

A NEW SALTICID SPIDER FROM VICTORIA

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FIG. I.

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This paper deals with a new spider belonging to the genus *Saitis* Simon. Although world-wide in distribution, it is, according to Simon, "en Australie que le genre possède—les plus belles espèces," and certainly the present species does not lose by comparison with the previously described forms.

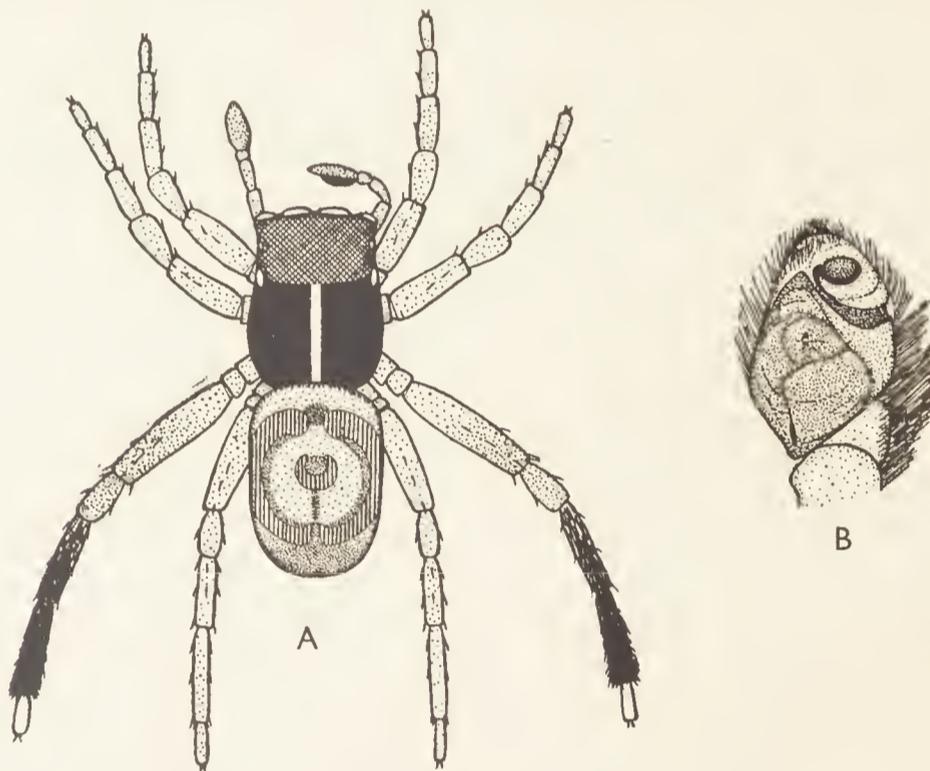


FIG. 1

- A. *Saitis pavonis* sp. nov., ♂.
B. Ventral view of right palpus.

Notwithstanding a superficial resemblance to *S. splendens* (Rainbow), it is more closely related to *S. speciosus* (O. P. Cambridge). A key to the males of the Australian species of *Saitis* is given, followed by the description of *S. pavonis* sp. nov.

Chelicerae and maxillae yellowish-brown. Labium and sternum brown. Coxae yellowish. Legs i, ii, and iv, yellowish, irregularly marked with brown, clothed with yellowish hairs and fine black bristles, femorae somewhat lighter in colour. Leg iii with femur and patella yellowish-brown, tibia and metatarsus brown, clothed with reddish-brown hairs and black bristles, except for the base of the femur, which has yellowish hairs; black spatulate hairs are present ventrally on patella and apex of femur, ventrally and dorsally on tibia and metatarsus, being much denser and extending over the lateral surfaces of the metatarsus; tarsus yellow, clothed with long white hairs which are particularly thick and fringe-like dorsally. Palpi yellowish, clothed with yellowish hairs; tarsus brownish-yellow; patella, tibia, and apex of femur densely clothed dorsally and prolaterally with long white hairs. Abdomen with scarlet squamose hairs forming a crescent-shaped figure at the centre of the dorsal epidermis, surrounded by a circular band broken anteriorly and, in most cases, posteriorly; except along the inside edge and at the anterior and posterior divisions of this band, in the concavity of the crescent, and along a median longitudinal stripe from the rear of the crescent, where the bluish metallic hue of the epidermis can be seen, yellowish-white squamose hairs are present, but on the lateral margins they become less dense towards the rear; at the posterior extremity the epidermis is of a greenish metallic hue; a few long black hairs are scattered over the surface. Ventrally, the abdomen is yellowish-brown, mottled with black, and covered with short white hairs. Spinnerets brown.

