

**FIRST REPORT OF THE COB-WEB SPIDER *COLEOSOMA
BLANDUM* O. PICKARD-CAMBRIDGE (ARANEAE:
THERIDIIDAE) WITH COMMENTS ON ITS
DISTRIBUTION FROM INDIA**

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ABSTRACT: *Coleosoma blandum* O. Pickard-Cambridge is reported first time from India, based on the male specimen. A species description is provided along with the habitus and illustration of the palp and checklist of the genus *Coleosoma*.

KEY WORDS: Checklist, new record, Odisha, Theridiidae

The family Theridiidae is represented by 2514 species under 124 genera worldwide. The theridiid genus *Coleosoma* O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1882 was erected with the description of female, *Coleosoma blandum* O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1882 from Sri Lanka, comprising of 10 valid species worldwide (World Spider Catalog, 2019), (Table 1), of which only one species *Coleosoma floridanum* Banks, 1900 is known from India (Srinivasulu et al., 2013). The species of the genus shows sexual dimorphism and the males are believed to be ant mimics (Saaristo, 2006). These are small theridiid spiders with no colulus. While studying the spiders from Odisha state of India, we found that the species is new record to India. This species was previously reported from the neighbouring regions such as Bangladesh, Burma, Thailand, Philippines, China, Japan, Seychelles.

In this paper, we report the new distribution of the species along with its habitus and illustration of palp. A checklist is also provided for the distribution of the genus *Coleosoma* O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1882 all over world.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The specimen was collected by vegetation beating and preserved in 70% alcohol. The specimen was studied under a Leica EZ4 HD stereomicroscope and images were processed with the aid of LAS core software (LAS EZ 3.0). Specimen was identified by diagnostic provided by Saaristo, 2010. The male genitalia were dissected with a help of surgical blade for morphological study. All measurements are in millimeters. The studied specimen is deposited in the National Zoological Collections, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata.

TAXONOMY

***Coleosoma blandum* O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1882**

Coleosoma blandum O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1882: 427, fig. 3.

Material examined: 1 Male, (ZSI-AA-1850), India: Odisha: KIIT campus, Bhubaneswar (N20.3547 E85.8152), 55 m, 16.03.2018, coll. Priya Prasad.

Diagnosis: The male can be recognized by the presence of broad cymbium and bulbous and sickle-shaped embolus.

Description: Total length: 1.82; carapace: 0.64 long, 0.49 wide; abdomen: 1.12 long, 0.48 wide. Cephalothorax brown. Cephalic region high, fovea indistinct with three pairs of radial furrows, Eyes small. Legs yellow. Maxillae, and labium brown, Chelicerae yellow. Sternum brown tapering towards the end. Abdomen black, elongated, with a long neck-like constriction, a large white area present at the middle of the abdomen laterally and ventrally. Legs measurements: I 3.24 (0.94, 0.23, 0.93, 0.80, 0.34), II 2.43 (0.81, 0.21, 0.62, 0.57, 0.22), III 1.9 (0.66, 0.12, 0.43, 0.50, 0.19), IV 2.79 (1.00, 0.14, 0.60, 0.74, 0.31). Leg formula 1423. Palp brown, Embolus long circling around the tegulum, and embolar base with elongated round structure, terminal apophysis with two apical processes.

Distribution: Seychelles, Bangladesh, Burma, Thailand, Philippines, China and Japan (World Spider Catalog, 2019).

Comments: Patel & Pillai (1988) reported *C.blandum*, from groundnuts field in Gujarat and later on Sebastian (2009) have also reported that the genus is new to India. Although no photographic documentation have been provided by any of the authors. So, this is the first scientific report of the species from India.

