

**A Preliminary Taxonomical Studies on Some Spiders of
Basrah/Southern Iraq.
The Families Thomisidae & Salticidae (Araneae; Archnidae)**

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ABSTRACT

Three species belong to two genera of the family Thomisidae, and one species belong the family Salticidae have all been announced to be a new record to Iraqi fauna. All were described and illustrated.

INTRODUCTION

The economic importance of spiders can not be overstated, because of widely feared and maligned, they are widely distributed, abundant every where, they are important predators in all terrestrial ecosystem particularly if we know that a considerable number of economically important insects and mite pests have become resistant to various pesticide. This will stimulate workers around the world on the use of predators and parasites in the biological control of pests (Dippenaar-Schoeman, 1983).

Thomisidae is one of a moderate size spiders family, including about 150

genera and 1450 species (Dippenaar-Schoeman and Jocque, 1997). It is a world-wide distribution found in tropical, subtropical and temperate zones. It is characterized with leg I & II usually largers than III & IV, and the lateral eyes usually in tubeecles. While Salticidae is the largest spider family comprising more than 5000 species, it is a world distribution occurred in a wide variety of habitat's. It is characterized by a square-fronted carapace, four forwardly directed eyes and the anterior median eyes are very large.

In our area, few papers have been appeared dealing with the taxonomy of

spiders. A part from the Jumping spiders (Salticidae) of Yaemen (Wesolowska and Van Garten, 1994), a check list of crab spiders (Thomisidae) of Saudi Arabia (Dippenaar-Scherman, 1989), Saticidae of Saudi Arabia (Proszynski, 1989, 1993).

However, here in Iraq, studies on spiders seem to be completely ignored, as no paper has been reported dealing with this subject. The aim of the present study is to add some information on spiders to Iraqi fauna.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Specimens were collected from different parts of Basrah province, these including Salihiae, Khor al-Zubair, Abul-Kasib and Basrah city during the period from April-July 1998, the specimens were killed and preserved with 75% alcohol and kept in tubes. Preserved specimens were studied with binuclear dissected microscope "wild" with a magnification of up to 480 drwing were made with the help of an eye piece gird. The internal epigynum was macerated in 10% KOH aqueous solution at roo, temperature for 24-72 hours. All measurements are in

millimeters. The following measurement were taken and indicates calculated for the species studied. Total length (TL), Carapace length (CL), Carapace width (CW) and Carapace index (CI).

RESULTS AND DISCRPTION OF SPECIES

Family Thomisidae (Simon, 1875)

***Thomisus daradioides* Simon, 1980**

Fig.1 (a-c) & Fig.2 (a-c)

Distribution: around all the province, collected from different types of plants particularly during April 1998.

Female: size (n=10)

TL = 4.56 (3.60-5.64), CL=1.57 (1.26-2.10), CW = 2.01 (1.80-2.40),

CI = 0.78 (0.60-0.96)

Carapace: Generally white-yellowish, the triangle pattern present between front eyes with pale brown. Anterior eyes row recurved, they are nearly equal in size, anterior median eyes near to each other than anterior internal eyes. Posterior row straight, they are the same size. Posterior median eyes slightly near to posterior lateral eyes than to each other. The distance between anterior

lateral eyes and posterior median eyes nearly half the distance between posterior median eyes. **Abdomen.** white, tips of tubercles each with black spot. Tubercles small, clothed with short spiniform setae. **Legs.** with femur I with 3-4 strong spiniform setae dorsolaterally, legs I & II with 2-3 pairs of macro-setae on tibiae and 5-6 pairs on metatarsi.

Male: Size (n=8)

TL = 2.28 (1.92-2.7), CL=1.02 (0.9-1.14), CW = 1.15 (1.08-1.2),
CI = 0.88 (0.83-0.95)

Carapace: white-yellowish brown, eye tubercles strongly directed and slightly laterad.

Abdomen. with white colour, clothed with short spiniform setae. **Legs.** Tibia and metarsi of legs I & II without macrosetae. clothed with long thin charis. **Palp.** tegular apophysis directed venterally, the tibial apophysis (ventral and intermediate) also directed laterad.

T. machadoi Comellini, 1959.

Distribution: All over the province,

during March and April 1998, among vegetations.

Female: Unknown

Male: Size (n=1)

Carapace: Brown in colour, eyes area slightly paler, elevated, eyes tubercles not sharply pointed, anterior eyes larger than posterior eyes. **Abdomen.** With a pale brown, bell-shaped. **Legs.** I-IV brown in colour, legs I & II darker than other, metatarsi & Tibiae I & II slightly banded. Tibiae and metatarsi I & II with long, than macro-setae. **Palp.** Tip of retrolateral tibial apophysis rounded, retrolateral tibial apophysis rounded, retrolateral side of tibia covered with small tubercles.

