

## SHORT COMMUNICATION

### THE MALE OF *SUFFASIA ATTIDIYA* (ARANEAE, ZODARIIDAE)

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**ABSTRACT.** *Suffasia attidiya* was previously known only from females. This paper describes males collected from the type locality. Males of *S. attidiya* can be recognized by the following combination of characters: tibia with stout retrolateral apophysis; triangular dorsal cymbial extension; cymbial flange attached at its center to the cymbium; embolus with a base positioned under the proximal part of tegulum; long tapering, outwards pointing tegular apophysis.

**Keywords:** taxonomy, Sri Lanka, Oriental region

The genus *Suffasia* combines autapomorphies of the subfamilies Zodariinae and Storeninae (Jocqué 1992; Dankittipakul & Jocqué 2004) and is therefore a key zodariid genus. It is known only from the Indo-Oriental region; of the four described species two are from Sri Lanka (Platnick 2005). In the original description of the two species from Sri Lanka by Benjamin and Jocqué (2000), one of them, *S. attidiya*, was described only from females. During recent collecting at the type locality, I was able to collect two males which are described below.

Preparation of material and drawings were done as in Benjamin (2004), and the description follows the format used by Benjamin and Jocqué (2000). Specimens examined are deposited in the Muséum d'histoire naturelle, Genève (MHNG) and the Naturhistorisches Museum, Basel (NMB).

#### TAXONOMY

Family Zodariidae Thorell 1881

Genus *Suffasia* Jocqué 1991

*Suffasia* Jocqué 1991: 146.

**Type species.**—*Suffucia tigrina* Simon 1893 by original designation.

**Remarks.**—The genus *Suffasia* contains four species (Jocqué 1991, 1992; Benjamin & Jocqué 2000) and is currently known only from India, Nepal and Sri Lanka (Platnick 2005).

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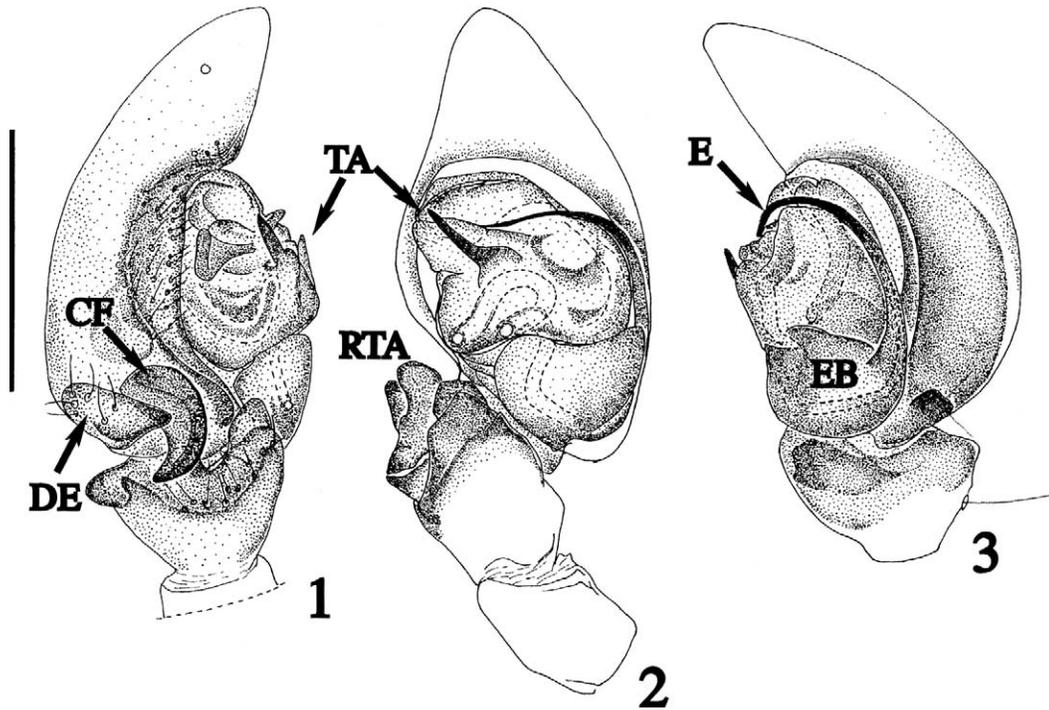
*Suffasia attidiya* Benjamin & Jocqué 2000  
(Figs. 1–3)

*Suffasia attidiya* Benjamin & Jocqué 2000: 102, figs. 8–12.

**Material examined.**—SRI LANKA: *Western Province*: 2 ♂, Colombo, Bellanwila-Attidiya (approximately 6°50'N, 79°54'E), mean elevation 0.6 m asl, 22 February 2000, S.P. Benjamin (1 ♂ MHNG, 1 ♂ NMB).

**Diagnosis.**—The male of *S. attidiya* can be recognized by the following combination of characters. The tibia with stout retrolateral apophysis (RTA), a triangular dorsal cymbial extension (DE), cymbial flange (CF) attached at its center to the cymbium. Embolus with a base positioned under the proximal part of tegulum (EB) and the long tapering, outwards pointing tegular apophysis (TA). The second species known from Sri Lanka, *S. mahasumana* Benjamin & Jocqué 2000, possesses a tibia with a longer retrolateral apophysis, oval dorsal cymbial extension, cymbial flange attached at its base to the cymbium. Embolus with an outward projecting base visible in the dorsal view and a shorter broad-based, out and forwards pointing, tegular apophysis. Benjamin and Jocqué (2000) presented a diagnosis for the females.

**Description.**—*Male*: Mostly as described for female. Coloration and markings as in female (see Benjamin and Jocqué 2000: figs. 11, 12). Palp (Figs. 1–3): Tibia with stout retrolateral apophysis. Cymbium with a well-developed triangular dorsal cymbial extension (DE), dorsolateral cymbial flange attached at its center to the cymbium (CF), extending lateral cymbial concavity carrying some sensorial hairs in superior part. Embolus long, origi-



Figures 1–3.—*Suffasia attidiya* Benjamin & Jocqué, male from Bellanwila-Attidiya: 1. Male palp, retro-lateral view; 2. Male palp, ventral view; 3. Male palp, pro-lateral view. CF = cymbial flange; DE = dorsal cymbial extension; E = embolus; EB = base of embolus; RTA = retrolateral tibial apophysis; TA = tegular apophysis. Scale line = 0.2 mm.

nating from proximal part of tegulum, base hidden. Tegular apophysis, long, tapering, pointing outwards (TA).

Measurements (mm): Total length 2.2; prosoma length 1.1; prosoma width 0.7. Leg 1: femur 0.6; patella 0.2; tibia 0.4; metatarsus 0.6; tarsus 0.4.

*Female*: see Benjamin and Jocqué (2000).

**Distribution.**—*Suffasia attidiya* is known only from two localities: Bellanwila-Attidiya sanctuary and Kalugala, Labugama Forest Reserve in the Western Province of Sri Lanka.

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