Checklist of *Coleosoma* species:

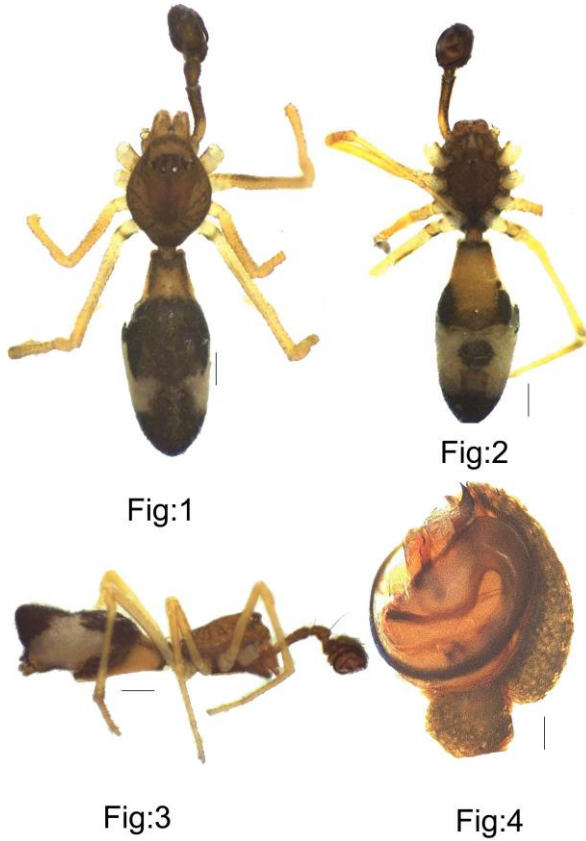
SL.NO	Species name	World distribution	India
1.	<i>Coleosoma acutiventer</i> (Keyserling, 1884)	USA to Argentina.	-
2.	<i>Coleosoma africanum</i> Schmidt & Krause, 1995	Cape Verde Is.	-
3.	<i>Coleosoma blandum</i> O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1882	Seychelles, Bangladesh, Burma, Thailand, Philippines, China, Japan.	Odisha (new record)
4.	<i>Coleosoma caliothripsum</i> Barrion & Litsinger, 1995	Philippines.	-
5.	<i>Coleosoma floridanum</i> Banks, 1900	North, Central and South America. Europe, Macaronesia, West Africa, Seychelles, Pacific Is.	Andhra Pradesh (Srinivasulu et al., 2013)
6.	<i>Coleosoma matinikum</i> Barrion & Litsinger, 1995	Philippines.	-
7.	<i>Coleosoma normale</i> Bryant, 1944	USA to Brazil.	-
8.	<i>Coleosoma octomaculatum</i> (Bösenberg & Strand, 1906)	China, Korea, Taiwan, Japan, New Zealand.	-
9.	<i>Coleosoma pabilogum</i> Barrion & Litsinger, 1995	Philippines.	-
10.	<i>Coleosoma pseudoblandum</i> Barrion & Litsinger, 1995	Philippines.	-

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Figures 1-4. *Coleosoma blandum* 1-Male habitus, dorsal view, 2-same, ventral view, 3-same, lateral view, 4-Palp, ventral view, scale bar- 0.5 mm.

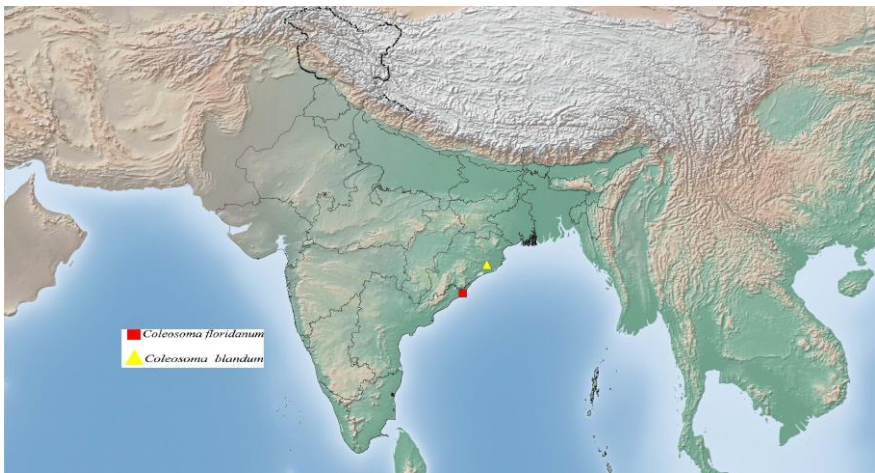


Figure 5. Distribution map of *Coleosoma* sp. in India.