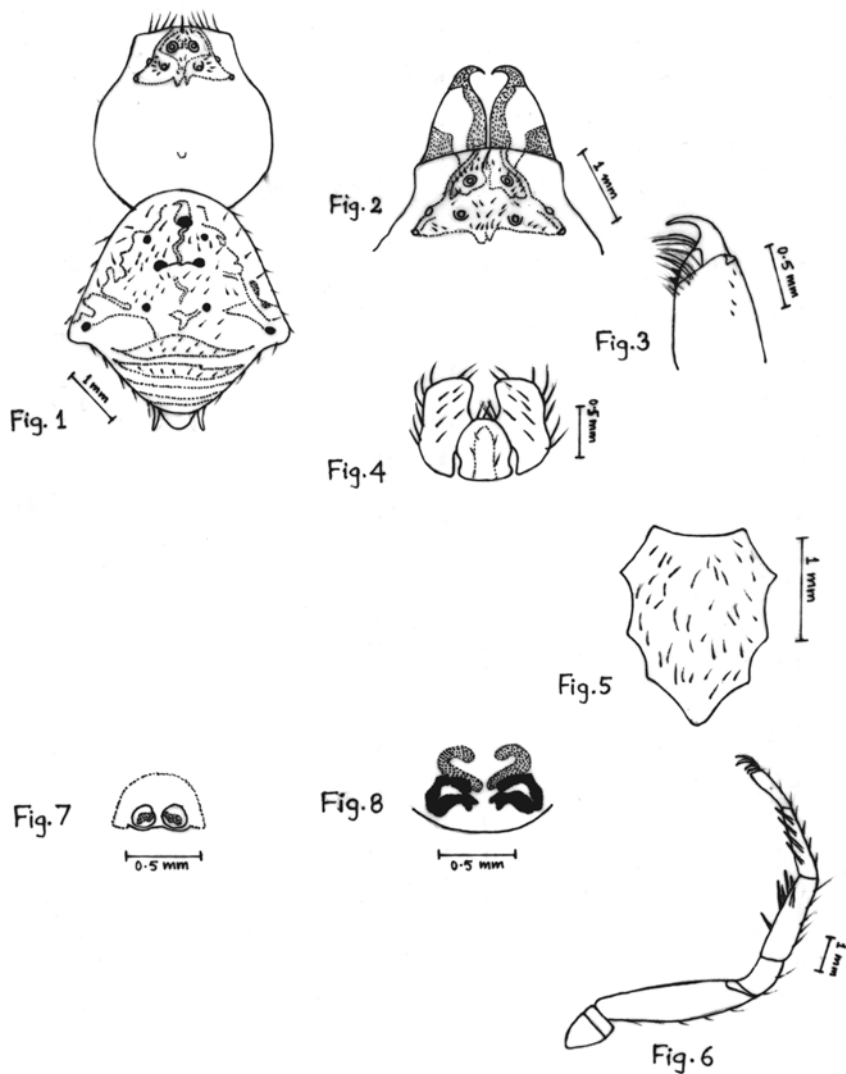
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**Thomisus nirmali sp. nov.**

**Figure 1-8.** *Thomisus nirmali* sp. nov. : Female : Holotype; 1. Whole body, 2. Cephalic region showing the eye pattern and distribution of white patch on the ocular area and chelicerae, 3. Chelicerae, 4. Maxillae and labium, 5. Sternum, 6. Leg I, 7. Epigynum, 8. Internal genitalia.