

On the Type of *Myrmarachne uniseriata* Narayan, 1915 (Araneae: Salticidae), with Notes on Its Synonymy

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On the type of *Myrmarachne uniseriata* Narayan, 1915 (Araneae: Salticidae), with notes on its synonymy

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Abstract

The type material of *Myrmarachne uniseriata* Narayan, 1915 (Araneae: Salticidae) is re-examined and redescribed. *M. aurantiaca* Benjamin, 2015 is recognized as a junior synonym of *M. uniseriata*.

Keywords: India • Sri Lanka

Introduction

The genus *Myrmarachne* was established by MacLeay in 1839 with *M. melanocephala* as its type. The genus presently consists of 186 described species worldwide. Of them, 24 species are known from India to date (Prószyński, 2016; World Spider Catalog, 2017). Since most species described from India are not recognizable by the existing descriptions and illustrations, the study of types becomes necessary positively to identify described species (Prószyński, 1992; Caleb, 2016). Benjamin (2015) redescribed all nominal species of *Myrmarachne* from Sri Lanka based on types and newly collected material. However, type material deposited in the Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata were not examined.

While examining some salticid types at the National Zoological Collection, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata one of the authors (JC) found that the male of the recently described new species, *M. aurantiaca* Benjamin, 2015, unambiguously matches the male holotype of *M. uniseriata* Narayan, 1915. Thus, the aim of this correspondence is to provide a redescription of the holotype of *M. uniseriata* along with illustrations. *M. aurantiaca* is recognized as a junior synonym of *M. uniseriata*.

Material and methods

Images of the type specimen were done with a Leica EZ4 HD stereomicroscope equipped with LAS EZ software (version 3.0). However, detailed hand drawings of the holotype are not provided to avoid damaging the fragile specimen. All measurements are in millimetres. The studied material is from the National Zoological Collection, Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Kolkata. Abbreviations:

ALE anterior lateral eyes, AME anterior median eyes, PLE posterior lateral eyes, PME posterior median eyes.

Salticidae Blackwall, 1869

Myrmarachne MacLeay, 1839

Diagnosis: For diagnostic features and description, see Edwards and Benjamin (2009) and Yamasaki and Ahmad (2013).

Myrmarachne uniseriata Narayan, 1915 (Figs. 1-6)

- *Myrmarachne uniseriata* Narayan, 1915: 402, pl. 32, fig. 6 (description & illustration of ♂). Type kept at the National Zoological Collection, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata, examined.
- *Myrmarachne aurantiaca* Benjamin, 2015: 2613, figs. 1 a–d (misidentification; description & illustration of ♂). Type kept at the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Geneva, Switzerland (MHNG), not examined. New synonymy.

Type material: Myrmarachne uniseriata Narayan, 1915, holotype δ (ZSI-2372/17).

Diagnosis: See Benjamin 2015 for comparative diagnosis of the species.

Description of male holotype (ZSI-2372/17). Total length 4.25; carapace 1.88 long, 1.17 wide; abdomen 2.10 long, 1.02 wide. Width of eye row I 1.02; II 0.98; III 1.18. Eye size: AME 0.32, ALE 0.18, PME 0.06, PLE 0.20; ALE-PME 0.27, ALE-PLE 0.57. Chelicera length 1.04. Sternum length 1.05. Pedicel length, 0.27. Cephalic part flat dorsally, laterally bulging behind the PMEs (Fig. 1). Thoracic region clearly separated with deep furrow, slightly lower than cephalic region, convex dorsally, gently sloping posteriorly (Figs. 1, 3). Chelicerae shorter than carapace, yellow-brown, flattened dorsally and curved outer margins (Fig. 1); cheliceral dentition with 10 teeth in single row; fang long, with tooth-like apophysis (Fig. 5). Sternum yellowish-brown, slender, slightly overlapped by coxae II (Fig. 4). Legs yellowish (Figs. 1-2). Abdomen almost oval, covered dorsally with anterior and posterior scutum with whitish transverse area between (Fig. 1). Palps with rounded tegulum; U-shaped seminal reservoir in the 11-12 o'clock position; embolus with two coils; RTA curved at base, tapering toward tip (Fig. 6).

Justification of synonymy: Myrmarachne aurantiaca Benjamin, 2015 was described recently, based on a single male collected from Kurunegala, North Western Province, Sri Lanka. However, re-examination of the type of *M. uniseriata* revealed that *M. aurantiaca* is identical in general body morphology and palpal structure (compare figs. 1 a,c in Benjamin 2015 with Figs. 1 & 6 herein) thus suggesting that the species is indeed a synonym.

Distribution: India (Chennai, erstwhile Madras), Sri Lanka (Kurunegala).



Figs. 1–6: *Myrmarachne uniseriata* holotype male (ZSI-2372/17). 1 dorsal view; 2 ventral view; 3 lateral view; 4 sternum; 5 chelicerae; 6 left palp, ventral view. Scale lines = 1 mm (1–3); 0.25 mm (4–6).

The type of Myrmarachne uniseriata

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