

## Identification of jumping spiders placed in the genus *Telamonia* (Araneae: Salticidae: Plexippina)<sup>1</sup>

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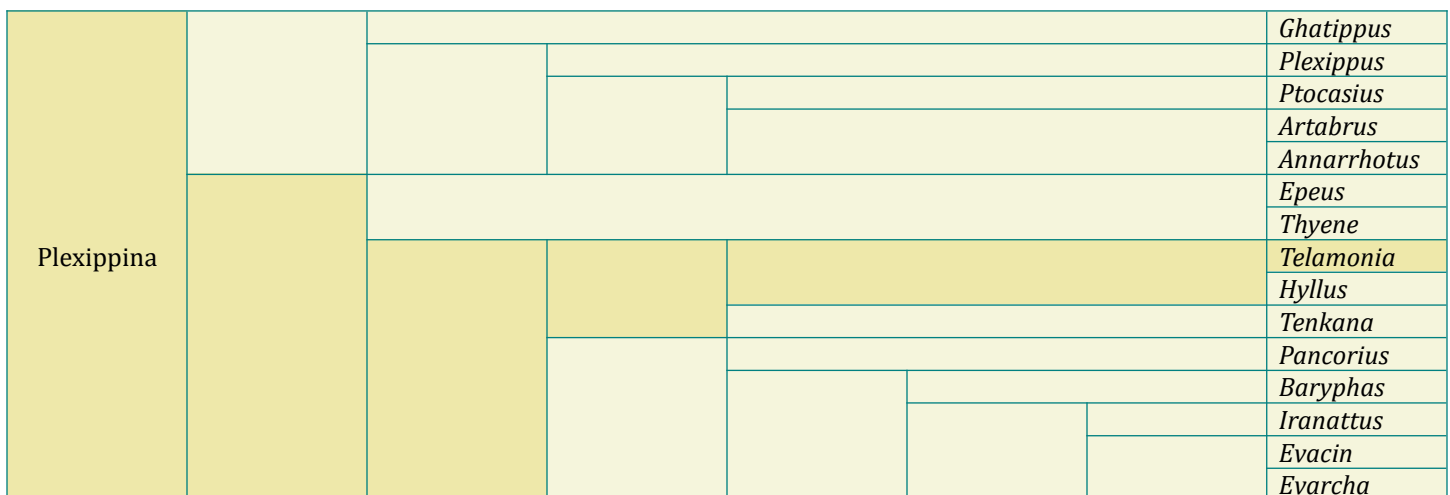
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*Telamonia* Thorell 1887 species are widely distributed in south and southeast Asia (Figure 2; Hill 2010). They represent a very important part of the salticid fauna, living on small trees in wooded or forested areas (Abhijith et al. 2021), where they feed on a variety of insects and spiders, including conspecifics (Ahmed et al. 2019; Hill et al. 2020). Although the type species for this genus is *T. festiva* Thorell 1887, the best-known species is *T. dimidiata* (Simon 1899). Spiders of this species may molt in shelters, or when suspended from a leaf by the dragline (Abhijith & Hill 2020). As in many other salticid species, immature males resemble adult females (Abhijith et al. 2021). The ecological importance of these relatively large (~7–9 mm) salticids is supported by the discovery of derbid bugs (Homoptera: Derbidae) that appear to mimic adult female *Telamonia* (Hill et al. 2019).

