

A NEW SPECIES OF SPIDER OF THE GENUS *PEUCETIA* THORELL (OXYOPIDAE: ARANEAE) FROM DIGHA, MIDNAPORE, WEST BENGAL, INDIA¹

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One new species, *Peucetia gauntleta* recorded from Digha, Midnapore is described and illustrated.

Key words: Spider, Oxyopidae, *Peucetia gauntleta* sp. nov., Digha, Midnapore, West Bengal

INTRODUCTION

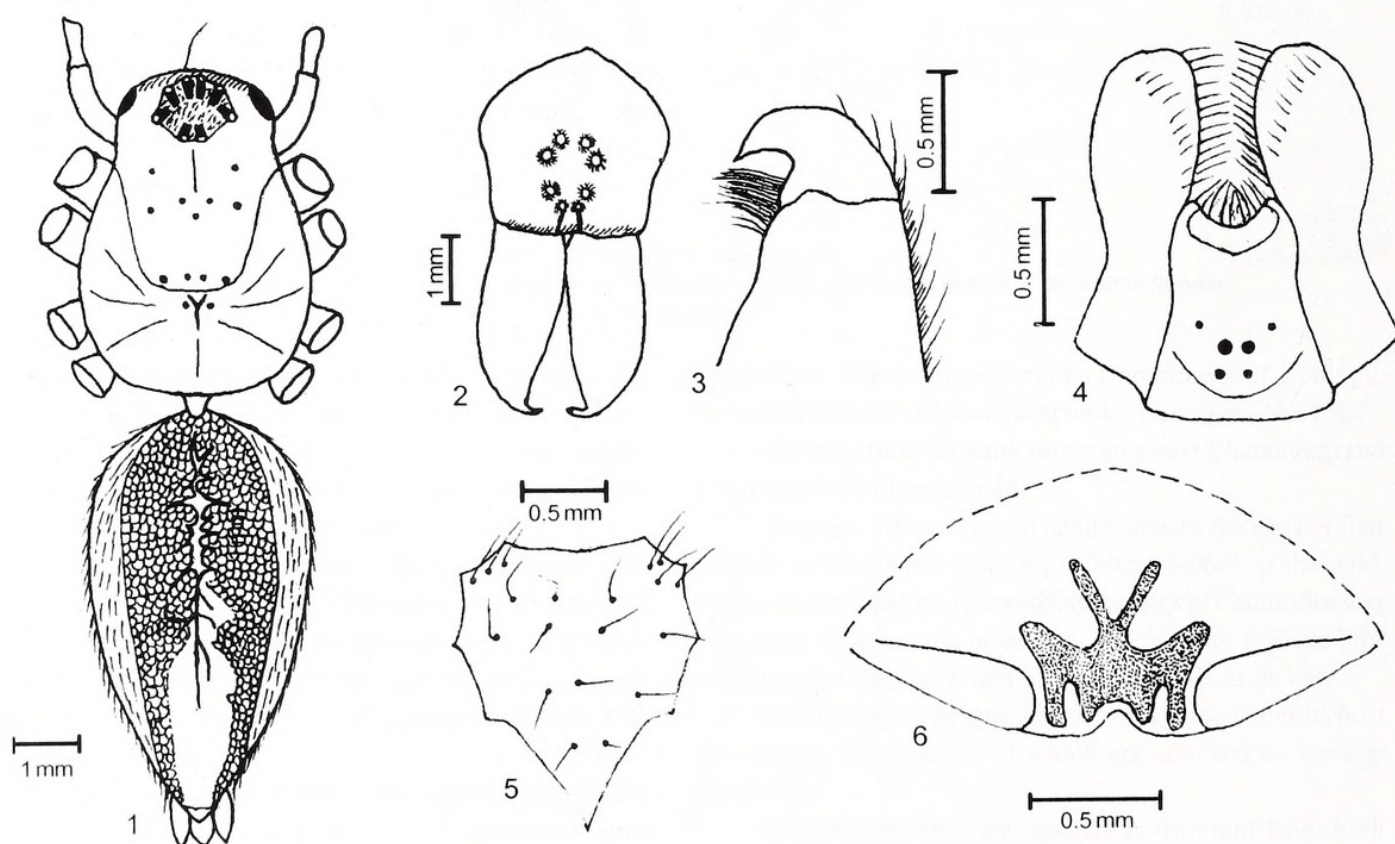
Recently, Gajbe (1999) reviewed the taxonomy of the poorly known oxyopid spiders of India. He dealt with 20 *Oxyopes* spp. and 10 *Peucetia* spp. Of these, 6 of the *Peucetia* spp. were recognised as new to science. Earlier, Biswas (1975), Gajbe (1992), Pocock (1900) and Tikader (1965, 1970) studied the genus *Peucetia*.

With the present species, the genus *Peucetia* in India

is now represented by 14 species. The new species is described and illustrated.

