



***Castianeira furva* sp. nov. (Araneae, Corinnidae, Castianeirinae), a new polymorphic ground sac spider from the southern Western Ghats of India**

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Introduction

The ground-dwelling, ant-mimicking corinnid spider genus *Castianeira*, with *Castianeira rubicunda* as type species, was erected by Keyserling (1879). Members of the genus are closely related to the Afrotropical genus *Cambalida* Simon, 1910 (Haddad 2012a) and are distributed mainly in tropical and temperate regions of the world except for Australia and nearby islands (World Spider Catalog 2015). The genus was revised from the Nearctic Region and south-east Asia (Reiskind 1969 and Deeleman-Reinhold 2001, respectively) and currently includes 126 described species, making it as the largest genus within the family Corinnidae (World Spider Catalog 2015). Even though the genus is rich in species, the validity and placement of majority of the species are still doubtful and questionable. For example, according to Haddad (2012b), many of the Afrotropical species, as well as majority of the species described from India (Haddad, pers. comm.) are misplaced or synonyms of previously described ones (e.g. Haddad 2012a, 2013a). The genus thus will remain as a trash-can until all the species described so far can be revised.

Presently, nine species of *Castianeira* are known from India (World Spider Catalog 2015). The present paper provides the description of a new polymorphic *Castianeira* species from the Western Ghats of India, one of the biodiversity hotspots of the world (Myers *et al.* 2000), and provides evidence for the occurrence of somatic as well as genitalic intraspecific variation within the genus *Castianeira*.

Material and methods

The specimens were preserved in 70% ethanol and studied under a Zeiss Stemi 2000-C stereomicroscope. All measurements are in millimetres (mm) and were made with an ocular micrometer. Length of palp and leg segments are given as: total (femur, patella, tibia, metatarsus (except palp), tarsus). Spine positions follow the format of Bosselaers & Jocqué (2000). Drawings were made using a drawing tube attached to the microscope. The photographic images were taken with a Leica DMC 2900 digital camera attached to a Leica M205 A stereomicroscope with the software package Leica Application Suite (LAS, version 4.5.0) for stacking images taken at different focal planes. The specimens are deposited in a reference collection housed at the Division of Arachnology, Department of Zoology, Sacred Heart College, Thevara, Cochin, Kerala, India (ADSH).

Abbreviations used in the text: ALE—anterior lateral eye, AME—anterior median eye, do—dorsal, pl—prolateral, PLE—posterior lateral eye, plv—prolateral ventral, PME—posterior median eye, rl—retrolateral, rlv—retrolateral ventral, vt—ventral terminal, I–IV—1st to 4th leg.

Taxonomy

Corinnidae Karsch, 1880

Castianeirinae Reiskind, 1969

***Castianeira* Keyserling, 1879**