

## **The first record of long-jawed spider *Tetragnatha nitens* (Araneae: Tetragnathidae) from Iraq**

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### **Abstract**

The species *Tetragnatha nitens* is recorded for the first time from Iraq. Its general habitus and genitalia are illustrated. Locality data of this species are also given.

**Keywords:** Long jawed spider, *Tetragnatha*, first record, new locality, Basrah, Iraq.

### **Introduction**

Family Tetragnathidae Menge, 1866 has a worldwide distribution and is most diverse in the tropics, with the species often found in wet areas (Álvarez-Padilla *et al.*, 2009). It belongs to Infraorder Araneomorphae; first described by Anton Menge (1866). It currently contains 48 genera and 1001 species (World Spider Catalog, 2019).

*Tetragnatha* Latreille, 1804 is one of the most widespread and abundant orb-weaving spider genera (Levi, 1981) and it is one of the largest genera of spiders comprising of 338 species and 11 subspecies. The species of genus *Tetragnatha* live in tropical, temperate, and arctic climates.

According to the list of Iraqi spiders (Zamani & El-Hennawy, 2016), one species of *Tetragnatha* has been recorded from north of Iraq, *Tetragnatha extensa* (Linnaeus, 1758); its first record was given by Reimoser (1913).

In the present study *Tetragnatha nitens* (Savigny, 1825) is recorded for the first time from Iraq in Basrah province. Both male and female are described with their habitat and genitalia.

## Material and Methods

The specimens of *Tetragnatha nitens* (Savigny, 1825) were collected from the shrubs near the water resources by using sweeping net and hand collecting methods during day time from temporary marshes region belong to Al-Hammar Al-Sharqi in Basrah province (Fig. 1), during the period between January and June 2019, preserved in 80% ethanol, and deposited at natural history museum of Basrah University. They were examined by using Leica EZ 4HD stereomicroscope and identified according to Vungsilabutr (1988). All measurements are in millimetres.



Fig. 1. Map of collecting locality of *Tetragnatha nitens* (Savigny, 1825) from Al-Hammar Al-Sharqi marsh, Basrah province, south of Iraq.

## Taxonomy

Family **Tetragnathidae** Menge, 1866

Genus ***Tetragnatha*** Latreille, 1804

***Tetragnatha nitens*** (Savigny, 1825)

Taxonomic references:

*Eugnatha nitens* Savigny, 1825: 323, pl. 2, f. 2 (D♀).

*Eugnatha pelusia* Savigny, 1825: 325, pl. 2, f. 3 (D♂♀).

*Tetragnatha gracilis* Lucas, 1838: 43, pl. 6, f. 8 (D♀).

*Tetragnatha nitens* Walckenaer, 1841: 209.

[For complete list of references and synonyms, see World Spider Catalog (2019).]

Material examined: 13 ♂♂, 22 ♀♀, Basrah province, temporary marshes of AL-Hammar AL-Sharqi, south of Iraq, 30°42.217'N, 47°25.182'E.

### Description

Male: measurements: total body length with chelicerae 12 (Fig. 2, A-B), without chelicerae 8.5; carapace length 3.5, width 2.0; abdomen length 5.1, width 1.5.

Carapace: yellowish brown, oval, widest near the middle flattened, fovea as a pit. Eyes: eight in two groups.

Sternum: yellowish brown with brown margins.

Chelicerae: length 3.5 (Fig. 2, C-D), as long as carapace, well developed, armed with 9 teeth on promargin and 11 on retromargin, in addition to 3 apical conspicuous teeth.

Endites: yellow, with dense hairs.

Labium: brown.



Fig. 2. *Tetragnatha nitens* (Savigny, 1825) ♂. A-B. Habitus. A. dorsal view. B. ventral view. C-D. Left chelicera. C. prolateral view. D. retrolateral view. E-L. Left palp. E. prolateral view. F. ventral view. G. retrolateral view. H. tegulum. I. paracymbium. J. cymbium. K. embolus and conductor. L. cymbium and paracymbium.

Palp: (Fig. 2, E-L) tegulum transverse (Fig. 2, H), paracymbium bifurcate apically (Fig. 2, I), conductor with subapical notch, embolus long filiform surrounded with conductor (Fig. 2, K), cymbium separated with paracymbium (Fig. 2, L).

Legs: yellow, slender, long and spiny.

