

**NEW RECORD OF SPIDER *HERSILIA SAVIGNYI* LUCAS
(FAMILY : *HERSILIIDAE*) FROM MADHYA PRADESH
INDIA WITH A DESCRIPTION OF MALE.**

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The spiders of the genus *Hersilia* Audouin are very little known in Indian fauna. Lucas (1836), Pocock (1900), Sinha (1950), Tikader & Biswas (1981) described the *Hersilia savignyi* from various parts of India but without the description of the male.

While studying the spiders of Madhya Pradesh the author came across many specimens of male as well as female of the species which, so far was not recorded from Madhya Pradesh. The illustrations of internal genitalia and male palp are also given here.

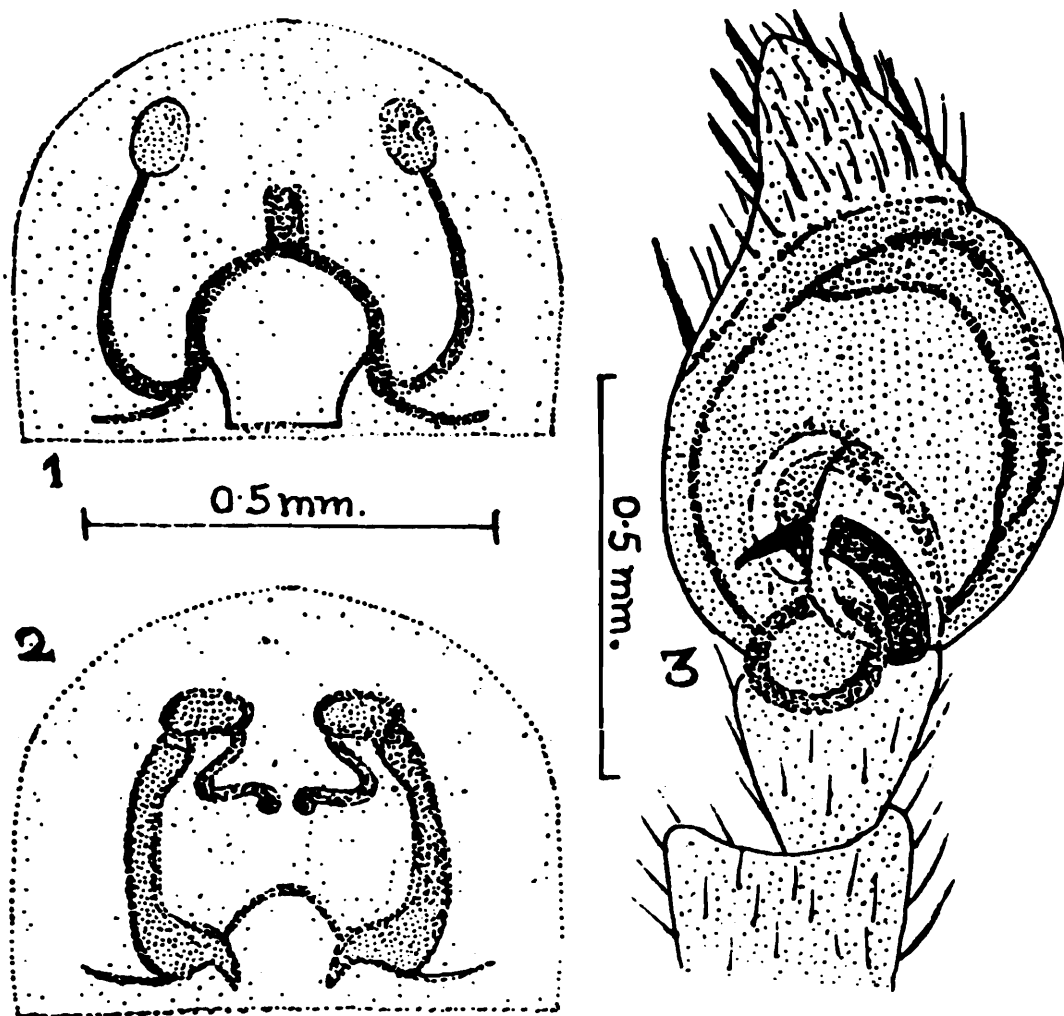
***Hersilia savignyi* Lucas.**

1836. *Hersilia savignyi* Lucas, *Mag. zool.*, 8 : 10.
1869. *Hersilia calcuttensis* : Stoliczka, *J. Asia Soc. Bengal.* 38 : 216.
1900. *Hersilia savignyi* : Pecoock, *Fauna Brit. India, Arach* : 241.
1950. *Hersilia savignyi* : Sinha, *Rec. Indian Mus.*, 48 : 122.
1981. *Hersilia savignyi* : Tikader & Biswas, *Rec. zool. Surv. India, Occ. paper No.* 30 : 47.

Specimens examined : 2 ♀♀, 1 ♂, Around hot water tank on Jabalpur Mandla Road, Dist. Mandla, 4.V.1982. 1 ♀, Narayanganj, Dist. Mandla, 23.I.1985. 1 ♀, Borla, Dist. Rajnandgaon, 7.I.1984. 3 ♂♂, Dhaurai village near Narayanpur, Dist. Bastar, 24.XII.1983. 1 ♀, Chotedonger, Dist. Bastar, 26.XII.1983, 2 ♂♂, Orchha, Dist. Bastar, 28.XII.1983. 2 ♀♀, Tondabeda village near Orccha, Dist. bastar, 29.XII.1983. 4 ♀♀, 1 ♂, Garhbengal Village near Narayanapur, Dist. Bastar, 30.XII.1983. 7 ♀♀, 1 ♂, Hatkachora village near Jagdalpur Dist. Bastar, 2.I.1984. 1 ♂, P.W.D. Rest House Compound, Jagdalpur Dist. Bastar, 2.I.1984 (All localities are from Madhya Pradesh) Coll. U.A. Gajbe.

General : Cephalothorax and legs brown, abdomen brownish-black. Total length 6.00 mm. Carapace 2.50 mm. long, 2.00 mm. wide ; abdomen 3.50 mm. long, 3.00 mm. wide.