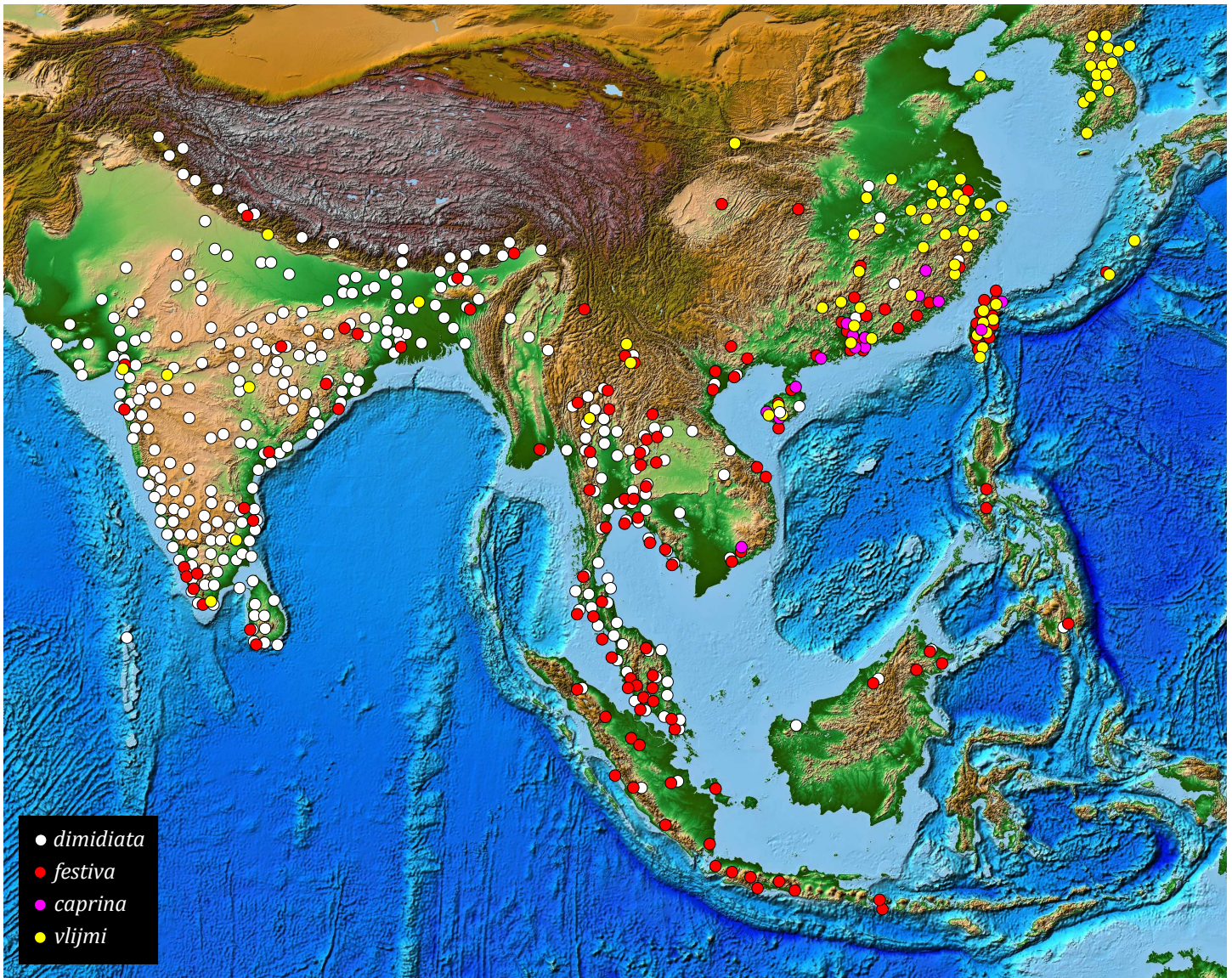
The genus *Telamonia* is now thought to be closely related to *Hyllus* C. L. Koch 1846, also a genus comprised of large salticids (Figure 1; Marathe et al. 2024a, 2024b, 2024c). Although this genus formally includes some 36 named species (Table 1; WSC 2024), only two (*T. dimidiata* and *T. festiva*) are well-known. In fact, the genus may contain only these two valid species, as the identification of all of the other species is problematic. The genus *Telamonia* is sorely in need of a comprehensive revision.



**Figure 1.** Hypothetical phylogeny of salticid genera in the Plexippina clade, based on DNA sequencing (after Marathe et al. 2024a, 2024b, 2024c). Placement of *Telamonia*, next to *Hyllus*, is based on the type species *T. festiva* Thorell 1887.

**Table 1.** Named species of *Telamonia* (after WSC 2024). Almost all of these "species" are problematic, with many known from only a single immature specimen, or a single specimen of one sex. Many have not been observed for more than a century. Almost all of the published descriptions are insufficient for purposes of identification, as shown here ("notes").

