

## First record of the genus *Cocalus* C. L. Koch, 1846 (Araneae: Salticidae) from India

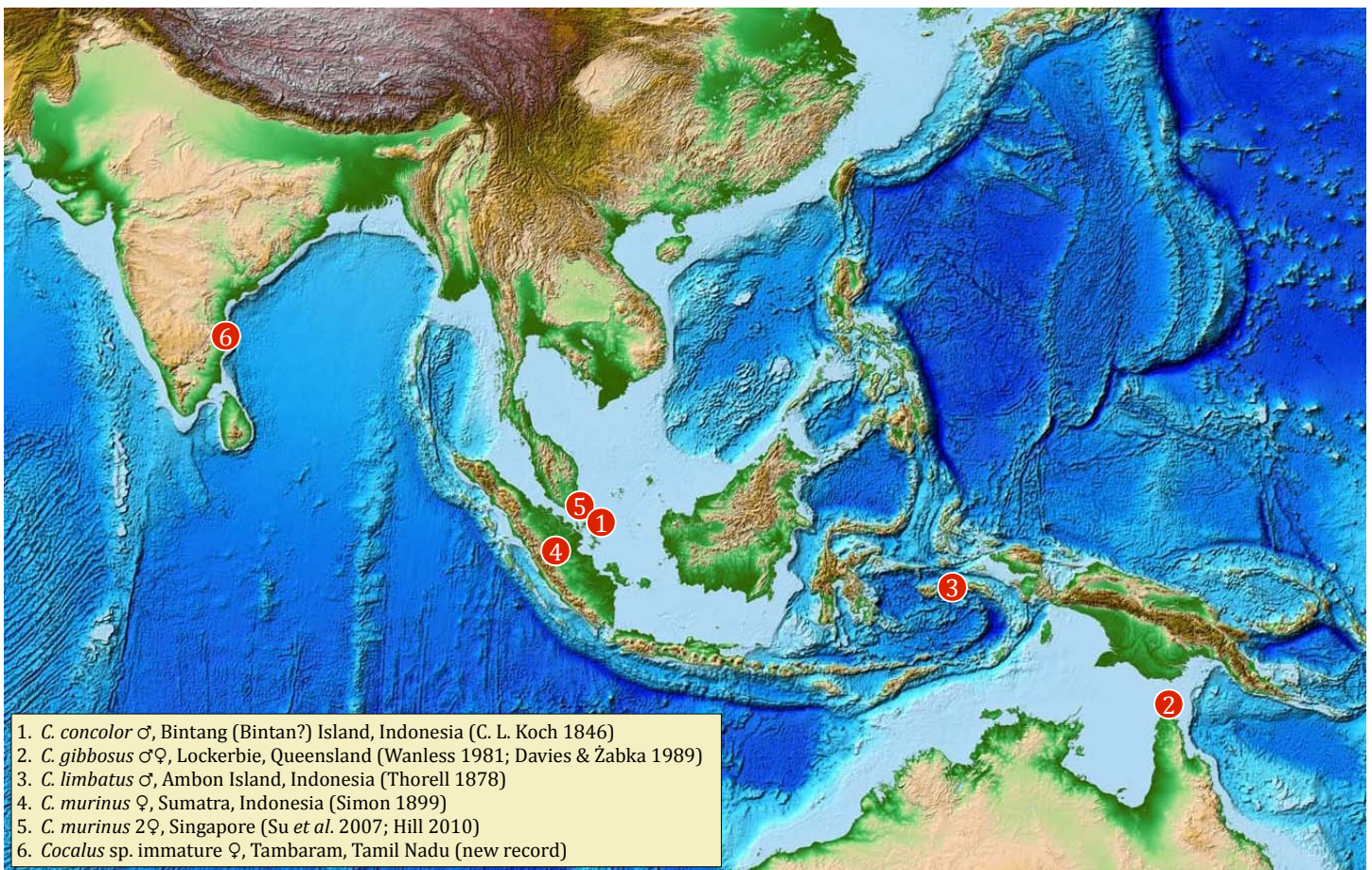
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**Abstract:** A jumping spider from the genus *Cocalus* C. L. Koch, 1846 is recorded for the first time from Tamil Nadu, India.

**Key words:** *Cocalus*, first report, India, Tamil Nadu

The genus *Cocalus* C. L. Koch, 1846 has been placed in the subfamily Spartaeinae, tribe Spartaeini, subtribe Spartaeina (Wanless 1984; Maddison *et al.* 2013, Maddison 2015). Presently four species are known from this genus (Prószyński 2015; WSC 2015), most from a single specimen (Figure 1).



**Figure 1.** Published records of *Cocalus* from South and Southeast Asia. All published records are shown, including a female *C. gibbosus* from Queensland (Davies & Žabka 1989), and photographs of a female *C. murinus* from Singapore (Hill 2010).

Two *Cocalus* species are from Indonesia (*C. concolor* C. L. Koch 1846 and *C. limbatus* Thorell 1878), one (*C. murinus* Simon 1899) from Sumatra and nearby Singapore, and one (*C. gibbosus* Wanless 1981) from northern Queensland. The present paper provides the first record of the genus *Cocalus* from the scrub jungle of Madras Christian College, Tambaram, India.