Cephalothorax : Longer than wide, slightly narrowing in front, clothed with pubescence. Cephalic area very high, black. Both the eyes rows recurved. Anterior



Figs. 1-3 *Hersilia savignyi* Lucus ; 1. Epigyne ; 2. Internal genitalia ; 3. Male Palp, Ventral view.

median eyes are black, larger than the other eyes, laterals small and oval, equally spaced. Posterior row of eyes slightly recurved, equal in size and equidistant from each other. Median ocular quadrangle longer than wide, widest in front that behind. Clypeal height much greater than the diameter of the anterior median eyes. Chelicerae strong, vertical narrowing in front, inner margin without tooth, outer margin with one tooth. Labium broader than long, triangular ; maxillae oblique, longer than wide and provided with black setae. Sternum heart shaped, pointed behind, clothed with long black setae. Legs long, clothed with hairs and some spines, protarsi of legs I, II and IV bisegmented.

Abdomen : Longer than wide, subpentagonal, narrowing behind, with black rim, transverse stripes and three pairs of sagilla. Ventral side very lighter than the dorsal, midventrally provided with brown coloured dots extending upto spinnerets. Spinnerets widely separated, posterior spinnerets very long and longer than the abdomen. The male palp as in Fig. 3. Females larger in size, same in colour as male. Epigyne bilobate, the lobes separated by deep emargination as in Fig. 1. Internal genitalia as in Fig. 2.

This species is a active hunter living on tree trunks and walls of old houses. The body colour varies according to the colour of the substratum and spinning a scanty web of irregular threads.

***Distribution* : INDIA : Nilgiri Hills, Madras, Tamil Nadu ; Travancore, Bangalore, Karnataka ; Poona, Maharashtra ; Allhabad, Dehradun, Uttar Pradesh ; Calcutta, Serampur, Howrah, West Bengal ; Assam ; Ranchi, Chota Nagpur, Chakradharpur, Dinapur, Siripur, Pusa, Bihar ; Puri, Orissa ; SRI LANKA ; BURMA ; PAKISTAN.**

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