#	species	sex	locality	reference	notes
1	<i>agapeta</i>	i	West Papua, New Guinea	<i>Maevia</i> (Thorell 1881)	immature male, cannot identify from text description
2	<i>annulipes</i>	♂	Borneo	Peckham & Peckham 1907	description (only) does not suggest a <i>Telamonia</i>
3	<i>bombycina</i>	♂	Borneo (Peckham coll.), MNHN Paris 21656 (Simon coll.)	<i>Viciria</i> (Simon 1902a) Prószyński 1984	cannot identify from text description figs. 26-28 male pedipalp of Simon's specimen
4	<i>borreyi</i>	♂ ♂♀	Bamako, French Sudan Kankan, French Guinea	Berland & Millot 1941 <i>borreyi minor</i> Berland & Millot 1941	figured, not a <i>Telamonia</i> (misplaced) figured, not a <i>Telamonia</i> (misplaced)
5	<i>caprina</i>	♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♀ ♂	Phuc Son Phu Que 80 km NW Vinh Chine 80 km SW Ha Noi Cuc Phuong, Ninh Binh Province Thanh Ha, Hoa Binh Province Quang Ninh, Ha Long Phuc Son (MNHN Paris 22104) Guangxi, China	<i>Viciria</i> (Simon 1903b)  Zabka 1985 (not types)  Zhang et al. 1992	cannot identify from text description  pedipalp of male (figs. 581-588) and epigynum (figs. 589-590 drawn by J. Prószyński) figured; no reference to Simon's male type which is known only from the text description; could be a synonym of <i>T. festiva</i>  male (figs 9.1-9.3)
6	<i>coeruleostriatus</i>	♂	Amboina	<i>Salticus coeruleostriatus</i> (Doleschall 1859) <i>Maevia caeruleo-striata</i> (Thorell 1878)	text and drawings (pl. IV, fig. 2) insufficient for identification cannot identify from text description
7	<i>cristata</i>	♂	Manila	Peckham & Peckham 1907	cannot identify from text description
8	<i>dimidiata</i>	♂ ♂♀ ♂♀	Sumatra Padang, Sumatra (MNHN Paris 20432) Puntsholing, Bhutan	<i>Viciria</i> (Simon 1899) Prószyński 1984 Próchniewicz 1990	cannot identify from text description pedipalp of male (figs. 29-30), epigynum of female (figs. 31-32) pedipalp and dorsum of males figured (figs. 10-17)
9	<i>elegans</i>	i ♂♀ ♂♀ ♀ ♀	Bhamo, Burma Burma Burma and East Indies (?) Cuc Phuong, Ninh Binh Province Burma	<i>Viciria</i> (Thorell 1887) <i>Viciria</i> (Thorell 1895) Prószyński 1984 (not types, specimens in Thorell collection) Zabka 1985 (not type) Thorell 1887	immature male, cannot identify from text cannot identify from text, may be <i>T. dimidiata</i> pedipalp of male (fig. 35) and epigynum (figs 33-34) may be <i>T. dimidiata</i> may be <i>T. dimidiata</i> text is useful, describes distinctive scale pattern on opisthosoma
10	<i>festiva</i>	♂ ♂ ♀ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂	Java Chine 80 km SW Ha Noi Cuc Phuong, Ninh Binh Province Thanh Ha, Hoa Binh Province Yen Bai, Luc Yen Province River Chai Phuc Son, Annam	Prószyński 1984 (examined type female and other specimens from Java)  Zabka 1985 (not types)	pedipalp of male (figs. 11-13) and epigynum of female (figs. 14-16) figured  pedipalp of males (figs. 596-604), epigynum of female (figs. 605-607), and dorsal opisthosoma of female (fig. 608) figured
11	<i>formosa</i>	♂ ♂	Palabuan, Java Semarang, Java	<i>Viciria</i> (Simon 1902a) Prószyński 1984 (not types)	cannot identify from text description cannot identify from text description
12	<i>hasselti</i>	♂	Amboina Borneo, Tenasserim merid., Celebes, Burma	<i>Sinis</i> (Thorell 1878) Prószyński 1984 (not types)	cannot identify from brief text description in footnote (p. 274) figured pedipalp of Borneo male, may not be a <i>Telamonia</i>
