

A new species of jumping spider of the genus *Epeus* from Vietnam (Araneae: Salticidae: Plexippini)

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In his study of the Salticidae of Vietnam, Żabka (1985) listed only two species in the genus *Epeus* Peckham & Peckham 1886. Of the two, *E. alboguttatus* was known only from its original description as *Viciria alboguttatus* by Thorell (1887). Żabka described a male (from China, 80 km SW of Hanoi) and a female (from Viet Tri, Vinh Phu Province) that he thought matched the type of that species, but his "type" specimen, a mature female with a dark middorsal stripe on the opisthosoma, was really quite different from Thorell's immature female from Myanmar, characterized (as suggested by the species group name *alboguttatus*) by a distinctive series of paired white spots on the dorsum of the opisthosoma. More recently, other writers (Chen & Zhang 1991; Peng & Li 2002; Peng 2020) have republished Żabka's drawings of this male and female *Epeus*, also associating these with the species name *alboguttatus*.

Here, based on new male and female specimens recently collected in Dong Nai Province, We redescribe this species and give it a name.

Genus *Epeus* Peckham & Peckham 1886

type species: *Evenus tener* Simon 1877

Epeus phamtri, new species

(Figures 1-2)

Epeus phamtri Tam & Hill 2025

E. alboguttatus Żabka 1985 (misidentified)

Viciria alboguttata Chen & Zhang 1991

E. alboguttatus Peng & Li 2002

E. alboguttatus Peng 2020

Type specimens. One ♂ holotype, one ♂ paratype, and one ♀ paratype were collected by Pham Tri on 20 April 2025 in the Dinh Quan District of Dong Nai Province (11.1664354°N, 107.4538857°E), about 60 km northeast of Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. These specimens are in the collection of the Center for Vocational Education, Cho Lach District, Ben Tre Province, Vietnam.

Etymology. The species group name (*phamtri*, noun in apposition) is based on the name of the person who collected these spiders, Pham Tri.

