

RANGE EXTENSION OF *THRIGMOPOEUS TRUNCULENTUS* POCKOCK, 1899 (ARANEAE: THERAPHOSIDAE)

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ABSTRACT: New distributional records of *Thrigmopoeus trunculentus* Pocock, 1899 is given. It is recorded from Kasarkod district of north Kerala. The diagnosis, images, distributional map, and key to the species are also provided.

KEY WORDS: Western Ghats, new distribution, mygalomorphs, taxonomy, tropical Asia, endemic

The *Thrigmopoeus* is an endemic genus known from only three species present in Western Ghats: *Thrigmopoeus insignis* Pocock, 1899, *T. psychedelicus* Sanap & Mirza, 2014 and *T. trunculentus* Pocock, 1899. The *T. trunculentus* Pocock, 1899 was first reported by Pocock (1899) from Karwar. Later it has been reported from Mercara (Strand, 1907), Karwar (Schmidt, 2003) of Karnataka state, Mollem of Goa state and Amboli of Maharashtra state (Siliwal, 2009). Thus the present distribution of this threatened species is limited to three states of India. In many features the natural topography of Karnataka and Kerala, are similar, so there was always a possibility of this species to be found in Kerala. Recently during our survey on theraphosid spiders of Kerala, we found two females of *T. trunculentus* Pocock, 1899 from Kasargod, a district close to Karnataka. This extends the distribution of *T. trunculentus* Pocock, 1899 further south of Western Ghats. Here I provide new images and distributional data of this species based on the specimen collected from Kasargod.

Thrigmopoeus trunculentus Pocock, 1899

(Figs. 1, 2)

Thrigmopoeus trunculentus Pocock, 1899: 748 (Df).

Thrigmopoeus minor Strand, 1907: 85 (m, provisional name only).

Thrigmopoeus trunculentus Schmidt, 2003: 255, f. 840 (f).

Thrigmopoeus trunculentus Siliwal & Molur, 2009a: 332, f. 1-10, images 1-23 (f).

Material examined: Two Females, DMCK 14/151, 14/152, Kasargod, Kerala state, India, Collected by Sunil Jose K on 30 May, 2014.

Diagnosis: It can be separated from *T. insignis* by having two black bands emerging from fovea on the sides of caput and spermatheca with mount shaped lobes; from *T. psychedelicus* it can be separated by the absence of overall black colour with a metallic blue lustre on the carapace and abdomen.

Distribution: INDIA: Kasargod, Kerala (New Record); Karwar, Madikeri, Karnataka; Amboli, Maharashtra.

Remarks: This species is recorded from Kerala for the first time. Its discovery from Kerala points to a wider distribution of the species in the Western Ghats. The species makes burrows on the road side embankments, which goes horizontally to a depth of 20 cms. The burrows are similar to that made by *Haploclastus* species.

Key to the species of *Thrimopoeus*

1. Dark black to brown with a blue metallic sheen on its carapace and abdomen.....*T. pychedelicus*
 -. Blue metallic sheen absent, carapace with two black bands emerging from fovea on the sides of caput.....*T. trunculentus*

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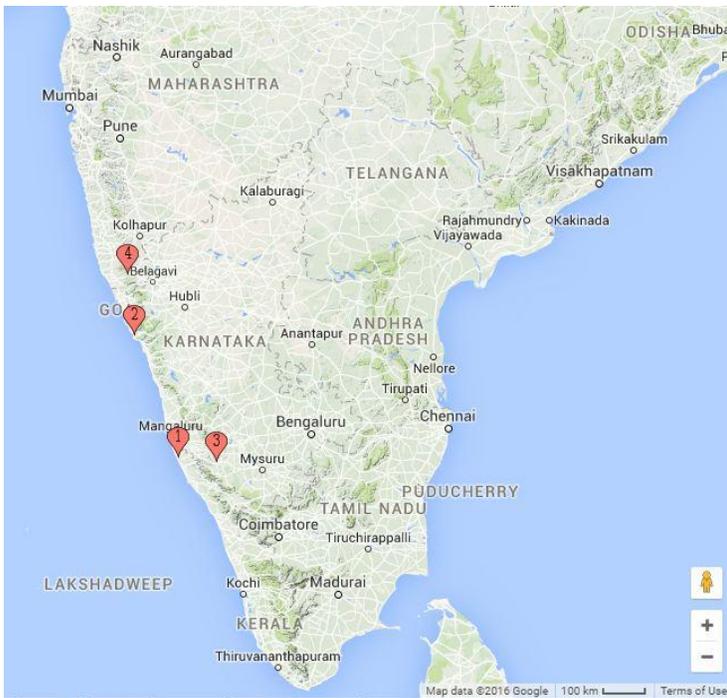


Figure 1. Distribution of *T. trunculentus* Pocock, 1899: 1. Kasargod, 2. Karwar, 3. Madikeri, 4. Amboli.



Figure 2. *Thrigmopoeus trunculentus* Pocock, 1899 from Kasargod.