13	<i>jolensis</i>	♂ ♂	Jolo Island, Philippines	<i>Artabrus</i> (Simon 1902b) Prószyński 1987 (MNHN Paris 16353) Prószyński & Deeleman-Reinhold 2010 (MNHN Paris 16453, may not be type)	cannot identify from text description pedipalp of male figured (p. 3), may not be a <i>Telamonia</i> pedipalp of male figured (figs 172-173), may not be a <i>Telamonia</i>
14	<i>laecta</i>	♀	Puntsholing, Bhutan	Próchniewicz 1990	epigynum and dorsum of female figured (figs. 18-20), may be <i>T. dimidiata</i>
15	<i>latruncula</i>	♂	Sulawesi	<i>Maevia</i> (Thorell 1877)	cannot identify from text description
16	<i>leopoldi</i>	♀	Sakoemi, New Guinea	Roewer 1938	figured chelicera (fig. 59) and epigynum (fig. 60), cannot identify from description, probably not a <i>Telamonia</i>
17	<i>livida</i>	♂ ♀	Jagor, Luzon	<i>Plexippus lividus</i> (Karsch 1880) Prószyński 2009 (ZMB 1722, not the holotype as claimed)	cannot identify from very brief text description dorsum (fig. 53) and epigynum (figs. 54-55) of a female figured, but not same gender as holotype
18	<i>luteocincta</i>	i	Nicobar Islands	<i>Maevia luteo-cincta</i> (Thorell 1891)	immature female, cannot identify from description
19	<i>luxiensis</i>	♀	Luxi County, Hunan Province	Peng et al. 1998	female dorsum (fig. 13) and epigynum (figs. 14-15) figured, does not look like a <i>Telamonia</i>
20	<i>mandibulata</i>	♂	New Guinea	Hogg 1915	not a <i>Telamonia</i> , male including pedipalp (fig. 4) figured
21	<i>masinloc</i>	♂	Masinloc, Zambales Province, Luzon	Barrion & Litsinger 1995	male figured (fig. 38), looks much like <i>T. dimidiata</i>
22	<i>mundula</i>	♂	Sulawesi	<i>Maevia</i> (Thorell 1877) Simon 1901a	cannot identify from text description brief note
23	<i>mustelina</i>	♂	Hong Kong	Simon 1901b	cannot identify from text description
24	<i>parangfestiva</i>	♀i	Hinaplalan Village, Claveria, Mindanao	Barrion & Litsinger 1995	female figured (fig. 39), cannot recognize as a <i>Telamonia</i>
25	<i>peckhami</i>	♂i	Nicobar Islands	<i>Peckhamii</i> Thorell 1891 Prószyński 1984	cannot identify from text description pedipalp figured (figs 38-39), looks like <i>T. dimidiata</i>
26	<i>prima</i>	♂	Balu-Juhra, Bhutan	Próchniewicz 1990	brief description, male figured (figs. 2-5), could be a <i>T. dimidiata</i>
27	<i>resplendens</i>	♀	Borneo	Peckham & Peckham 1907	cannot identify from text description
28	<i>scalaris</i>	♂	Ternate	<i>Maevia</i> (Thorell 1877)	cannot identify from text description
29	<i>setosa</i>	♂ ♂	Jagor, Luzon Jagor, Luzon	<i>Plexippus setosus</i> (Karsch 1880) Prószyński 2009 (lectotype, not holotype)	cannot identify from brief text description male pedipalp (figs. 56-57) looks like <i>T. dimidiata</i>
30	<i>sponsa</i>	♂	Sri Lanka	<i>Viciria</i> (Simon 1902a) Prószyński 1984 (MNHN Paris 20418)	cannot identify from text description figured male pedipalp (figs 40-41), could be <i>T. dimidiata</i>
31	<i>trabifera</i>	♂i	New Guinea	<i>Maevia</i> (Thorell 1881)	adult male, immature female
32	<i>trinotata</i>	♂	Papua New Guinea	Simon 1903c	cannot identify from text description
33	<i>trochilus</i>	♂	Hariang, Java	<i>Salticus</i> (Doleschall 1859)	cannot identify from brief text description
34	<i>vidua</i>	♂♀	New Guinea	Hogg 1915 (female is type, male?)	figured (fig. 3), definitely not a <i>Telamonia</i>
35	<i>virgata</i>	♂	Gabon	Simon 1903a	text description inadequate, small, probably not a <i>Telamonia</i>
36	<i>vlijmi</i>	♂♀	Tsushima Island, Japan	Prószyński 1984 (male holotype)	male pedipalp (figs. 18-21) and epigynum (figs. 22-25) figured, could be a variety of <i>T. dimidiata</i>



