On the identity of the spider *Emertonius exasperans*
Peckham & Peckham (Araneae: Salticidae)

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**Introduction**

The little known genus *Emertonius* Peckham & Peckham 1892 was formerly comprised of two species: *Emertonius exasperans* Peckham & Peckham, the type-species from Java and *E. rufescens* Simon from Madagascar. Both species were known only from females that were characterized by the 'curiously' shaped carapace. *E. rufescens*, now known from both sexes, is considered to belong to the genus *Myrmarachne* Macleay and is described elsewhere (Wanless, 1978). The discovery of a male from the Philippines, believed to be conspecific with *E. exasperans*, shows that this is also a species of *Myrmarachne* and that the genus *Emertonius* is not valid.

In the following redescription of *E. exasperans* the format and abbreviations are those given by Wanless (1978).

*Myrmarachne exasperans* (Peckham & Peckham) comb. nov.  
(Figs 1, 2)


**Diagnosis.** *M. exasperans* is a distinctive species and the form of the carapace (Figs 1A, F; 2A, E) is diagnostic.

**Male** (formerly undescribed). **Carapace** (Fig. 1A, F): punctured- reticulate with piliferous papillae; dark reddish brown; clothed with white hairs forming lateral and submarginal bands on the sides. **Eyes**: anterior subcontiguous with apices procured in frontal view, fringed with white hairs. ** Clypeus**: white haired. **Chelicerae** (Fig. 1A, D): rugulose with furrows; orange-brown with brown-black lateral keels and with a distal violet sheen under some lights; fang apophysis lacking. **Maxillae and labium**: yellow-brown. **Sternum**: (Fig. 1C) yellow-brown. **Abdomen**: mottled pale yellow and black; scuta dark orange-brown tinged with blackish, sparsely clothed with fine dark orange hairs and margined with distinctive white haired fringes. **Legs**: femora I slightly enlarged. Light yellow-brown but tibiae I and femora I orange-brown. Ventral spination of legs I: metatarsi 2-2, tibiae 2-2-2-2-2-2, patellae I. **Palp** (Fig. 1B, E): tibial apophysis with proximal ventral flange; seminal reservoir doubled, probably as a result of folding within the tegulum.

**Dimensions**: total length 5-0 mm, carapace length 2-4 mm. **Ratios**: AM : AL : PM : PL :: 12 : 7 : 14 : 7-5; AL–PM–PL: 9-7; width of eye row I/ carapace width at that point 1-06, width of eye row III/ carapace width at that point 1-08, quadrangle length/ carapace length 0-48, cheliceral length/ carapace length 0-90, tibia + patella IV/ carapace length 0-88 (based on 1 ♂).

**Female** (Fig. 2A, E). **Carapace**: covered with piliferous papillae but grading to rugulose behind anterior eyes; dark reddish orange; a longitudinal white haired band on the head and fore part of thorax with white haired lateral bands and a tuft of brownish hairs on the 'hump'. **Eyes**: more or less as in ♂. ** Clypeus**: white haired. **Chelicerae**: reddish orange, shiny, with 6 promarginal and 8–10 retromarginal teeth. **Maxillae and labium**: orange-brown. **Sternum** (Fig. 2B): pale yellow-brown. **Abdomen**: yellow-brown with dark brown dorsal pattern; light parts clothed with pale yellowish hairs with scanty covering of long and short orange-brown hairs in dark areas. **Legs**: legs I light yellowish with brownish streaks on outside of tibiae and patellae. Other legs light yellowish but legs IV with brownish streaks on outside of tibiae, patellae, femora and trochanters.


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Fig. 1 *Myrmarachne exasperans* (Peckham & Peckham), ♂: (A) dorsal view; (B) palp, lateral view; (C) sternum; (D) chelicera, ventral view; (E) palp, ventral view; (F) lateral view.
Myrmarachne exasperans (Peckham & Peckham), ♀: (A) dorsal view; (B) sternum, coxae, maxillae and labium; (C) epigyne; (D) vulva, ventral view; (E) lateral view.

Ventral spination of legs I: metatarsi 2–2, tibiae 2–2–2, patellae 0; retroventral spines the strongest. Epigyne (Fig. 2C, D): median pouch poorly defined; openings circular; spermathecae rounded and simple; distal seminal ducts broad, poorly defined.

Dimensions: total length 5·2 mm, carapace length 2·4 mm. Ratios: AM : AL : PM : PL :: 13 : 8 : 2 : 8; AL–PM–PL: 8–7; width of eye row I/ carapace width at that point 1·06, width of eye row III/ carapace width at that point 1·05, quadrangle length/ carapace length 0·49, tibia + patella IV/ carapace length 0·93 (based on 2 ♀).

Biology. Unknown.
DISTRIBUTION. Java, Philippines.


REMARKS. The structure of the genitalia and the horizontal chelicerae of the male shows that E. exasperans belongs to Myrmarachne but the male abdominal fringes are not typical of the genus. Unfortunately, Oriental species of Myrmarachne are poorly known and the affinities of this species are uncertain. It resembles E. rufescens in body form but there are differences in the genitalia and it cannot be readily placed into any of the Ethiopian species groups proposed by Wanless (1978).

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References


