

New record of the spider genus *Talaus* from South China, with description of a new species (Araneae: Thomisidae)

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Abstract — The genus *Talaus* Simon, 1866 is recorded for the first time from China and a new species, *Talaus xiphosus* is described and illustrated on the basis of the specimens collected from Guangxi Province, South China.

Key words — Araneae, Thomisidae, *Talaus*, new species, China

Introduction

Crab spiders of the genus *Talaus* are small thomisids with body length 1.95–3.00 mm. Since the genus was erected by Simon in 1886, eight species have been reported from southern Asia and southern Africa: *Talaus elegans* Thorell, 1890; *T. limbatus* Simon, 1895; *T. nanus* Thorell, 1890; *T. oblitus* O. P.-Cambridge, 1899; *T. opportunus* (O. P.-Cambridge 1873); *T. samchi* Ono, 2001; *T. semicastaneus* Simon, 1909 and *T. triangulifer* Simon, 1886. Unfortunately, no one has reported about most of these species for almost 90 years (Murphy & Murphy, 2000) until Ono (2001) recently described a new species, *Talaus samchi* from Bhutan.

While examining crab spider specimens collected from Guangxi of South China in 2006, one new species of the genus was found, which is described here under the name of *Talaus xiphosus* new species. The genus *Talaus* is a new record to the Chinese fauna.

Materials and Methods

Specimens used for this study were collected by Ming-Sheng Zhu and Jun-Xia Zhang and others, mainly with sweeping and beating methods and preserved in 75% ethanol. Details of the collecting data are given in the description. The specimens were examined and illustrated under a Tech XTL-II stereomicroscope at the Institute of Life Sciences, Hebei University.

The abbreviations used in this paper are as follows: AME, anterior median eye; ALE, anterior lateral eye; PME, posterior median eye; PLE, posterior lateral eye; MOA, median ocular area; VTA, ventral tibial apophysis; RTA, retrolateral tibial apophysis; DTA, dorsal tibial apophysis. All measurements are given in mm.

The type specimens are deposited in the College of Life

Sciences, Hebei University (HU), Baoding, China.

