



## Two new species of spiders of the family Zodariidae (Araneae) from eastern Nepal

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### Abstract

Two new species of Zodariidae of the genus *Suffasia* Jocqué, 1991, obtained from the easternmost part of Nepal are described under the names, *Suffasia martensi* **sp. nov.**, and *S. kanchenjunga* **sp. nov.** Both new species can be distinguished from each other and from all the known species of the genus, *Suffasia tigrina* (Simon, 1893) from India, *S. tumegaster* Jocqué, 1992 from Nepal, *S. attiduya* Benjamin & Jocqué, 2000 and *S. mahasumana* Benjamin & Jocqué, 2000 from Sri Lanka by the peculiar shape of male palpal tibia. In both species, the tibia is very thick, and it has a dorsal spine in *S. kanchenjunga*. The females of both species have an epigynum with a long scape, which is slightly widened in front in *S. kanchenjunga*.

**Key words:** Taxonomy, *Suffasia*, alpine fauna, Himalayas, Ilam district, soil dwellers

### Introduction

This report is based on a taxonomic study of the spider material collected during the zoological expedition to the easternmost part of Nepal made by Drs Jochen Martens, Albert Ausobsky, and Bärbel Frühbeis, Germany, between March 16 and May 16, 1980. It deals with the descriptions of two new species of the genus *Suffasia* Jocqué, 1991, which is only a small contribution to the spider fauna in the Himalayan Mountains considering the high diversity of this group.

The collecting sites of these new species, Mai Pokhari and Gitang Khola, are situated on the way from the village of Ilam to north, toward Mt. Kanchenjunga (8598m) on the border between Nepal and Sikkim, India (Martens 1987). The specimens were collected by sifting leaf litter and by extraction with the Berlese Funnel.

Spiders of the family Zodariidae were generally very little known, at least at the time, when I was studying spiders in the Zoological Institute of the University of Mainz