



Distributional record of *Annandaliella travancorica* Hirst 1909, (Araneae, Theraphosidae) from Western Ghats of Kerala, India

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ABSTRACT: Only three species of *Annandaliella* are known from the Western Ghats of Kerala, *A. travancorica* Hirst 1909, *A. ernakulamensis* Jose and Sebastian 2018, *A. pectinifera* Gravely 1935. *A. travancorica* is distinguished by its primary apophysis on first leg, which has a horn-like projection with a pointed black spine at the tibial end. The presence of a tibial apophysis with a thick black spine distinguishes it from *A. ernakulamensis* and *A. pectinifera*. *A. travancorica* has previously been reported in Kerala's Travancore, Kozikode, and Thrissur. This is the first report from Peechi Wildlife Sanctuary. © 2022 Association for Advancement of Entomology

KEYWORDS: Wildlife sanctuary, first report, apophysis

The genus *Annandaliella* which is endemic to India is distinguished by the presence of a stridulatory spine on the male and female chelicerae, as well as a tibial apophysis on the male tibia (World Spider Catalog, 2020). *Annandaliella travancorica* Hirst 1909, *A. ernakulamensis* Jose and Sebastian 2018, *A. pectinifera* Gravely 1935, are the three species reported from Western Ghats of Kerala. The presence of comb-like primary apophysis differentiate *A. ernakulamensis* and *A. pectinifera* from *A. travancorica* Hirst (1909) first described *A. travancorica* in 1909, but the original description appears to lack details. Sunil Jose and Prasanth (2015) provided a detailed description of *A. travancorica*.

During a survey *A. travancorica* was collected from Peechi Wild Life Sanctuary and deposited at

Deva Matha College, Kuravilangad, Kerala (DMCK 21/ 395). The specimens were preserved in ethyl alcohol (70%). The whole body including legs and eye measurements and photographs were taken using LASX application suite X software and live images of the specimen were captured with Nikon d3500 digital camera. All measurements were taken in millimetres. The dorsal aspect of the leg and pedipalps were used to take measurements. The measurements of the eyes were taken using a calibrated eye micrometre and expressed in millimetres.

Material examined: Three males collected from Peechi wildlife sanctuary on 17th October 2021, 10°31'28" N; 76°21'19.9". Deposited at DMCK 21/395.

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Fig. 1 Habitat of *Annandaliella travancorica* Hirst 1909

