

**REDESCRIPTION OF  
*Stenochilus crocatus* SIMON, 1884 (ARACHNIDA:  
ARANEAE: STENOCHILIDAE) FROM  
CENTRAL INDIA**

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**ABSTRACT**

A male subadult of *Stenochilus crocatus* Simon, 1884 is collected from Narmada basin, Madhya Pradesh, India and also 3 specimen from Lonar crater sanctuary, Maharashtra, India. All the specimen were subadult and are redescribed.

**INTRODUCTION**

The family Stenochilidae was erected by Thorell (1873) for the peculiar Indian spider *Stenochilus hobsoni* O. P.-Cambridge (1870). Simon (1884, 1893a) first described three additional species of *Stenochilus* from India, Burma, and the Philippines and later (1893b) established the genera *Metronax* and *Colopea* for those species.

Stenochilidae Thorell, previously considered a subfamily of Palpimanidae, is again established as a valid family (Platnick, 1974). Palpimanidae and Stenochilidae are sister groups of equivalent rank and familial status. Major differences in genitalia and carapace shape are used to construct a probable phylogeny and reclassification of Stenochilidae.

From India 1 genus and 3 species are recorded, *Stenochilus hobsoni* O.P. Cambridge, 1870, *S. crocatus* Simon, 1884 and *S. scutulatus* Platnick & Shadab, 1974.

In the present investigation we have found a male subadult of *S. crocatus* Simon, 1884 which is described below.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

The subadult male of *Stenochilus crocatus* were collected from Jam Darwaaja near Choli village situated on state highway (Previously called old Maheshwar Road near Mandleshwar region of Madhya Pradesh (22°21' 29.63"N & 75°44' 07.41 E) India in the month of August 2011. Collected specimen was photographed by Nikon L110 with macro lens. Collected specimen is transferred to 70% alcohol. Identification is done on the basis of morphometric characters of various body parts. A detail taxonomic study is carried out based on the various keys and catalogues and other relevant literature.

### OBSERVATIONS AND RESULTS

The specimen collected were only subadult male and were studied under stereozoom microscope and were found to be a new record for Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, India and are described as under.

Genus *Stenochilus* O. P.-Cambridge, 1870

Considered a senior synonym of *Metronax* Simon, 1893, by Platnick and Shadab, 1974

In synonymy:

*S. raudus* Simon, 1884 = *S. hobsoni* O. P.-Cambridge, 1870

Only 3 species of *Stenochilus* are known from India . During the present work, I came across four subadult males.

1. *crocatus* Simon, 1884 (Female is known)

2. *hobsoni* O. P.-Cambridge, 1870 (Male and Female both are known)

3. *scutulatus* Platnick & Shadab, 1974 (Male is known)

The male of *Stenochilus crocatus* is recorded for the first time from India and hence is fully described.

**General** : Diamond shaped carapace, reddish brown in colour, abdomen dark reddish brown and decorated with pale colour small dots, legs pale, cephalothorax provided with two thoracic groove.

**Cephalothorax**      **Abdomen**

L=2.19 mm              L=2.58 mm

W=1.33 mm              W=1.41 mm

Total Body Length= 4.83 mm

**Cephalothorax**: Longer than wide, carapace diamond shaped, granulated, brown in colour, anteriorly narrow and posterior end convex, cephalic region raised but slightly separated from thoracic region, two thoracic grooves, first groove long slit like and second deep circular as a pit, clothed with fine hairs and pubescence, midlongitudinal groove below the ocular region to thoracic groove. Ocular region narrow, eight eyes, ocular quad longer than wide, anteriorly narrow than behind, posterior medians are larger than anterior median, posterior eyes are elongated and others are circular, median eyes are grey and encircled with black ring lateral eyes same in size, closer and white in colour, anterior row of eyes is slightly recurved, posterior row of eyes procurved.

**Sternum**: Longer than wide, ovoid, fused with labium, clothed with fine hairs and pubescence, granulated with sclerotized extension surrounding coxae and prolonged extension between coxa IV.

**Labium**: Longer than wide, anteriorly narrow, pointed posteriorly fused with sternum, clothed with hairs and pubescence, middle half sclerotized rest plain and smooth.

**Endites**: Longer than wide, light red in colour, anteriorly narrow than behind, converging sharply pointed, anterior half sclerotized and rest plain and smooth



margins, clothed with hairs and pubescence, posteriorly elevated, distal end pointed with scopula and serrula.

**Chelicerae:** Light red, clothed with hairs and pubescence, short, cheliceral furrow without teeth, fang small and transparent.

**Legs:** Long, 2 tarsal claws, dented, armed with hairs, spines and trichobothria, legs are prograde, leg formula 1243, first two legs are stronger than other, trichobothria with tibia and metatarsus of all legs, scopula provided with tarsi and metatarsi of 1 and 2 legs, all legs are pale in colour.

**Leg measurements (in mm):**

Leg segments	Leg 1	Leg 2	Leg 3	Leg 4
<b>Coxa</b>	0.53	0.39	0.41	0.33
<b>Trochanter</b>	0.30	0.27	0.27	0.27
<b>Femur</b>	0.96	0.80	0.58	1.03
<b>Patella</b>	0.63	0.69	0.36	0.46
<b>Tibia</b>	0.89	0.91	0.66	0.30
<b>Metatarsus</b>	0.46	0.39	0.46	0.60
<b>Tarsus</b>	0.46	0.33	0.33	0.69
<b>Total Length</b>	<b>4.23</b>	<b>3.78</b>	<b>3.07</b>	<b>3.68</b>

**Abdomen:** Elongated, deep reddish brown in colour, clothed with hairs and pubescence, two pale small oval patches present on anterior half of the abdomen, small bead like pale patches scattered transversely on the abdomen, ventral side epigastric region pale in colour, decorated with small pale circular patches, three parallel lines with pale colour extend between the epigastric furrow and spinnerets, clothed with hairs and pubescence, base of the spinnerets provided with three pale patches, small in middle and other two patches are elongated.

**Spinneret:** Spinnerets are long, whitish, with light yellow band, clothed with hairs and pubescence, anterior pair largest.

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