



***Martensopoda* gen. nov. from southern Indian mountain ranges,  
the first genus of huntsman spiders with a cymbial spur  
(Araneae: Sparassidae: Heteropodinae)**

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**Abstract**

The genus *Martensopoda* **gen. nov.** is established for two species from South India with distinct and apomorphic features in their copulatory organs. A cymbial spur in the male copulatory organs is reported the first time in the Sparassidae. The embolus' loop — unique to Heteropodinae — is oriented transversally to the plane of the alveolus. Females exhibit spirally coiled copulatory openings similar to those of *Spariolenus*, but with a posterior pit at the median septum and with lateral loops of the internal duct system. *Martensopoda transversa* **sp. nov.** is described from Cardamon Hills in Kerala State (male, female), *Martensopoda minuscula* (Reimoser 1934) **comb. nov.** is known only from females and is recorded from Palni Hills, Tamil Nadu State.

**Key words:** Taxonomy, *Martensopoda transversa* **sp. nov.**, *Martensopoda minuscula* **comb. nov.**, India, Cardamon Hills, Palni Hills

**Introduction**

For a long time, the genus *Heteropoda* Latreille 1804 was used – similar to the genus *Olios* Walckenaer 1837 – as a kind of a waste basket for placing newly described species of Sparassidae. Although the genus seems to be speciose in Asia and Australia with about 180 nominal species presently assigned, some of them have apparently been misplaced in former times. While most of the described genera in the subfamily Heteropodinae Thorell 1873 exhibit clear diagnostic characters, some species were known only from one sex and could not readily be assigned to any known genus. This was the case for *Heteropoda minuscula* Reimoser 1934. In the original publication the epigyne was figured upside-down; that did not ease cognition that this species does certainly not belong to *Heteropoda*.