

A new species of the genus *Pseudicius* Simon 1885 (Araneae: Salticidae) from SW Iran

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Abstract — A new species *Pseudicius admirandus* sp. nov. (♂♀) is described from the Khūzestān Province, SW Iran.

Key words — Spiders, description, Khūzestān

Introduction

The Salticidae fauna of Iran is known to number 70 species of 35 genera (Logunov *et al.* 2001; Saha 2006). In the present paper a new species of *Pseudicius* collected from Khūzestān Province, one of the least studied regions of Iran, is described. The terminology and format of the description follows Logunov (2001). The type specimens are kept in the Zoological Museum of the Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia (ZMUM; Dr K.G. Mikhailov). Comparative type material on *P. rudakii* Prószyński 1992 was borrowed from the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, USA (NMNH; Dr. J. Coddington and Ms D. de Rocha).

Description

Pseudicius admirandus sp. nov.
(Figs 1–5)

Type material. The ♂ holotype and ♀ paratype (ZMUM) from Iran, Khūzestān, Ahwaz (= Ahvāz; c. 31°19'N, 48°41'E), Sheyban, 7.7.2005, B. Vazirianzadeh, Samoravej & Shirsian.

Comparative material. The ♂ holotype of *Pseudicius rudakii* Prószyński 1992 (NMNH; Figs. 6, 7) from Iran, Fars, Shiraz, Park Hotel, 1.05.1965, I. Neal.

Etymology. The specific epithet derives from the Latin word 'admirandus', meaning 'wonderful, wondrous'.

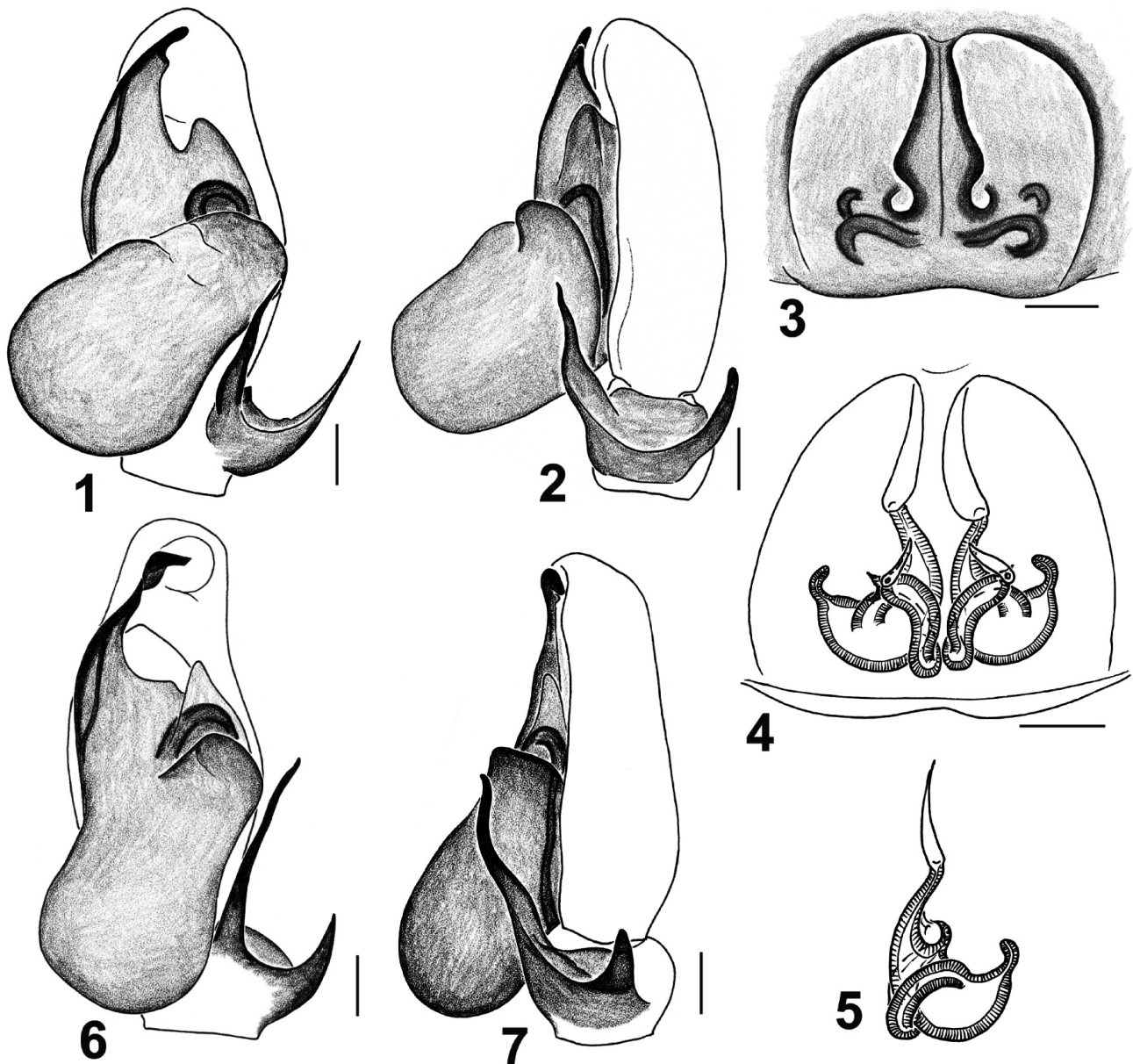
Diagnosis. *P. admirandus* sp. nov. belongs to the *cinctus* species group (*sensu* Prószyński 2007). Its male is most similar to *P. rudakii* described and known after a single male from Iran (Prószyński 1992; Figs. 6, 7), from which it can be easily distinguished by the wider and stronger embolus (cf. Figs 1 and 6) and the shorter and narrower ventral branch of the tibial apophysis (cf. Figs. 2 and 7). The female copulatory organs of *P. admirandus* sp. nov. are similar to those of *P. ludhianaensis* (Tikader 1974) described from Punjab, India (see Tikader 1974: figs. 1–3, sub.