Monaeses pustolosus Pavesi 1895.

Distribution: Al-Diajia (South of the province) during April 1998, area was cultivated with various vegetations, soil too dry.

Female: size (n=1)

TL=9.2, CL=2.1, CW=1.4, CI=1.5

Carapace. Dark gray, faint mediolateral lines present. Longer thin wide, sides weakly rounded. **Abdomen.** Grayish white in colour, tinted with black, ventrally with a dark brown median

band, the caudal extension usually covered with hairs and setae that suited on small tubercles. **Legs:** 4-5 pairs of setae dorsally, tibiae I & II with 4-5 pairs of setae ventrally, metatarsi I & II with 5-8 pairs ventrally. **Epigynum.** Slightly longer than wide, with a shallow depression bordered by a thickened rim, with a small slit nearly at its center.

Male: Unknown.

Family Salticidae Simon, 1884.

Plexippus paykulli Savigny et Audouin, 1827

Distribution: through the province during April 1998, mainly on vegetation area.

Female: Size (n=2)

TL = 8.48, CL = 3.84, CW = 2.56, CI = 1.50.

Carapace. Oval, posterior half widest than anterior, thoracic part range with two wide longitudinal brown strip, clypeus with long gray & brown hairs, chelicera brown, promargin with two teeth, retromargin with single tooth. **Abdomen.** Oval, narrower than carapace, its anterior margin and sides yellow, covered with brown and

grayish-white hairs, pattern with median yellow belt & two pairs of light patches adjacent to it in posterior half. **Legs.** First legs brown slightly bigger than remaining ones, leg II orange, brown tibiae, with brown strips a long lateral surfaces of femora. **Epigynum.** Large, rounded, heavily sclerotized, spermatheca partially visible through translucent tegument, gonapophyses slit-like.

Male: Size (n=10)

TL=7.46 (5.28-8.64), CL=3.62 (1.92-4.64), CW = 2.98 (2.56-3.52)

CI = 1.21 (0.75-1.45)

Carapace, abdomen and legs as in female.

Palp. brown, cymbium not pointed, with a long hairs at its tip. Tegular apophysis short, embolus pointed upward, retrolateral pointed.

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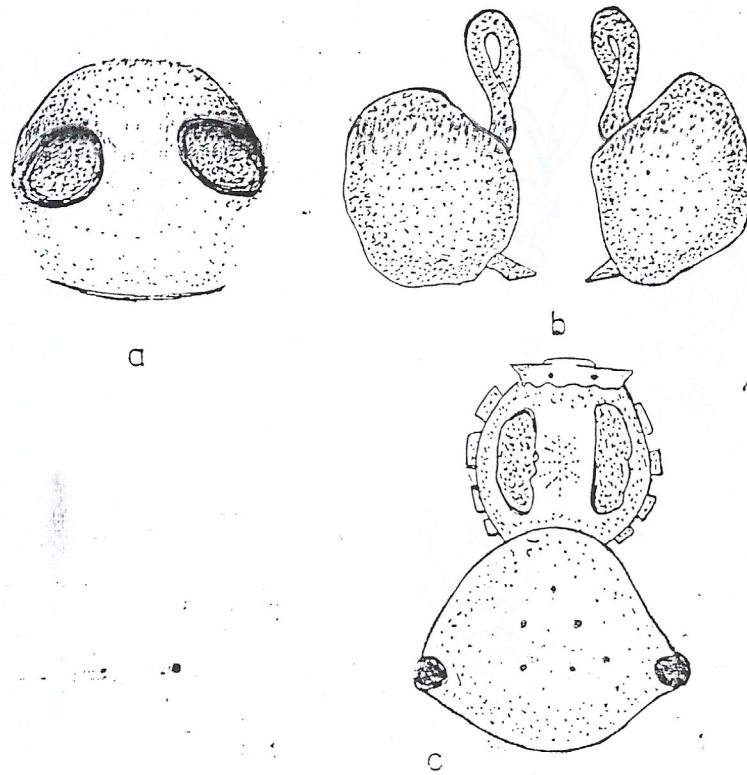


Fig.1(a-c) *Thomisus daradioides* (a) Epigynum, ventral view (b) internal genitalia, dorsal view (c) whole mount, dorsal view.