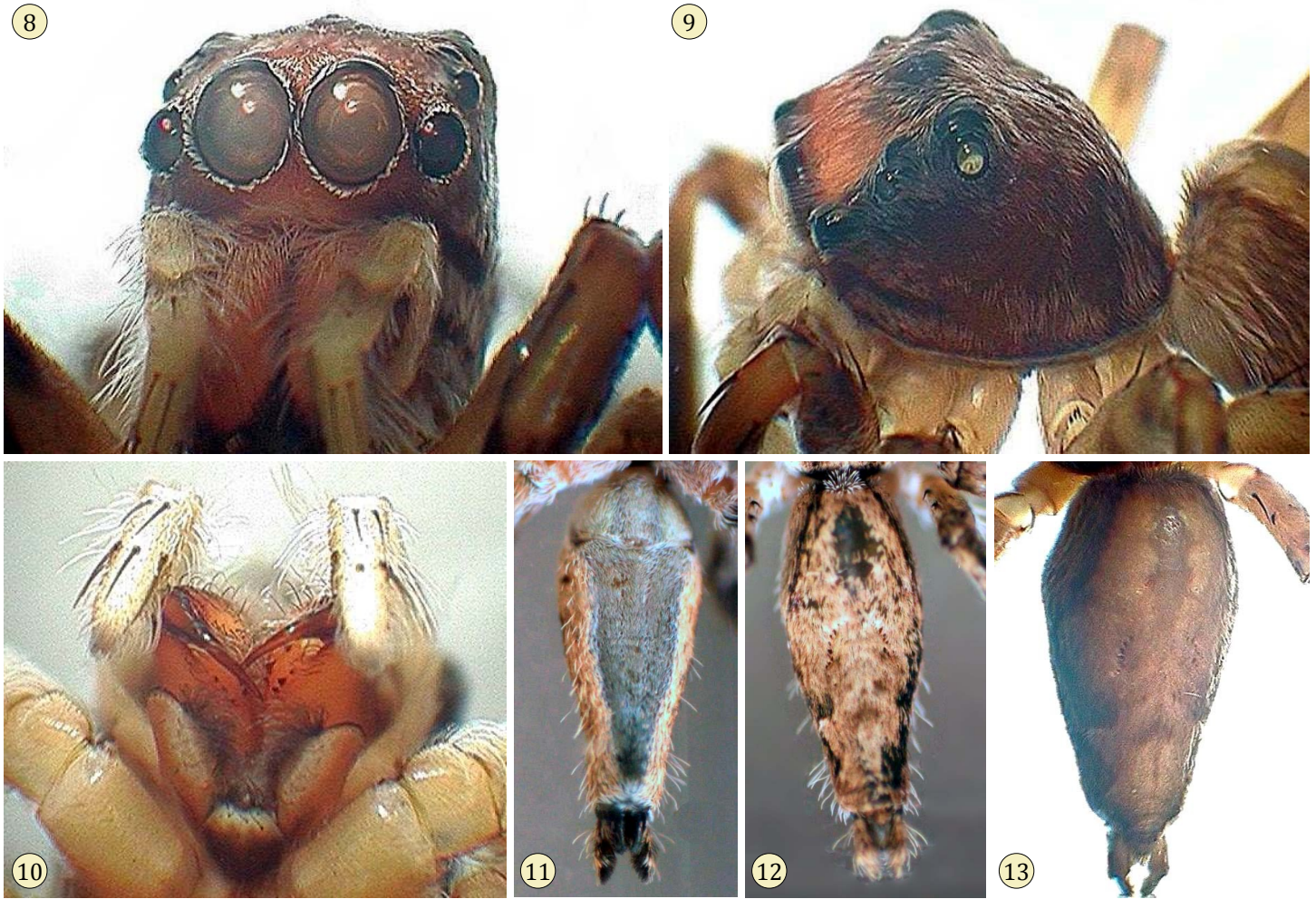
This spider was photographed using a Nikon D60, 18-55mm DSLR with the lens reversed for macrophotography. It was preserved in 70% alcohol and later examined using a Carl Zeiss Stemi-4 stereomicroscope equipped with an image processing system.

*Material examined.* 1 Sub-adult female: Madras Christian college campus, Tambaram, Tamil Nadu, INDIA, 12° 55' 16.7694" N 80° 7' 25.5576" E, altitude 32m; coll. 2 November, 2012 by John Caleb T. D.

This sub-adult female *Cocalus* (Figures 2-13) was collected on the bark of a tree which fell after tropical cyclone *Nilam* hit the coastal regions of Tamil Nadu, was reared for about three months but did not survive to maturity. Examination after preservation revealed a penultimate female specimen with slight sclerotization beginning to form at the epigynal region. The genus was identified by the presence of a small bump (indicated with red arrow, Figure 5) at the center of its posterior ocular quadrangle (Wanless 1981). This character is unique for this genus.



**Figures 2-7.** Living sub-adult female *Cocalus* sp. from Tambaram, Tamil Nadu, India.



**Figures 8-13.** Sub-adult female *Cocalus* sp. from Tambaram, Tamil Nadu, India. **11-12**, Ventral (11) and dorsal (12) views of the opisthosoma in life. **13**, Dorsal view of opisthosoma in alcohol.

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