Marpissa l.; and Sadana, 1980: figs. 1–5, sub. *Phlegra citri*). Epigynes of both species have the long median septum, whereas the spermathecae of *P. ludhianaensis* was not illustrated. Despite this, females of these species can be separated by the dorsum pattern (three longitudinal orange stripes in *P. admirandus* sp. nov. and two transverse brown bands in *P. ludhianaensis*; Tikader 1974: fig. 1 and Sadana, 1980: fig. 1).

Distribution. The type locality only.

Description. MALE (holotype). **Measurements.** Carapace 2.25 long, 1.50 wide, 0.75 high at PLE. Ocular area 0.98 long, 1.13 wide anteriorly and 1.23 wide posteriorly. Diameter of AME 0.38. Abdomen 2.68 long, 1.38 wide. Chelicera length 0.75. Clypeus height 0.10. Length of leg segments: I 1.28+0.88+1.25+0.68+0.38; II 0.98+0.58+0.65+0.53+0.30; III 1.00+0.55+0.60+0.70+0.40; IV 1.15+0.63+0.86+0.85+0.40. **Leg spination.** Leg I: Fm d 1-1-1, pr 2ap; Tb pr 0-0-1, v 0-1-1-1ap; Mt v 2-2ap. Leg II: Fm d 1-1-1, pr 2ap; Tb pr 0-0-1, v 1ap; Mt v 2-2ap. Leg III: Fm d 1-1-2, pr 0-0-1-2; Pt rt 0-1-0; Tb pr 0-1, rt 1-1, v 2ap; Mt pr and rt 2ap, v 0-1-2ap. Leg IV: Fm d 1-1-3; Tb pr 0-0-1, rt 1-1, v 1-0-2ap; Mt pr and rt 2ap, v 1-0-2ap. **Coloration.** Carapace yellow, with two longitudinal wide orange stripes along the ALE-PLE line. Clypeus narrow, covered with orange scales. Black around eyes. The row of stridulatory bristles beneath eyes present on each side of the carapace. Sternum, maxillae, labium yellow. Abdomen gray-yellow; dorsum with one medial and two lateral longitudinal wide orange stripes; venter yellow, with gray reticulate pattern. Book-lung covers yellow, spinnerets gray brownish. All legs and palps yellow, but Pt I anterior-distally and Tb I anterior- and posterior-distally brownish. Palpal structure as in Figs. 1, 2.

FEMALE (paratype). **Measurements.** Carapace 2.05 long, 1.43 wide, 0.60 high at PLE. Ocular area 0.88 long, 1.20 wide anteriorly and 1.20 wide posteriorly. Diameter of AME 0.35. Abdomen 3.18 long, 1.45 wide. Chelicera length 0.53. Clypeus height 0.10. Length of leg segments:



Figs. 1-7. Copulatory organs of *Pseudicius admirandus* sp. nov., the ♂ holotype and ♀ paratype (1-5) and *P. rudakii* Prószyński, 1992, the ♂ holotype (6, 7). — 1, 6, male palp, ventral view; 2, 7, ditto, retrolateral view; 3, epigyne, ventral view; 4, spermathecae, dorsal view; 5, ditto, ventral view. Scales: 0.1 mm.

I 0.88+0.60+0.65+0.40+0.35; II 0.78+0.50+0.48+0.40+0.38; III 0.93+0.50+0.55+0.60+0.40; IV 1.15+0.53+0.75+0.68+0.53. *Leg spination.* Leg I: Fm d 0-1-1-2; Tb pr 0-0-1-1ap, v 0-1-1-1ap; Mt v 2-2-2ap. Leg II: Fm d 0-1-1-2; Tb v 0-0-1-1ap; Mt v 2-2-2ap. Leg III: Fm d 0-1-1-2; Tb pr and rt 0-0-1, v 2ap; Mt pr 2ap, rt and v 0-1-2ap. Leg IV: Fm d 0-1-1-3; Tb pr and rt 1ap, v 1-2ap; Mt pr, rt and v 2ap. *Coloration.* Carapace as in males, except as follows: clypeus covered with white scales; dorsum without longitudinal orange stripes, but instead with an orange reticulate pattern. Epigyne and spermathecae as in Figs. 3-5.

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