



***Theridion echinatum* Gao & Li, 2014, a junior synonym of *Theridion zonulatum* Thorell, 1890 (Araneae, Theridiidae) with comments on its web architecture**

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The spider genus *Theridion* was established by Walckenaer in 1805 with *Theridion pictum* (Walckenaer, 1802) as the type species. It is the most ‘species rich’ theridiid genus comprising 584 described species and 6 subspecies (World Spider Catalog 2015). *Theridion zonulatum* Thorell, 1890, ‘the zebra theridiid spider’, which is known only by the female, was described from Sumatra. Gao & Li (2014) described *Theridion echinatum* from the Yunnan Province in China based only on male specimens. During our surveys of Indian spiders, we came across a matching-pair of male and female theridiid spiders from the Kerala region in India. Our female spiders appeared to belong to *T. zonulatum*, while male spiders shared the features of *T. echinatum*. This led us to the conclusion that both *T. zonulatum* and *T. echinatum* are conspecific. In the present paper, we synonymise *T. echinatum* with *T. zonulatum*. The web architecture of *T. zonulatum* is also described.

The specimens were studied using a Zeiss Stemi 2000-C stereomicroscope. All measurements are in millimetres (mm). Length of palp and leg segments are given as: total (femur, patella, tibia, metatarsus (except palp), tarsus). Drawings were made by the aid of a drawing tube attached to the microscope. Field photos were taken with Canon EOS 6D with Canon Macro photo lens MP-E65 mm 1:2.8 lens attached. The microphotographic images were taken using a Leica DFC295 digital camera attached to 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, India (ADSH).

Abbreviations used: ALE—anterior lateral eye, AME—anterior median eye, PLE—posterior lateral eye, PME—posterior median eye, I–IV—1st to 4th leg.

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Family Theridiidae Sundevall, 1833

***Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805**

***Theridion zonulatum* Thorell, 1890**

(Figs. 1B–C, 2A–F, 3A–E)

Theridion zonulatum Thorell, 1890: 273 (Description of ♀)

Theridion zebrinusum Zhu, 1998: 165, figs. 103 A–C (Description and illustration of ♀). *Lapsus calami*.

Theridion zebrinusum Song, Zhu & Chen, 1999: 148, figs. 83 A–B (Illustration of ♀).