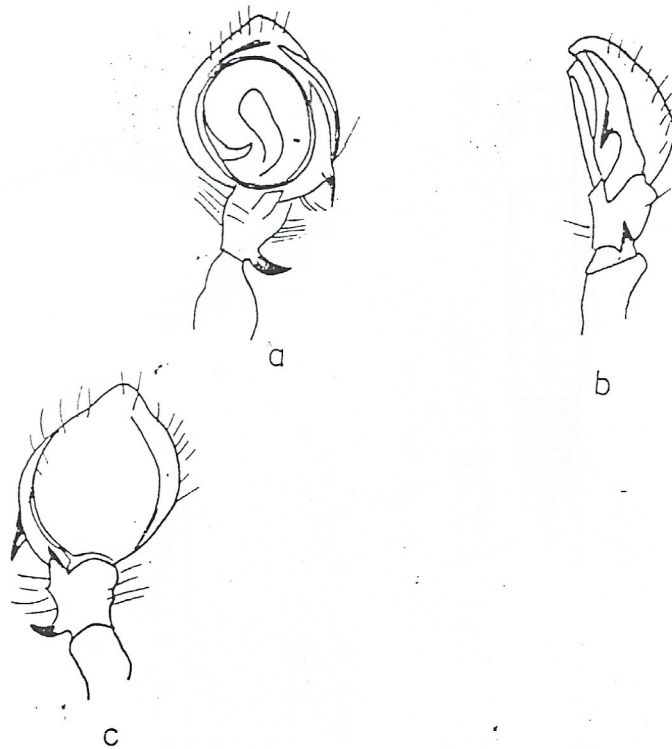


Fig.2 (a-c) *T. daradioides*. The palp, (a) ventral view, (b) lateral view, (c) dorsal view.

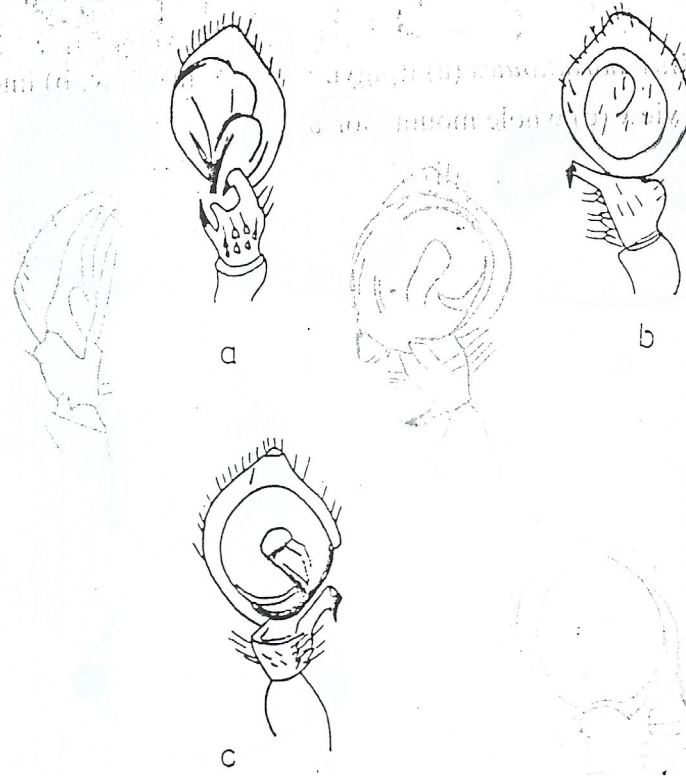


Fig.3 (a-c) *Thomisus machadoi*. The palp, (a) lateral view, (b) dorsal view, (c) ventral view.

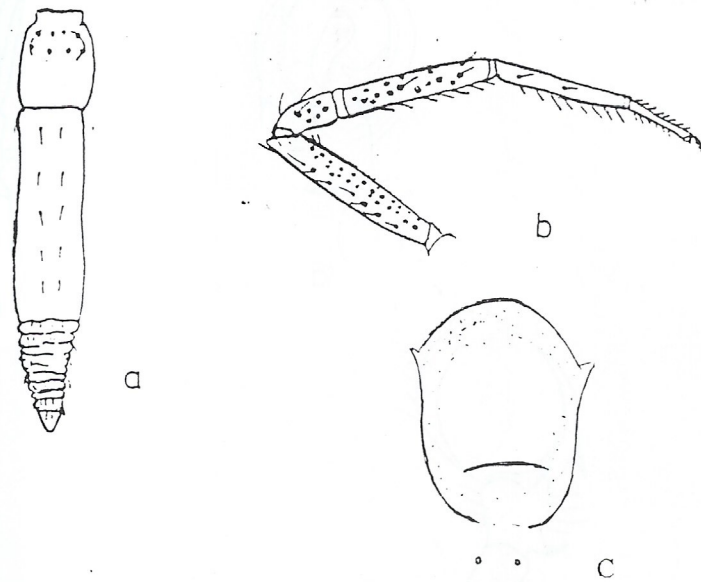


Fig.4 (a & b) *Monaesses pustulosus* (female), (a) whole ,mount, dorsal view, (b) Leg I of female, lateral view, (c) Epigynum, ventral view.