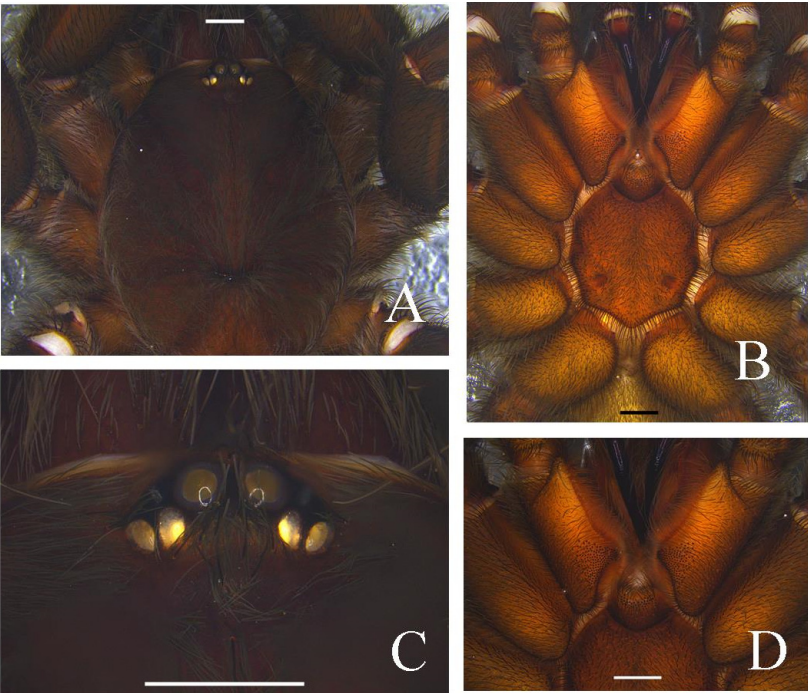


Fig. 2 A. Carapace, B. Sternum, C. Eyes, D. Maxillae and Labium

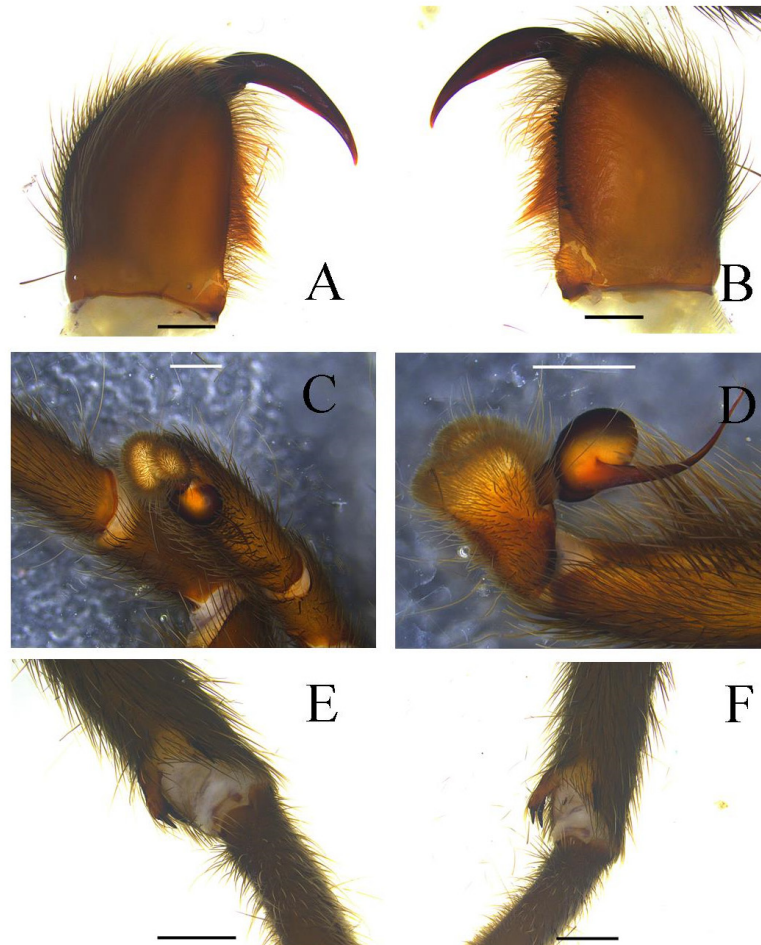


Fig. 3 A. Chelicerae Pro-lateral view, B. Chelicerae Retro-lateral view, C. Palp Dorsal view, D. Palp Retro-lateral view, E. Tibial apophysis Ventral view, F. Tibial apophysis Retro-lateral view

Abbreviations used: AME: Anterior Median Eyes, PME: Posterior median eyes, PLE: Posterior lateral eyes, ALE: Anterior Lateral Eyes, PLS: Posterior lateral spinneret, PMS: Posterior median spinneret.

Taxonomy: *Annandaliella travancorica* Hirst 1908

Diagnosis: Primary apophysis is like a thick horn like projection ends with black spine. A single spine present on the base of the primary apophysis. Chelicerae of *A. travancorica* had no stridulatory spines on the inner surface, whereas *A. ernakulamensis* and *A. pectinifera* chelicerae had this stridulatory spine. A white patch along all leg tarsi with dark black body.

Description: Carapace: 7.66 long 6.53 wide. Wider than longer, oval in shape covered with pale yellow hairs. Ocular area is close to clypeus. Thoracic streaks arise from fovea. Fovea is concave. Eyes: AME is larger than others. PLE is smaller. Ocular area is 0.62 long, 1.32 wide. Eye diameter; AME: 0.32, ALE: 0.10, PME: 0.16, PLE: 0.16. Eye interdistances: AME-AME-0.11, PME-PME-0.57, PME-PL-0.06, and ALE-PL-0.17. Maxillae: 2.31 long, 1.43 wide. A thick bush of orange hairs covers antero-dorsally. Maxillary cuspules distributed over anterior triangular corner. Labium: 0.95 long, cuspules covering anterior dorsal half. Sternum rounded, anterior corner is concave, posterior blunt end separating the fourth legs. Edges of sternum lined by black hairs. Three pairs of

Sigillae, Posterior 0.38 diameters, Median 0.21 diameter and Anterior Sigillae is marginal. Legs I: 3.36, 1.65, 3.82, 1.54, 1.04; II:3.03, 1.05, 2.69, 2.37, 1.64; III:2.57, 0.75, 2.30, 2.53, 1.97; IV:2.51, 4.21, 3.49, 3.32, 1.97; Palp;2.77, 1.41, 2.31,-,0.51. Abdomen is oval, longer (6.83) than wider (4.01). Spinnerets are digit form, PLS-Anterior segment 0.74 L, 0.45 W; Median segment: 0.73L, 0.39W; Posterior segment:1.01 L, 0.31 W; PMS- 0.68 L, 0.32 W. Palp having palpal bulb with thick long brownish curved spine.

Distribution: Thiruvananthapuram, Kozhikode, Kulathupzha, Thrissur, Peechi wildlife sanctuary (New report).

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