Cyrtarachne keralensis Jose, 2011 is a junior synonym of Anepsion maritatum (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1877) (Araneae, Araneidae)

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The Indo-pacific araneid genus Anepsion, with A. rhomboides (L. Koch, 1867) as the type species, was erected by Strand in 1929. He proposed the name Anepsion as a replacement name for Anepsia L. Koch, 1871, preoccupied by Anepsia Gistl, 1848, a dipteran genus (OBIS Australia, 2015). The genus was revised by Chrysanthus (1961, 1969) and currently has 16 described species and 1 subspecies (World Spider Catalog 2015). In the present paper, we are reporting the genus from India for the first time and synonymising Cyrtarachne keralensis Jose, 2011 with Anepsion maritatum O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1877. A redescription and illustrations of both male and female of A. maritatum are provided.

The specimens were preserved in 70% ethanol and studied under a Zeiss Stemi 2000-C stereomicroscope. All measurements are in millimetres. Length of palp and leg segments are given as: total (femur, patella, tibia, metatarsus (except palp), tarsus). Drawings were made with the aid of a drawing tube attached to the microscope. The microphotographic images were taken through a Leica DFC295 digital camera attached to a Leica M205 C stereomicroscope with the software package Leica Application Suite (LAS), version 4.3.0. The specimens are deposited in a reference collection housed at the Division of Arachnology, Department of Zoology, Sacred Heart College, Thevara, Cochin, Kerala (ADSH). Abbreviations used: ALE—anterior lateral eye, AME—anterior median eye, PLE—posterior lateral eye, PME—posterior median eye, TL—total length. We are grateful to Rev. Fr. Prasanth Palackappillil CMI, Principal, Sacred Heart College, Thevara providing all facilities for completing this work. Many thanks to Dr. Norman I. Platnick, American Museum of Natural History, New York for providing literature support. The second author is indebted to Dr. A. V. Sudhikumar, Christ College, Thrissur, Kerala for his encouragement and valuable suggestions. Many thanks to Dr. Gustavo Hormiga, George Washington University, Washington, D.C. for his editorial efforts and Dr. Estevam L. Cruz da Silva, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago and an anonymous reviewer for their constructive comments on an earlier version of the manuscript. We would like to thank Chief Conservator of Forest, Kerala State Forest Division for the collecting permit. We especially acknowledge Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB)-DST, New Delhi for providing funding support under Major Research Project: No. SR/SO/AS-99/2012.

Taxonomy

Araneidae Clerck, 1757

Anepsion Strand, 1929

Diagnosis. Small spiders (TL <8 mm). Carapace uniformly coloured, smooth and shiny. Cephalic region high with a pair of dorsal bulging characteristic to the genus. Thoracic region low, nearly flat and overlaid by anterior part of the abdomen. Clypeus narrow. Abdomen oval, circular to rhomboidal and leathery; abdomen with dorsal and lateral sigillae. Median apophysis massive; embolus slender with disto-prolateral origin. Epigynum variable, with short to very long, pointed or blunt ended scapus (Chrysanthus 1961, figs 1–40; 1969, figs 1–16).

Anepsion maritatum (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1877)

(Figs 1A–O, 2A–I)
Paraplectana maritata O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1877: 32, pl. 7, fig. 7 (Description and illustration of ♂ & ♀)
Paraplectana picta Thorell, 1877: 356 (Description of ♀), 1878: 19 (Description of ♀)