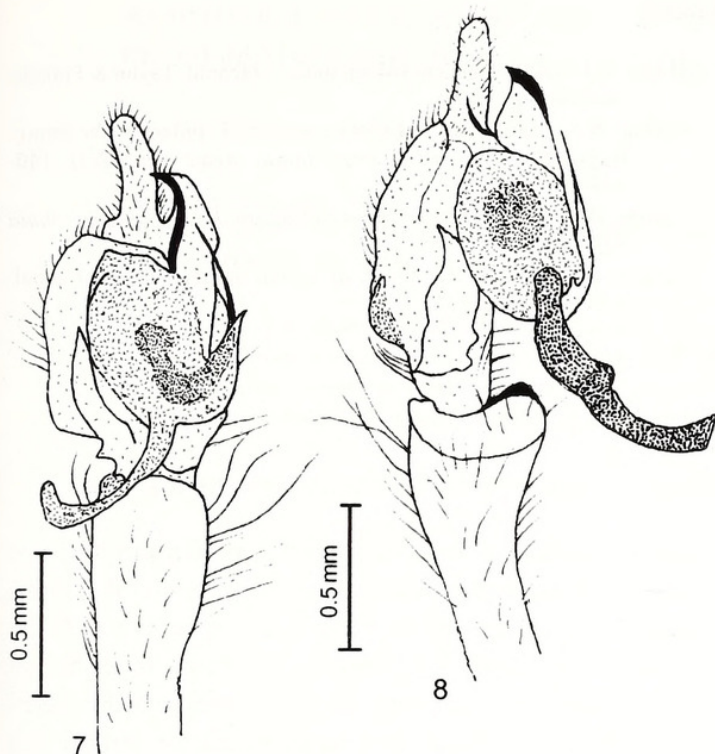
MATERIAL AND METHODS

The spider sample was collected and preserved following Tikader (1987). The study was made using Stereo Zoom Binocular Microscope, Model Zeiss SV-8. The measurements indicated in the text are in millimetres, made with an eyepiece graticule.



Figs 1-6: *Peucetia gauntleta* sp. nov. ♀ Holotype,

1. Whole body, dorsal aspect; 2. Cephalothorax and chelicerae (Frontal aspect); 3. Chelicera, frontal aspect; 4. Maxillae & Labium, ventral aspect; 5. Sternum, ventral aspect; 6. Epigynum, ventral aspect



Figs 7-8: *Peucetia gauntleta* sp. nov. ♂ Allotype, 7. Male palp, ventral aspect; 8. Male palp, lateral aspect

***Peucetia gauntleta* sp. nov.** (Figs 1-8)

Measurements (in mm): ♀ Total length: 12.13; Carapace length: 5.06, width 3.53; abdomen length: 6.40, width 3.33; legs as in Table 1.

Cephalothorax: Pale green with cephalic region tinted with grey, sparingly spotted with brown, longer than wide, anteriorly narrow, posteriorly broad; cephalic region raised, sloped anteriorly, cephalic furrow deeply impressed; thoracic region medially with longitudinal fovea, radii distinct. Eyes black, each ringed with silky white pubescence, anterior-most eyes smallest, anterior row of eyes recurved, posterior row procurved; ocular area blackish. Clypeus with a pair of black bands extending from anterior-most eyes to the basal margin

Table 1: Length of legs of ♀ holotype of *Peucetia gauntleta* sp. nov. (in mm)

Leg	Femur	Patella	Metatarsus	Tarsus	Total
I	6.33/6.32	1.33/1.33 + 6.15/6.16	5.66/5.65	3.16/3.17	22.63/22.63
II	5.67/5.66	1.33/1.33 + 5.50/5.51	5.17/5.16	2.66/2.65	20.33/20.31
III	4.66/4.65	1.33/1.33 + 4.00/4.00	4.00/4.01	1.83/1.83	15.82/15.82
IV	4.83/4.83	1.33/1.33 + 4.16/4.15	4.33/4.32	1.66/1.67	16.31/16.30

of chelicerae. Chelicerae pale yellow-green, robust, elongate, basally broad, sparingly spotted with brown, each with erect, short to long spiny hairs; fangs reddish-brown, curved, margins devoid of teeth. Maxillae and labium similar to chelicerae in colour, elongate, former anteriorly broad, latter little narrower than base, both anteriorly scopulate. Sternum pale yellow-green, heart-shaped, with sparse brown spots that include short to long spiny hair. Legs yellow with coxae yellow-green, each femur with brown spots; leg formula 1243.

Abdomen: Green, elongate, oval, posteriorly narrow, decorated as in Fig. 1, clothed with short to long silky white hairs and spines, some originating from the brown spots; venter similar to dorsum clothed with silky white hairs. Epigyne as in Fig. 6.

Male: Cephalothorax greyish-yellow, larger than abdomen. Abdomen green, slender. Legs much longer than female; otherwise as in ♀.

Material examined: Holotype ♀, Allotype ♂, Midnapore, Digha, 15.ix.2000, Coll. S. Saha

Type deposition: Department of Zoology, Lady Brabourne College, Kolkata. Regn No. LBC/DZ/1/01.

Distribution: India: West Bengal, Midnapore, Digha.

Remarks: The present species *Peucetia gauntleta* sp. nov., because of clypeus with 2 lateral lines and abdomen with mid-dorsal silvery white patches, but without stripes, resembles *P. ketani* Gajbe (Gajbe 1999), but differs in having a distinct decoration at the basal half of the green abdomen, which is devoid of a black patch, heart-shaped sternum and very different epigyne. *Peucetia gauntleta* sp. nov. also resembles *P. latikae* Tikader (Tikader 1970) in the structure of the epigynum and male palp, but has only 2 black lines on clypeus and absence of broad abdominal band. These characteristics justify its status as a new species. Furthermore, none of the other congeners bear significant resemblance to *P. gauntleta*. The species is therefore recognised as new to science.

Etymology: The species is so named because of the glove-like maxillae.

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