**Figure 2.** Distribution of *Telamonia* species in south and southeast Asia, based on photographic records posted in iNaturalist. Virtually all recent reports of these salticids are associated with the four species shown here.

Our current interest in this genus began with our attempt to identify two male *Telamonia* recently photographed in Vietnam (Figure 3), from field marks only. One of these (Figure 3.1) agrees closely with the many photographs that have been posted or published for male *T. dimidiata* (Figure 4). With this record (Figure 3.1), we now recognize the presence of both *T. dimidiata* and *T. festiva* in Vietnam. The other (Figures 3.2-3.3) agrees more with photographs of male *T. dimidiata* that have been posted (on iNaturalist) for sites in the Malay peninsula and to the south, in Sunda (Figure 5). We are not certain that both of these males really represent the same species.

Here we will briefly review the photographic records for four species of *Telamonia* that have been posted on iNaturalist (iNaturalist 2024; Figure 2).

***Telamonia dimidiata*** (Figures 4-8). The dark-legged form of the male of this widely-distributed species (Figure 4) has been found from the Indian subcontinent to southeast Asia. This form is largely black and white in coloration, with some reddish scales around the front of the eye region. There is a large, nearly square patch of white scales on top of the carapace, and a tract of white scales on the dorsal opisthosoma.



**Figure 3.** Two ♂ *Telamonia* from Vietnam. **1**, Ho Chi Minh City, photo by Pham Tien Tung. **2-3**, Can Tho City, photo by Phan Hoai Viet. Although they are quite different, both forms agree with the descriptions and posted photographs of *T. dimidiata*. The darker form (1) agrees more with the appearance of males from the Indian subcontinent, whereas the lighter form (2-3) agrees with the appearance of males from the Malay Peninsula and southward. This (1) may represent the first published record of *T. dimidiata* from Vietnam.

Further south, from the Malay Peninsula to Borneo and Java, spiders identified as male *T. dimidiata* (Figure 5) tend to be dark brown with tracts of light yellow scales. The tract of scales in the eye region is more of a triangle, pointed toward the rear. If not a geographic subspecies, these may represent a different species that requires description.

Females (Figures 6-8) generally bear the two opisthosomal stripes by which this species is usually recognized. These stripes vary in their width and color, from black to orange or red. Females may or may not have black spots on the carapace, and vary in body color from translucent white to yellow-green.

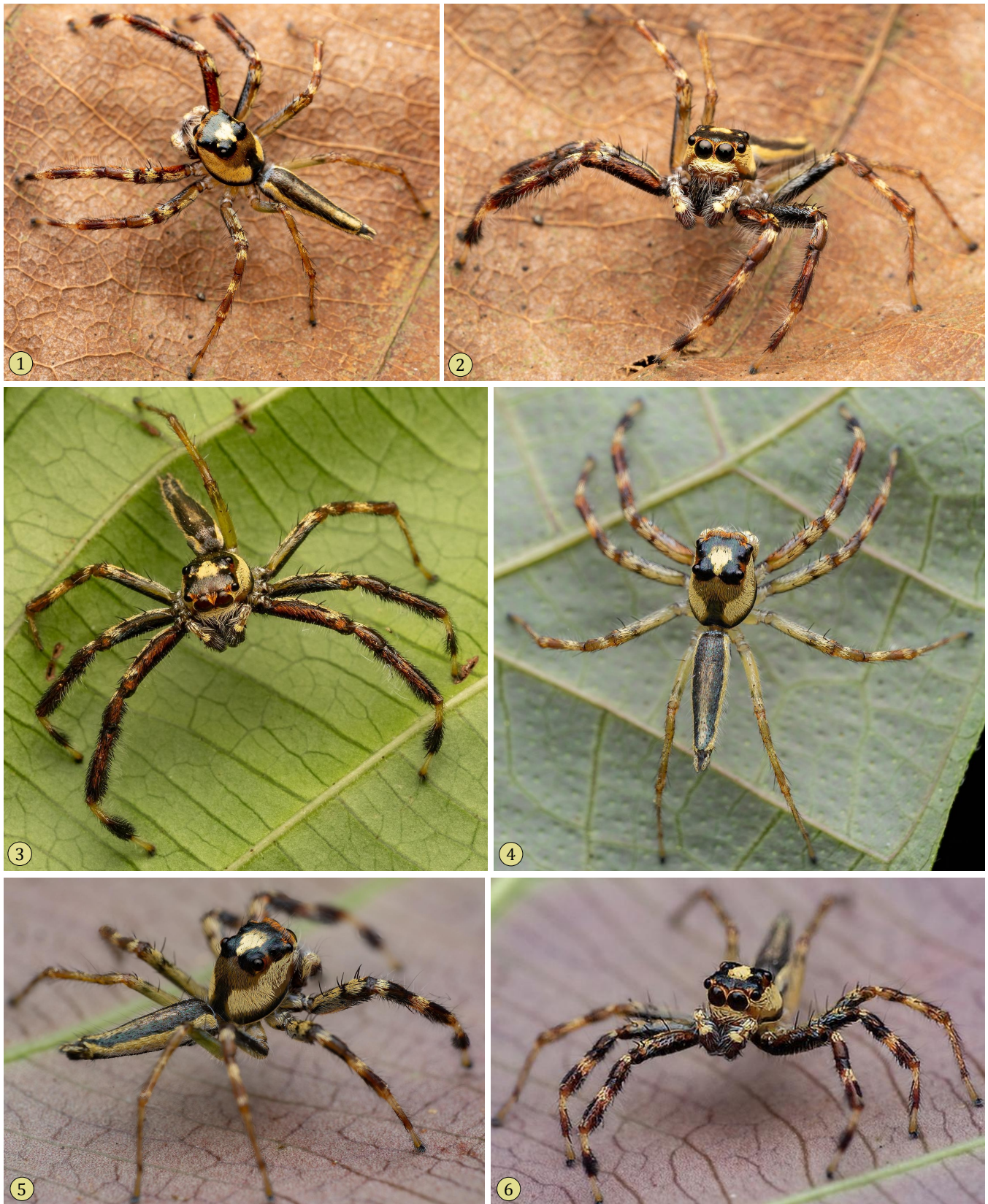
*Telamonia vlijmi* (Figure 9), reported mostly from eastern China and Korea (Figure 2), is closely related and may be a synonym of *T. dimidiata*. Prószyński's drawings of both species (1984) reveals the presence of a small projection associated with the distal tegulum. His *T. dimidiata* male had a completely truncated RTA, whereas his *T. vlijmi* male had a mostly truncated RTA, with one small, sharp projection at the end. With only one specimen of each species depicted, it is not possible to determine whether this represents variation in a single species.