Taxonomy

Genus *Talaus* Simon, 1866

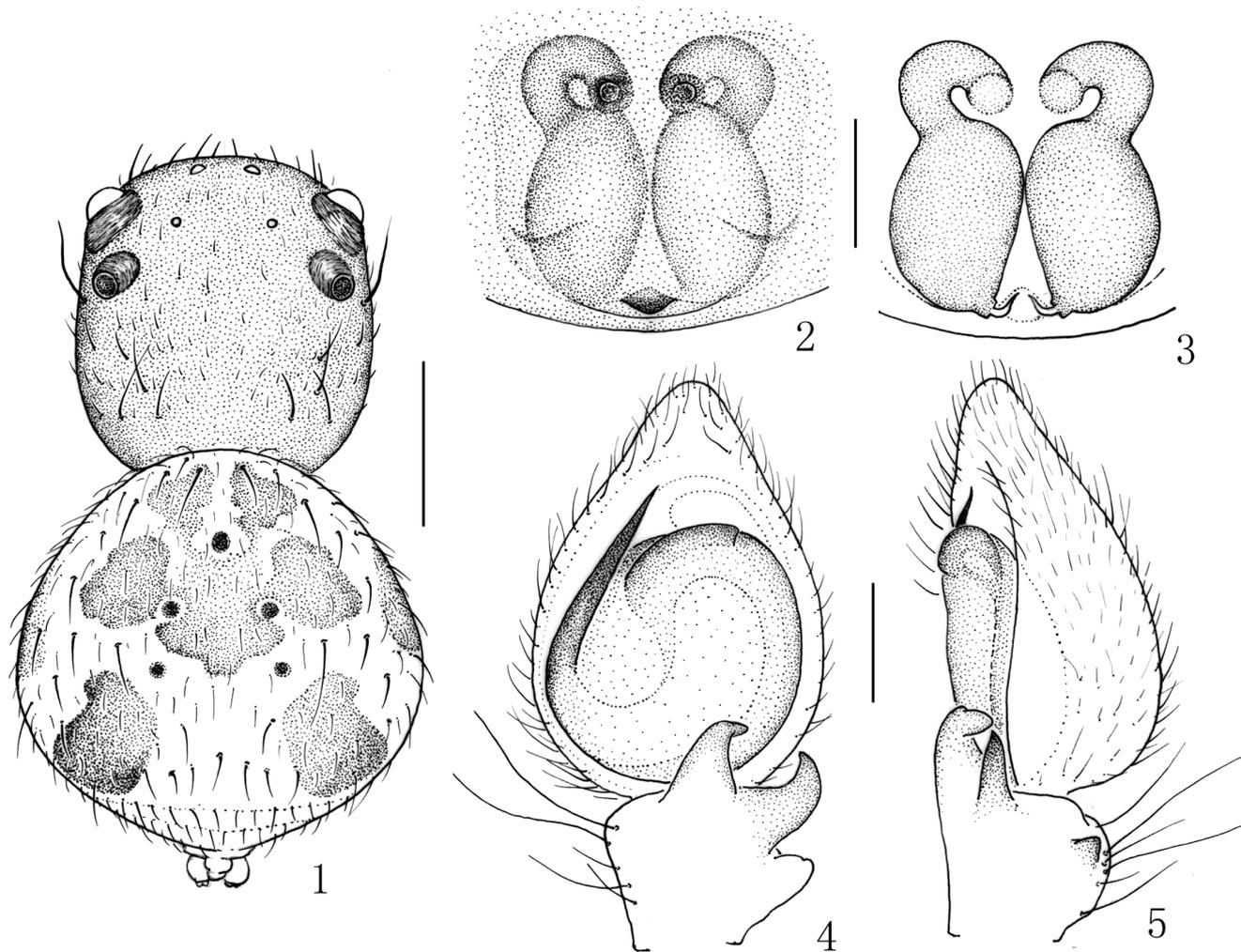
Talaus Simon, 1886: 172, type species by original designation: *Talaus triangulifer* Simon, 1886 (female holotype from Sumatra, in Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris (MNHN), examined); Simon, 1895: 998; Murphy & Murphy, 2000: 457.

Diagnosis. Male slightly smaller than female. Carapace longer than wide, with long setae and short hairs. Tubercles of ALE and PLE apart from each other, tubercles of ALE larger than that of PLE. ALE > PLE > AME > PME, PME very small. MOA wider than long, wider behind than in front. Chelicerae without tooth. Both labium and sternum longer than wide. Leg formula: II-I-IV-III. Femur I with prolateral spines and femora I to IV with dorsal spines. Legs I and II darker than those of III and IV. Male palp with VTA, RTA and DTA, embolus spiniform and much longer than that of the genus *Lysiteles* Simon, 1895. Abdomen slightly longer or as long as wide, with distinct, dark markings dorsally. Epigynum slightly sclerotized, median septum lacking, intromittent canal short, spermathecae large and nearly reniform.

Distribution. South Asia, China, Bhutan and India, and southern Africa.

***Talaus xiphosus* new species**
(Figs. 1–5)

Type series. Holotype male, paratypes 1 male, 3 females, alt. 538 m, Aidian Town, Ninming County, Guangxi



Figs. 1-5. *Talaua xiphosus* Zhu et Ono, new species. 1, Body of female, dorsal view; 2, epigynum, ventral view; 3, same, dorsal view; 4, left palp of male, ventral view; 5, same, retrolateral view. (Scales: 1=0.5 mm, 2-5=0.1 mm.)

Province, China, 21°50'N, 107°01'E, May 19, 2006, Ming-Sheng Zhu, Jun-Xia Zhang, Wei-Guang Lian and Hui-Xin Ma leg.(HU); paratype 1 male, alt. 338 m, Tongmian Town, Ninming County, Guangxi Province, China, 21°48'N, 107°18'E, May 18, 2006, Ming-Sheng Zhu, Jun-Xia Zhang, Wei-Guang Lian and Hui-Xin Ma leg. (HU).

