



First record of the jumping spider genus *Bavia* Simon, 1877 from India, with the description of a new species

JOBI J. MALAMEL*, PRADEEP M. SANKARAN & POTHALIL A. SEBASTIAN

Division of Arachnology, Department of Zoology, Sacred Heart College, Thevara, Cochin, Kerala 682 013, India.

*Corresponding author. E-mail: jomaljoseph@yahoo.co.in

The tropical jumping spider genus *Bavia* was erected by Simon (1877) to include only the type species *B. aericeps* Simon, 1877, a relatively large, foliage-dwelling, plurident spider with broad carapace, long, tubular abdomen and longest and robust legs I (Murphy & Murphy 2000). To date, twenty species have been catalogued from Southeast Asia, Australia and Madagascar, of which six are known only from males, five only from females and nine are known from both sexes (World Spider Catalog 2015).

Although the type species is well understood, the genus is in need of revision. *Bavia* is considered to be one inquisitive genus hosting several unrelated species, similar in many aspects of morphology, but with heterogeneous genitalia (Prószyński & Deeleman-Reinhold 2013). In the present paper, we record this genus from India for the first time and provide the description of a new species, similar in morphology to *B. aericeps*.

The specimens were 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]. 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 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, PLE—posterior lateral eye, PME—posterior median eye, I–IV—1st to 4th leg.



FIGURES 1–3. *Bavia insularis* sp. nov. 1 Holotype male, in original habitat at the type locality; 2 Paratype female with egg mass, in original habitat at the type locality; 3 Pathiramanal Island, the type locality, a distant view. Photo credit A. & B. Pradeep, M. Sankaran, C. Mathew & M. Joseph.