

First record of *Epeus albus* Prószyński 1992 in Vietnam (Araneae: Salticidae: Plexippini)

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Prószyński described *Epeus albus* in October 1992 from Jajpur-Keonjhar District, Orissa, and Biswas & Biswas described *E. chilapataensis* in November 1992 from Koch Bihar District (now Cooch Behar), West Bengal. According to Sudhin et al. 2024, *E. chilapataensis* is a junior synonym of *E. albus*. A total of 10 specimens, including 2 males and 8 females, were collected from Ben Tre Province. They are quite common in rambutan (Sapindaceae: *Nephelium lappaceum*) orchards in the area.

Both male and female characteristics (Figure 1) match the description of *E. albus* by Sudhin et al. 2024:

The male palp features a short, stout, anterodorsally directed RTA with a truncated tip; cymbium is nearly triangular, covered with white and black setae; cymbial apophysis is long and slender, with its outer margin serrated; tegulum has a highly developed tongue-like flap; embolus is very thin and long, originating almost at the eight o'clock position and extending to the distal end of the cymbium; the epigyne is wider than long, with a pair of small epigynal pockets and an ovoid atrium; copulatory openings are widely separated, crescent-shaped, with closely arranged posterior margins; copulatory ducts are very long with several loops, eventually entering the spermathecal reservoir posteriorly; fertilization ducts are long, oriented laterally, and positioned at the anterior region of the spermathecae.

This record extends the distribution range of this species from India to Vietnam and further expands its expected distribution to other Southeast Asian countries. This record also increases the number of *Epeus* species reported from Vietnam to four. Our publication of photographs of living males and females is particularly important, as this should make it possible to identify the species in the field.

References

- Biswas & Biswas 1992.** Bijan Biswas, Kajal Biswas. Araneae: Spiders. State Fauna Series 3: Fauna of West Bengal 3: 357-500.
- Prószyński 1992.** Jerzy Prószyński. 31 Oct 1992. Salticidae (Araneae) of India in the collection of the Hungarian National Natural History Museum in Budapest. Annales Zoologici, Warszawa 44: 165-277.
- Sudhin et al. 2024.** Puthoor Pattammal Sudhin, Ramankutty Jwala, Souvik Sen, Vishwanath D. Hegde. 17 Apr 2024. Taxonomic notes on the genus *Epeus* Peckham & Peckham, 1886 (Araneae, Salticidae) from India. Zoosystematics and Evolution 100 (2): 447-455.



Figure 1. *Epeus albus* from Ben Tre Province, Vietnam. Both males and females agree closely with the published description and photographs of this species by Sudhin et al. (2024). **1-2**, Two views of an adult ♂. The legs are particularly long and black. **3-4**, Ventral (3) and retrolateral (4) views of the left male pedipalp. **5-7**, Ventral (5, 7) and retrolateral (6) views of the right male pedipalp. **8-9**, Two different adult ♀♀. **10-13**, Ventral views of the epigynum of four ♀♀. The dark areas at the top (anterior) are associated with the copulatory openings, each of which leads to a long, convoluted copulatory duct.