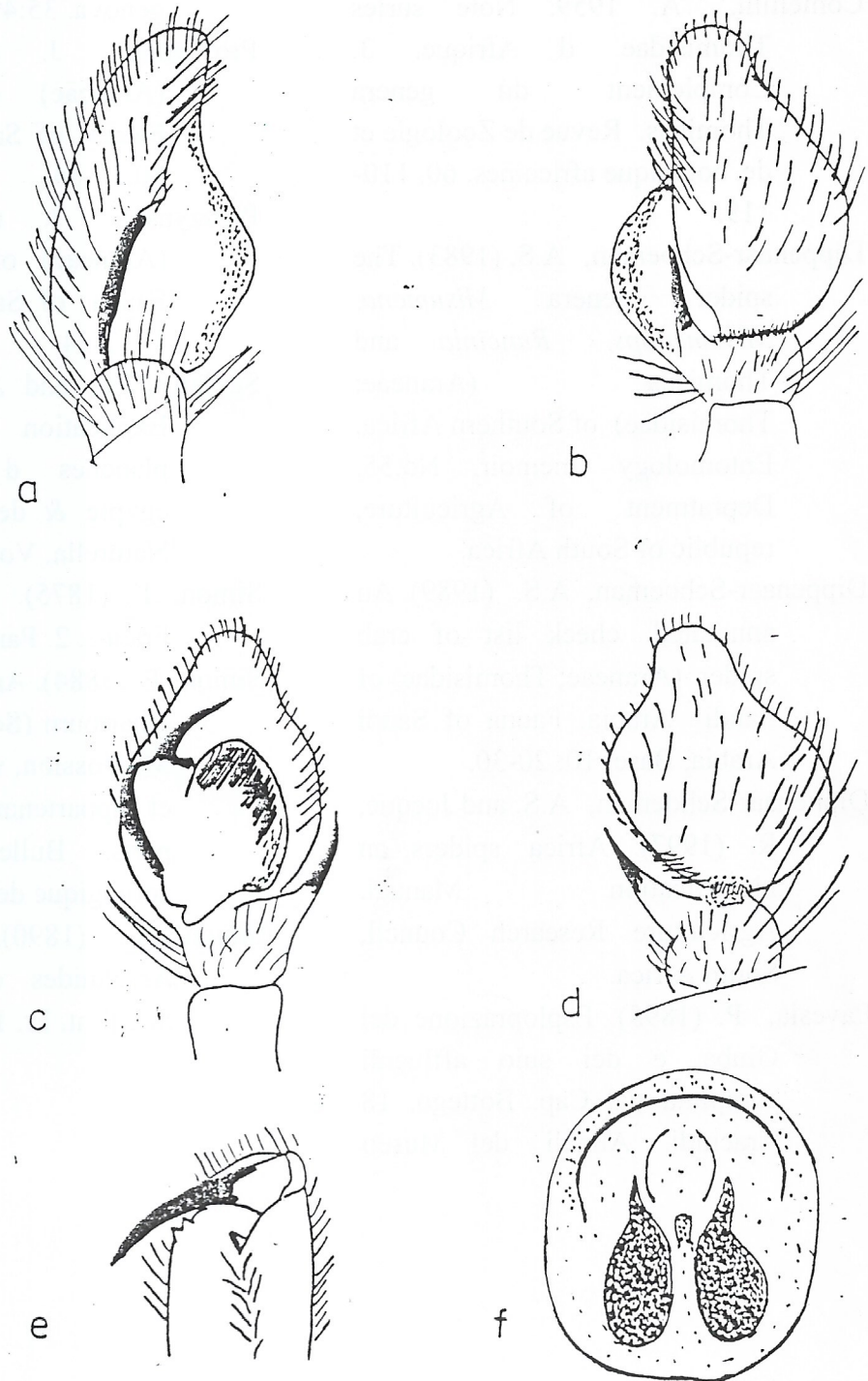


Fig.5 (a-f). *Plexippus paykulli*. (a & b) Palp, lateral views, (c) palp ventral view, (d) palp, dorsal view, (e) male & female cheliceral dentition, (f) female, Epigynum.

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