*Telamonia festiva* (Figures 10, 12). This species is better known from southeast Asia (Sunda), but has also been reported from India. It is readily recognized by the presence (usually) of a series of chevrons along the length of the dorsal opisthosomal stripe. Males (Figure 10) are mostly black and white, without the long legs I that distinguish male *T. dimidiata*. The RTA of males is sharply pointed (Figure 10.2). Females (Figure 12) vary in coloration, but in addition to the chevrons of the dorsal opisthosoma, tend to have three stripes comprised of white to off-white scales across the eye region, from front to rear.

*Telamonia caprina* (Figures 11, 13), mostly reported from coastal southeastern China, cannot be readily distinguished from *T. festiva*, and may represent a junior synonym of that species. Simon's (1903) male type is known only from an inadequate description. Żabka (1985) drew the pedipalps of two different male *T. caprina*, and one male *T. festiva*, and also published drawings of a second male *T. festiva* by Jerzy Prószyński. Żabka also described several differences between the two species, but this diagnosis is not convincing. In a revision a larger series of specimens covering a wide geographic area need to be compared to establish variation in the two "species," and whether they should be viewed as a single species.



**Figure 4.** Adult ♂ *Telamonia dimidiata* from south and southeast Asia. **1**, Colombo, Sri Lanka (© Roman Prokhorov, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 252144152). **2**, Nilaveli, Sri Lanka (© Lutautami, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 107120263). **3**, Madavara, Karnataka (© kumarkv, CC BY 4.0, obs. 234079351). **4**, Jakkuru, Bengaluru (© venkatmangudi, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 166632459). **5**, Rajkot, Gujarat (© Ashok Mashru, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 190695166). **6**, Prachin Buri, Thailand (© John Sim, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 137612404).



**Figure 5.** Adult ♂ *Telamonia dimidiata* from the Malay Peninsula. 1-2, Singapore (© Md Jusri, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 32931415). 3, Singapore (© Ivan Neo, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 231980085). 4-6, Selangor, Malaysia (© Nadja Baumgartner, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 156695315).



**Figure 6.** Adult ♀ *Telamonia dimidiata* from India. **1**, New Delhi (© Nitin Chandra, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 240801750). **2**, Kadma, West Bengal (© Aniruddha Singhamahapatra, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 48024187). **3**, Nadia, West Bengal (© SK SAYAK, CC BY 4.0, obs. 146332666). **4**, Edakad, Kerala (© Vaishnav K V, CC BY 4.0, obs. 137543071). **5**, Madavara, Karnataka (© kumarkv, CC BY 4.0, obs. 237410455). **6-7**, Uttara Kannada, Karnataka (© GURURAJ GOUDA, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 180449489).



**Figure 7.** Adult ♀ *Telamonia dimidiata* from Sri Lanka and China. **1**, Colombo, Sri Lanka (© Roman Prokhorov, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 184132430). **2**, Batapola, Sri Lanka (© Chathuri Jayatissa, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 66463340). **3-4**, Batapola, Sri Lanka (© Chathuri Jayatissa, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 77843117). **5**, Yichun, Jiangxi (© jiuheng92, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 186266873). **6**, Hangzhou, Zhejiang (© Huang Baochen, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 184486862). **7**, Hainan (© hanchongchong, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 143789183).





**Figure 8.** Adult ♀ *Telamonia dimidiata* from Thailand and the Malay Peninsula. **1**, Nakhn Nayok, Thailand (© John Sim, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 204988513). **2**, Chiang Mai, Thailand (© Cheryl Stinchcomb, CC BY 4.0, obs. 105077513). **3**, Tanjung Bungah, Penang, Malaysia (© Albert Kang, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 59851535). **4-5**, Kuala Lumpur (© Nadja Baumgartner, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 165567177). **6**, Singapore (© Soh Kam Yung, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 161213013). **7**, Singapore (© Melvyn Yeo, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 235287504).