Description. Female holotype, total length 2.25. Carapace 1.03 long, 0.95 wide; abdomen 1.35 long, 1.30 wide. Eye sizes: AME 0.10, ALE 0.18, PME 0.04, PLE 0.11. Distances between eyes: AME-AME 0.09, AME-ALE 0.18, PME-PME 0.25, PME-PLP 0.23. MOA: front width 0.26, back width 0.45, length 0.28. Clypeus height 0.16. Carapace reddish brown, with long setae and white hairs, surface with the fine squama-shaped dots. Chelicerae reddish brown, endites, labium and sternum yellowish brown, both labium and sternum longer than wide. Femora of legs I and II blackish, other segments and legs III and IV yellowish. Legs with spines and hairs, of these, femur I with 3 prolateral spines, without dorsal spine, femora II to IV each with 2 dorsal spines. Lengths of legs: I 2.79 (0.88

+0.33+0.62+0.58+0.38), II 2.92 (0.92+0.35+0.65+0.60+0.40), III 2.08 (0.65+0.28+0.45+0.40+0.30), IV 2.16 (0.68+0.25+0.50+0.45+0.28). Abdomen slightly longer than wide, dorsum yellowish with 3 large blackish brown markings and strong hairs, venter yellowish. Variation of body length 2.23-2.33.

Male (based on a paratype; collection data same as for the holotype). Total length 1.95. Carapace 1.01 long, 0.95 wide; abdomen 1.15 long, 1.00 wide. Eye sizes: AME 0.09, ALE 0.15, PME 0.04, PLE 0.11. Distances between eyes: AME-AME 0.08, AME-ALE 0.18, PME-PME 0.33, PME-PLP 0.25. MOA: front width 0.25, back width 0.35, length 0.28. Clypeus height 0.15. Carapace chestnut. Chelicera, endites, labium and sternum dark reddish brown. Lengths of legs: I 2.86 (0.85+0.33+0.75+0.58+0.35), II 3.02 (0.90+0.35+0.80+0.60+0.36), III 2.21 (0.68+0.30+0.48+0.45+0.30), IV 2.28 (0.70+0.27+0.53+0.48+0.30). Legs yellowish, femora I and II chestnut, tibia I and II reddish brown. Abdominal dorsum furnished with a blackish brown, sclerotized plate, venter black. Variation of

body length 1.95–2.10.

Etymology. The specific name is derived from Latin word “xiphosus” meaning sword-shaped, refers to the sword-shaped embolus of the male palp.

Distribution. China (Guangxi).

Remarks. The new species is closely related to *Talaus samchi* Ono, 2001 from Bhutan, but can be distinguished from the latter by the shape of male palp and the structure of female genitalia. The new species possesses the retrolateral and dorsal apophyses of male palpal tibia which are larger than those of the latter and a thicker embolus (cf. Figs. 4–5 in this paper and figs. 10–11 in Ono, 2001). Female genitalia of both species seem to be strikingly similar to each other, but the intromittent canal of the new species is narrow and has a small opening (cf. Figs. 2–3 in this paper and figs. 12–13 in Ono, 2001). The female organ of *Talaus triangulifer* Simon, 1886 (female holotype in MNHN, examined, male unknown) from Sumatra also seems to be close to those of both Bhutanese and Chinese species, but its intromittent canal is longer and the spermathecae are slightly slender. Although *Talaus semicastaneus* Simon, 1909 described from northern Vietnam is the geographically nearest species to the new one, the comparison of details is impossible because the single type specimen (in MNHN, examined) is an immature female. Simon (1895) identified another *Talaus* spider from northern Vietnam as *Talaus opportunus* (O. Pickard-Cambridge). However, the Simon’s material (adult female and male in MNHN, examined) is clearly different from the Indian species, *T. opportunus*, and the material is thought to

be *T. semicastaneus*. Granted that these specimens are the same as *Talaus semicastaneus*, the new species is distinguishable from the Vietnamese spider with the details of both the sexual organs as well as the markings on abdomen.

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