

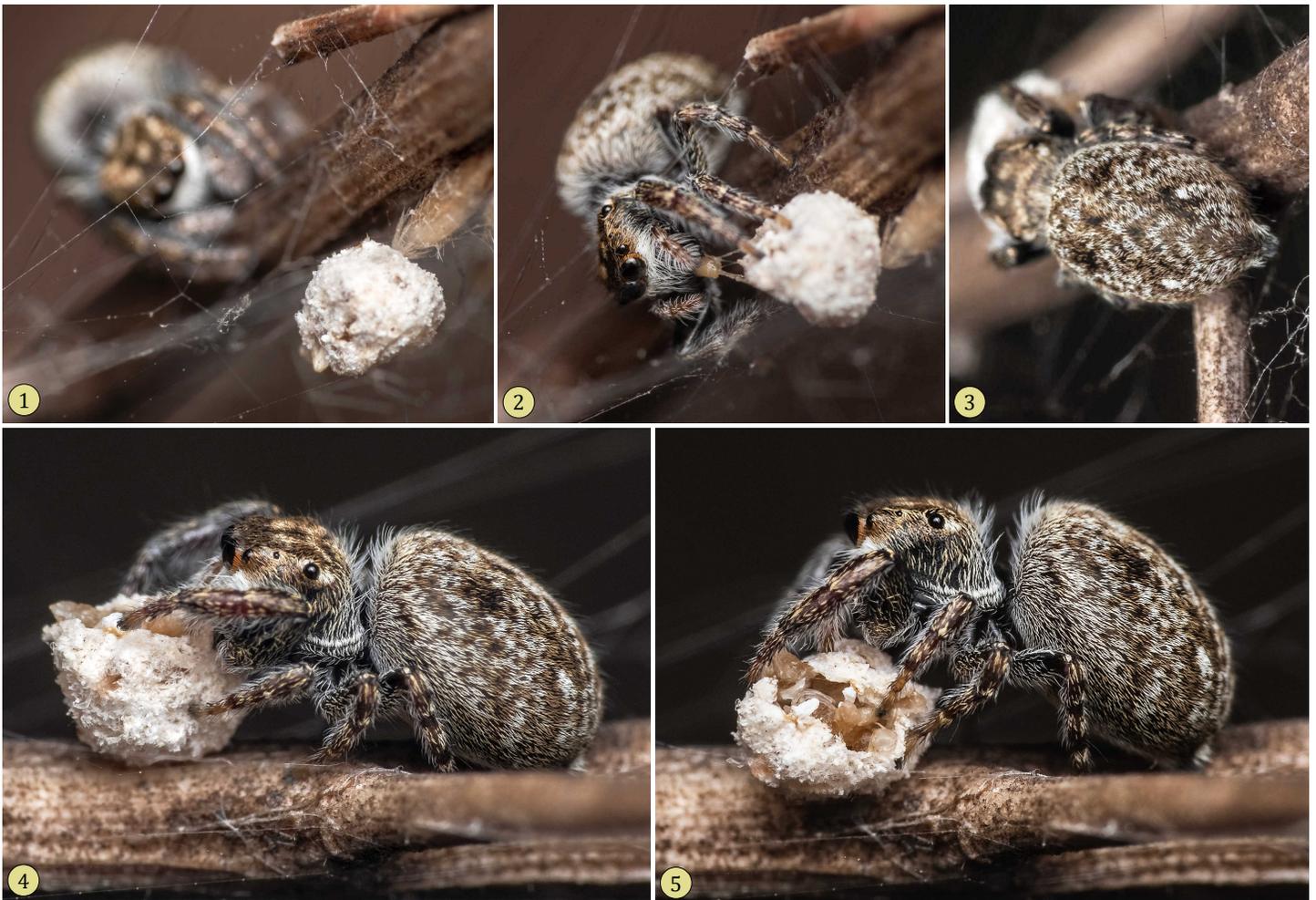
## Predation on the brood of a theridiid spider by a jumping spider (Araneae: Salticidae: Harmochirina: *Bianor* sp.)

Muralidharan S<sup>1</sup> and David E. Hill<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> email murezhi@gmail.com

<sup>2</sup> 213 Wild Horse Creek Drive, Simpsonville, South Carolina 29680, USA, email platycryptus@yahoo.com

The senior author (MS) recently observed a female harmochirine, *Bianor* sp., as she fed on the brood of a small theridiid spider at Gobichettipalam, Erode District, Tamil Nadu (11.47450°N, 77.38964°E, 08:30, 02 SEP 2022) (Figure 1). This is the first record of araneophagy by a *Bianor*.



**Figure 1.** Female *Bianor* sp., or *B. cf. albobimaculatus* (Lucas 1846), feeding on the brood within the brood sac (or egg sac) of a small theridiid spider at Gobichettipalam, Erode, Tamil Nadu. **1-2**, Approaching and opening an unguarded brood sac near the edge of a web. **3**, Removal of the brood sac from the web. **4-5**, Feeding on the brood sac after its removal from the web.

In the same area many *Bianor* were observed near a small stream situated near agricultural land. Here small theridiid spiders built their webs between the branches of herbaceous plants, keeping the egg sacs within the webs where they could be guarded by the females (Figure 2).



**Figure 2.** Female theridiids in their webs with brood sacs (egg sacs) between the branches of dry herbaceous plants at Gobichettipalam, Erode, Tamil Nadu (3 SEP 2022). **2**, This female may have been accompanied by a much smaller male (arrow). **3**, Note the distance between this female and one of her brood sacs.

Some theridiid spiders are known to produce multiple egg sacs that are subsequently inhabited by the spiderlings after they hatch, often with little or no protection from the adult female (Hann 1990; Khandelwal & Sharma 2014).

## References

- Hann, S. W. 1990.** Evidence for the displacement of an endemic New Zealand spider, *Latrodectus katipo* Powell by the South African species *Steatoda capensis* Hann (Araneae: Theridiidae). *New Zealand Journal of Zoology* 17 (3): 295-307.
- Khandelwal, S. and V. K. Sharma. 2014.** Description of egg laying pattern and egg sac of *Steatoda grossa* (C. L. Koch, 1838). *Journal of Entomology and Zoology Studies* 2 (5): 259-261.