Abdomen: light yellow with some dark spots, 3-5 as long as wide, not pointed.

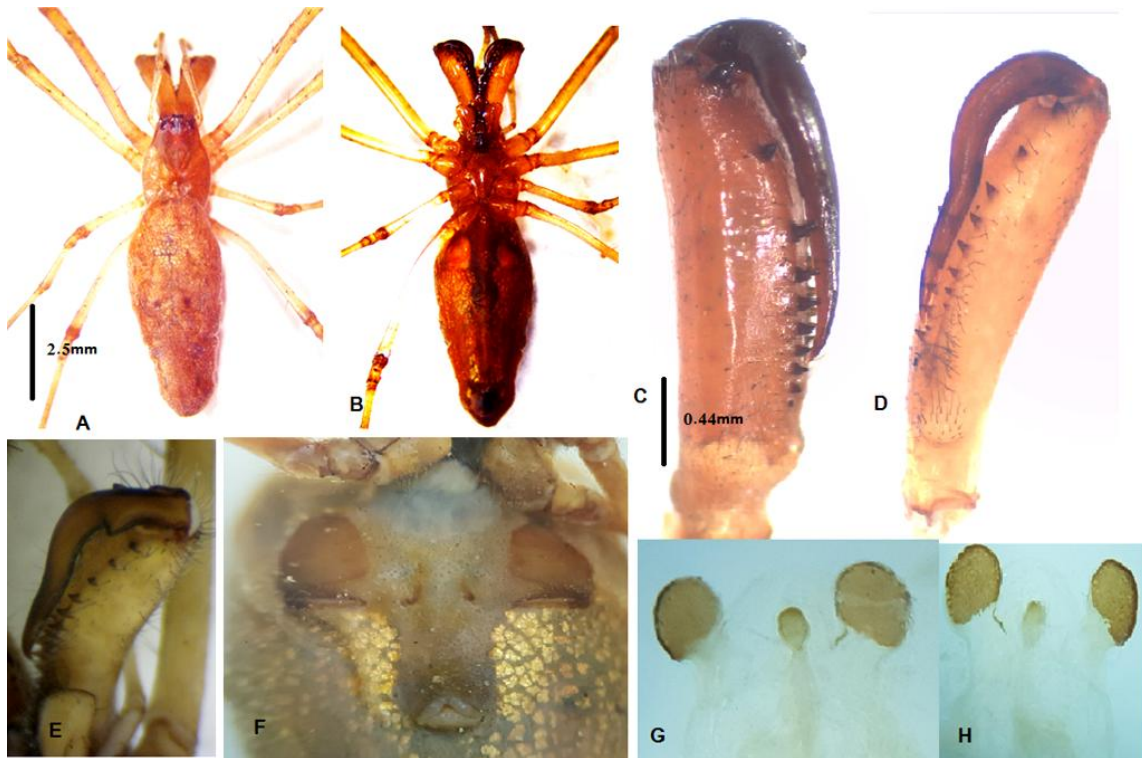


Fig. 3. *Tetragnatha nitens* (Savigny, 1825) ♀. A-B. Habitus. A. dorsal view. B. ventral view. C-D-E. Left chelicera. C. prolateral view. D. retrolateral view. E. small tooth at the base of fang. F. Genital fold. G-H. Epigyne. G. dorsal view. H. ventral view.



Fig. 4. Habitat and webs of *Tetragnatha nitens* (Savigny, 1825) at Al-Hammar Al-Sharqi marsh, Basrah province.

Female: measurements: total body length with chelicerae 14.0 (Fig. 3, A-B); carapace length 3.0, width 2.5; abdomen length 8.0, width 3.0.

Carapace: longer than wide, yellowish brown.

Chelicerae: 3.0 length (Fig. 3, C-D), yellowish brown, well developed and protruded forwards, fang with a tooth at the base (Fig. 3, E).

Abdomen: elongated and cylindrical shaped, dorsum yellowish brown with silvery white scale decoration and dark brown longitudinal stripes.

Epigyne: genital fold long and narrow (Fig. 3, F), copulatory opening hat-like located downwards, with deep notch in anterior and concave in posterior margin, vulvae with a pair of receptacles, beside the median structure (Fig. 3, G-H).

**Habitat:** The specimens were collected from their webs which were built on shrubs, herbs, and low plants near the water sources of the study region (Fig. 4).

## References

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