**Figure 9.** Adult *Telamonia vlijmi* from east Asia. 1, ♂ Gongju, South Korea (© onidiras-iNaturalist, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 155580121). 2, ♀ Cheonan, South Korea (© onidiras-iNaturalist, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 243280317). 3, ♀ Cheonan, South Korea (© onidiras-iNaturalist, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 237075348). 4, ♀ Kaohsiug, Taiwan (© A Little Wilder, CC BY 4.0, obs. 150945594). 5-6, ♀ Hangzhou, Zhejiang, China (© Smalltown, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 245336898).



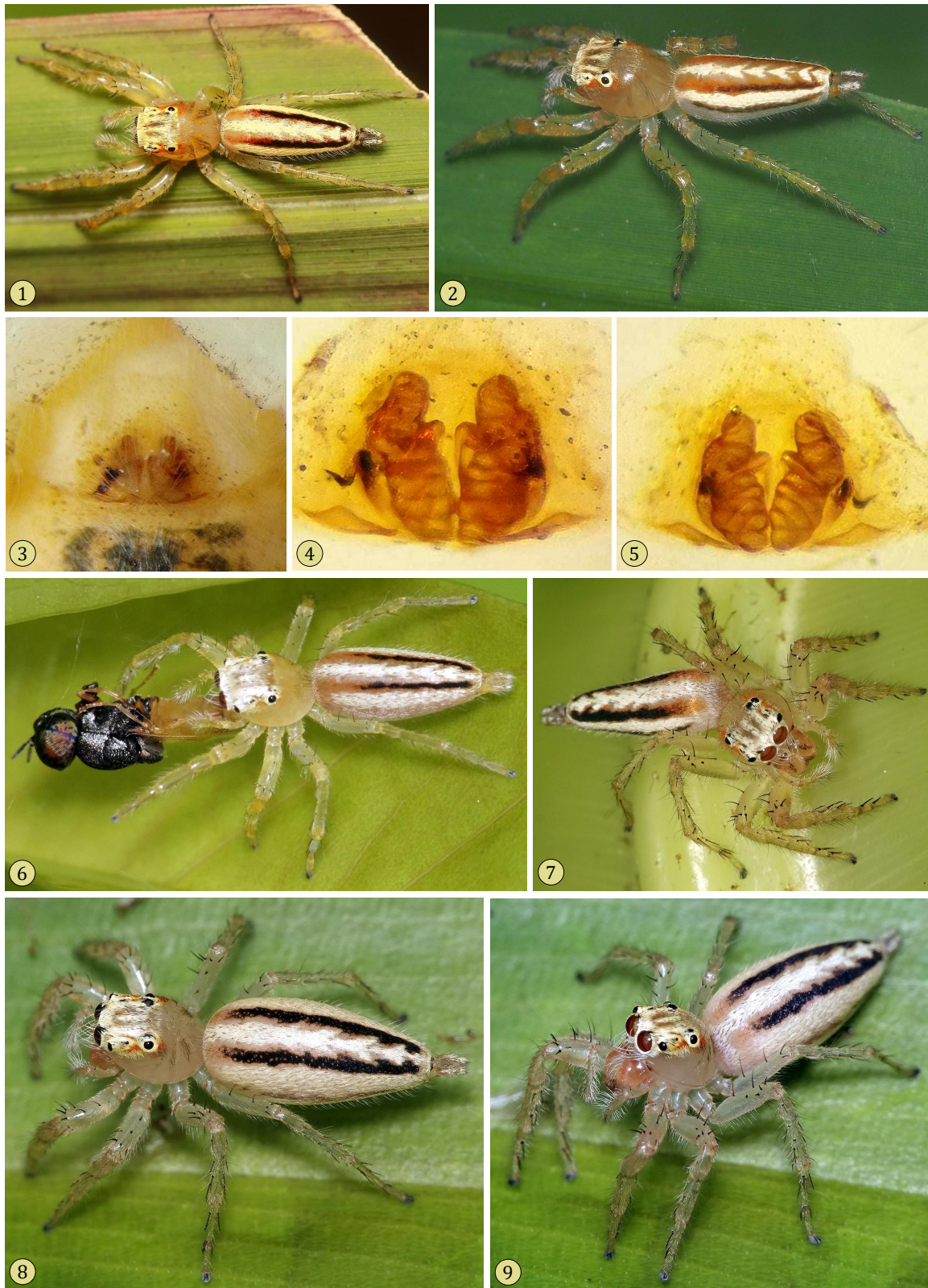
**Figure 10 (continued on next page).** Adult ♂ *Telamonia festiva*. **1-2**, Yogyakarta, Java (© Naufal Urfi Dhiya'ulhaq, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 51558998). A ventral view of the left pedipalp is shown in (2). **3-4**, Sawah, South Sumatra (© Samuel GUIRAUDOU, CC BY 4.0, obs. 202313340). **5**, Singapore (© Soh Kam Yung, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 121706716). **6**, Prachin Buri, Thailand (© John Sim, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 242047339). **7**, Pattaya City, Thailand (© Narong Thepphibalsathit, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 98465200). **8**, Prachin Buri, Thailand (© John Sim, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 245119023).