Carapace high, convex, truncate in front, rear margin rounded and with an almost semicircular concavity, cephalic part fairly flat and sloping forward from near the P.L.E., thoracic part sloping more strongly towards the rear. Clypeus sloping backwards, equal to approximately $13/24$ of the diameter of A.M.E.

Eyes arranged in three rows, the front row recurved with the apices in a straight line. Ratio of eyes A.M.E. : A.L.E. : P.M.E. : P.L.E. = 24 : 15 : 5 : 14. The A.M.E. are separated from each other by $5/24$, and from A.L.E. by $6/24$ of their diameter. The P.M.E. are separated from A.L.E. by $15/24$, and from P.L.E. by $13/24$ of the diameter of A.M.E. The P.L.E. are separated from each other by $78/24$ of the diameter of A.M.E. The ocular quadrangle is broader than long in the ratio 56 : 37, and slightly broader in rear than in front in the ratio 56 : 55.

Chelicerae conical, placed well behind clypeus. Lateral condyles wanting. Promargin of furrow with a single double-pointed and deeply-notched tooth; retromargin with a single large cone-shaped tooth.

Maxillae slightly converging, with scopulae. *Labium* somewhat triangular in shape, almost as long as broad, apex provided with a group of moderately long bristles.

Sternum oval, convex, broadly truncate in front, longer than broad in the ratio of approximately 4 : 3. Fourth coxae close together.

Legs 3, 4, 1 = 2. Trichobothria in two rows on tibiae, in one row on metatarsi and tarsi. Tarsi with claw-tufts and two claws, each claw with about five teeth which increase in length distally. *Palpi* short, with a long, curved, pointed apophysis at the retrolateral apex of tibia. Palpal bulb has the form shown in Fig. B.

Spines on legs arranged as follows. First leg—Femur: dorsal 1.1.1, prolateral 1, elsewhere 0. Patella : prolateral 1, elsewhere 0. Tibia : prolateral 1.1, ventral 2.2, elsewhere 0. Metatarsus : prolateral 1.1, ventral 2.2, elsewhere 0. *Second leg*—as in leg i. *Third leg*—Femur: dorsal 1.1.1., prolateral 1.2, retrolateral 1, ventral 0. Patella : prolateral 1, retrolateral 1, elsewhere 0. Tibia :

dorsal 1.1, prolateral 1.1.1, retrolateral 1.1.1, ventral 1.2. Metatarsus: dorsal 0, prolateral 1.2, retrolateral 1.2, ventral 2.2. *Fourth leg*—Femur: dorsal 1.1.1, elsewhere 0. Patella: prolateral 1, retrolateral 1, elsewhere 0. Tibia: dorsal 1.1, prolateral 1.1.1, retrolateral 1.1.1, ventral 1.2. Metatarsus: dorsal 0, prolateral 1.1.2, retrolateral 1.1.2, ventral 2.2. There are no spines on any of the tarsi, nor on the palpi.

Abdomen somewhat oblong in shape, truncate and concave at the rear; provided with an almost round dorsal epidermis which folds down to cover the sides, reaching to but not covering any portion of the ventral surface. Spinnerets six, situate in the concavity at the end of the abdomen, the anterior pair close together.

Locality: Carnegie, Victoria. Six specimens, all males, collected on October 20, 1946. I have also a specimen collected at Altona on November 5, 1946. A co-type has been lodged with the National Museum, Melbourne; another will be forwarded to Dr. V. V. Hickman, of Tasmania; the remainder being in the author's collection.

REFERENCES

- Simon, E., 1901.—*Histoire Naturelle des Araignées*, ii, p. 560.
Rainbow, W. J., 1911.—*Rec. Austr. Mus.*, ix, 2, p. 286.
Hickman, V. V., 1944.—*Trans. R. Soc. S. Austr.*, lxxviii, 1, p. 46.