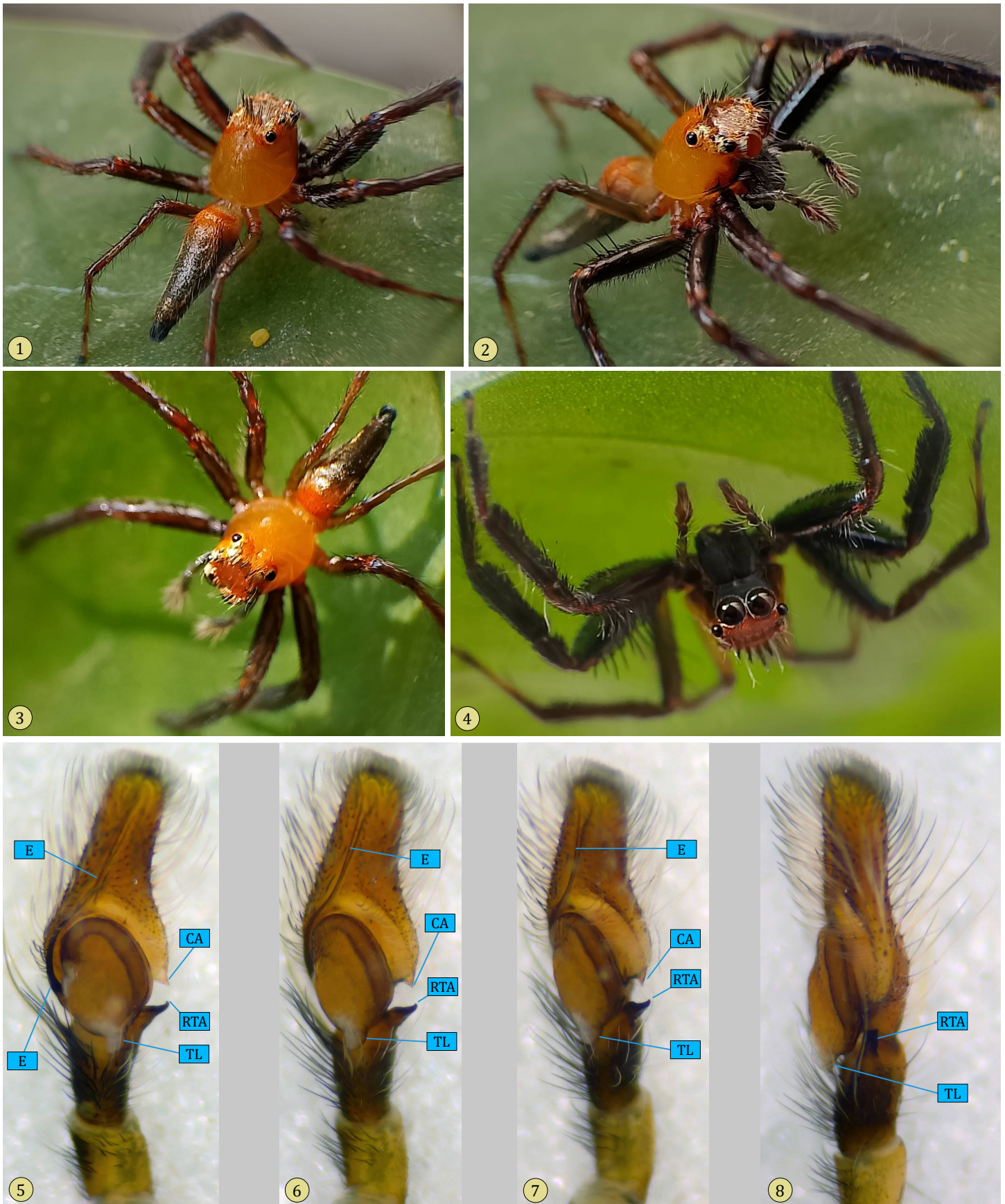


Figure 1. Holotype ♂ for *Epeus phamtri*. **1-4**, Photos of the living spider. **5-8**, Ventral (5) to retrolateral (8) views of the left pedipalp, in alcohol. Abbreviations: CA, cymbial apophysis; E, embolus; RTA, retrolateral tibial apophysis (truncation can be seen clearly in (8); TL, tegular lobe, extending from proximal end of tegulum (partly obscured by debris).



Figure 2. Paratype ♀ for *Epeus phamtri*. 1-2, Photos of the living spider. 3-4, Ventral (external) views of intact epigynum, in alcohol. The anterior direction is towards the top of each photo.

Description of male types (Figure 1). Male holotype: Carapace high and elevated with posterior slope, pale yellow (orange in life), with a row of erect black setae at the rear of the eye region, between the PLE. Chelicerae dark brown, with long setae on the front side; promargin with two teeth and retromargin with one tooth. Endites brown, scopulate, with pale yellow margins. Labium brown, covered with setae. Sternum sub-pentagonal, longer than wide. Opisthosoma narrow, tapering toward the rear to about half of its width, orange on the anterior third and black on the posterior two-thirds, with a pair of narrow, white dorsolateral stripes that may be indistinct (Figures 1.1, 1.3). Venter black, with a pair of yellowish dotted lines medially and laterally. Spinnerets black, covered with paler setae. Legs long and slender, bearing both light-colored and black setae; legs dark red-brown. A row of long spines extends dorsally from the dorsal surface of each femur. Pedipalp (Figures 1.2, 1.4-1.8) dark brown with cover of long, pale yellow setae; RTA short, stout, distolaterally directed with a truncated tip (Figure 1.8); cymbium long, nearly triangular, covered with white and black setae; cymbial apophysis very short and pointed, unlike most other *Epeus* that tend to have a long cymbial apophysis; tegulum with a short, tongue-shaped lobe emerging near the proximal margin; embolus very thin and long, originating near the eight o'clock position with respect to the tegulum and extending to the distal end of the cymbium. The distal part of the cymbium containing the cymbial groove is relatively long. The paratype is similar to the holotype.

Description of female type (Figure 2). Female holotype: Eye region light red-brown, with an off-white median stripe. Body mostly pale yellow or off-white, with a dark brown or black middorsal stripe on the opisthosoma, flanked by a pale yellow band, and then by a pair of elongated dark brown bands on either side of the opisthosoma—flat along the outer edge and wavy along the inner edge, with a distinct pattern (Figures 2.1-2.2). The legs are mostly off-white and translucent, with indistinct light-brown banding. Epigyne (Figures 2.3-2.4) with widely separated, crescent-shaped copulatory openings separated by a square-shaped median area; copulatory ducts very long with multiple loops, four at the rear and one that is wider, extending forward and medially on either side to an expanded copulatory opening.

Distribution. In addition to its occurrence in the vicinity of Hanoi, one record of a spider that appears to represent this species, from Chongzuo, Guangxi, China has been posted on iNaturalist (Figure 3).



Figure 3. *Epeus phamtri* in Chongzuo, Guangxi, China. **1,** Adult ♂. **2,** Immature ♀ (at left) in her shelter on the underside of a leaf, with an adult male. The light-coloured band or stripe on either side of the male opisthosoma may be broken into more than one segment, as shown here. Photo credits: 1-2, iNaturalist observation 217857683, © Simba, CC BY-NC 4.0, cropped.

Acknowledgements

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