**Figure 10 (continued from previous page).** Adult ♂ *Telamonia festiva*. 9-11, Prachin Buri, Thailand (© John Sim, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 245151585). 12-13, Hong Kong (© wklegend, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 10202141). 14-15, Kaohsiung, Taiwan (© A Little Wilder, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 158202741).



**Figure 11.** Adult ♂ *Telamonia caprina*. 1-2, Hong Kong (© sashahaldane, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 108577567). 3-4, Hong Kong (© Eric Ching, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 121706716). 5, Hong Kong (© Timmy, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 173191516). 6, Hong Kong (© Lawrence Hylton, CC BY 4.0, obs. 202808081).



**Figure 12 (continued on next page).** Adult ♀ *Telamonia festiva*. 1, Western Java (© A. Restu Dwikelana, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 210724053). 2-5, Yogyakarta, Java (© Naufal Urfi Dhiya'ulhaq, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 82134439). The epigynum is shown in ventral view (3), a cleared ventral view (4), and a cleared dorsal view (5). 6, Singapore (© Soh Kam Yung, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 210724053). 7, Singapore (© Soh Kam Yung, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 194800768). 8-9, Singapore (© Soh Kam Yung, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 173170599).



**Figure 12 (continued from previous page, continued on next page).** Adult ♀ *Telamonia festiva*. **10**, Singapore (© Soh Kam Yung, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 57316616). **11**, Malaysia (© matthew\_dp, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 112975074). **12**, Chiang Mai, Thailand (© Cheryl Stinchcomb, CC BY 4.0, obs. 222869826). **13**, Hong Kong (© Kit Law, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 34769875). **14**, Hong Kong (© hokoonwong, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 12316557). **15**, Taipei, Taiwan (© hxl0910, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 240552465).



**Figure 12 (continued from previous page).** Adult ♀ *Telamonia festiva*. **16**, Shenzhen, Guangdong, China (© rainyang, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 210724053). **17**, Location unknown (© shibbo, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 100995931).



**Figure 13 (continued on next page).** Adult ♀ *Telamonia caprina*. **1**, Hainan, China (© Simba, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 204244190). **2**, Hong Kong (© Kit Law, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 102077299). **3**, Hong Kong (© simoncheung, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 142526260). **4**, Hong Kong (© Paul Dickson, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 185420624).





**Figure 13 (continued from previous page).** Adult ♀ *Telamonia caprina*. **5**, Hong Kong (© blackdogto, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 16485934). **6**, Hong Kong (© Kit Law, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 100995931). **7**, Hong Kong (© benjonian, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 220432478). **8**, Hong Kong (© Lawrence Hylton, CC BY 4.0, obs. 221503154). **9**, Hong Kong (© danlam, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 245185917). **10**, Hong Kong (© Paul Dickson, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 222848719).



**Figure 14.** *Telamonia* species (not identified). All of these resemble *T. dimidiata*. **1-2**, ♀ Pintung, Taiwan (© copyboy, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 66764763). **3**, ♀ Los Baños, Philippines (© marcel-silvius, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 245336898). **4-5**, Iba, Luzon (© Reynante Martinez, CC BY 4.0, obs. 47701634). This was identified as *T. masinloc*, but appears to be an immature. **6**, ♂ Philippines (© Reynante Martinez, CC BY 4.0, obs. 60403637). **7**, ♂ Bali (© nannup151, CC BY-NC 4.0, obs. 243754824)

**Other *Telamonia* species.** As noted previously (Table 1), most published descriptions of *Telamonia* species are inadequate. Yet there are probably a number of species, including new species or subspecies, that need to be redescribed (or described). Some of these are shown here (Figure 14).

### Acknowledgements

We thank the many contributors to *iNaturalist*, which now represents a very important resource for the discovery and identification of species. Related to this, the importance of photographic documentation and the documentation of field marks have never been more important. Photographs published here, whether under a CC BY 4.0 (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/deed.en>) or a CC BY-NC 4.0 (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/deed.en>) licence, have been cropped and otherwise modified to improve their presentation.

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