

**Oecobiids of the granitic islands of Seychelles (Araneae,
Oecobiidae).**

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Abstract: In this paper it is shown that *Oecobius reefi* Saaristo, 1978 = *Maitreja marathaus* (Tikader, 1962), *n. syn.*, and that the species reported from Mahé by Benoit (1978) under the name *Oecobius cellariorum* is also that species.

Introduction

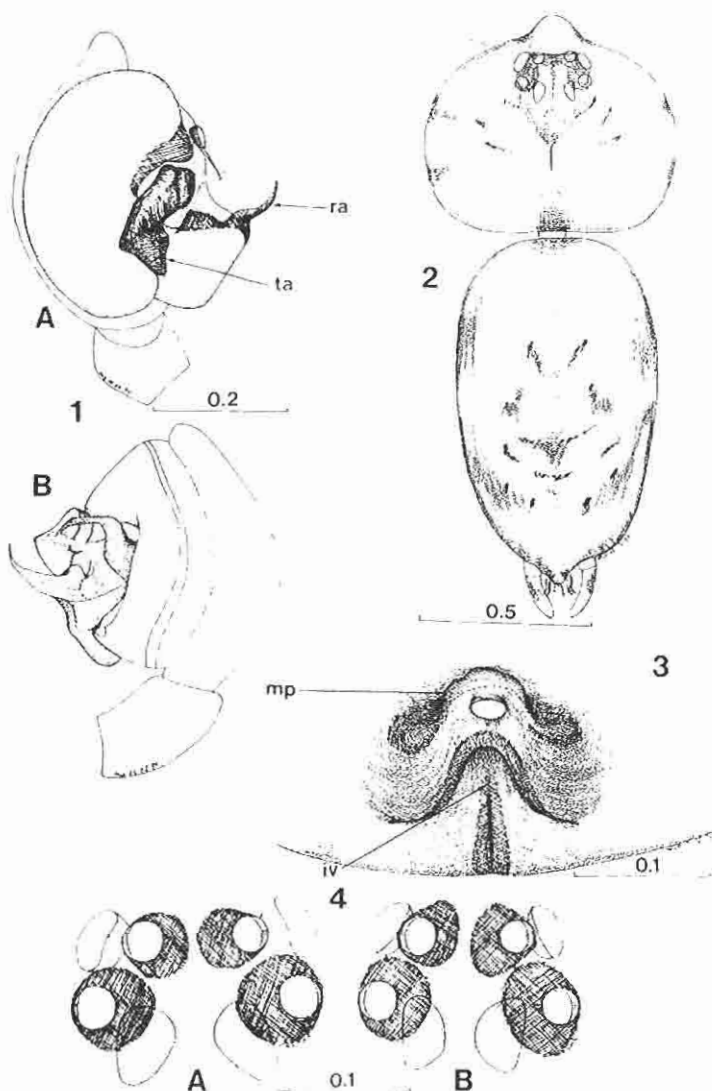
The spider family Oecobiidae is characterized by the remarkable anal tubercle which is large, movable and two-jointed. It is fringed around its base with long, simple, sinuate hairs and apically tipped with long sensory hairs. The carapace is usually wider than long, somewhat flattened, as is the abdomen, which is elongate or suboval and somewhat pointed behind. Legs are relatively long, laterigrade. The cribellum is present in Oecobinae and absent in Urocteinae; only members of the former subfamily have been found in Seychelles.

Genus *Maitreja* Lehtinen, 1967

Maitreja Lehtinen, 1967: 246. - Type species by original designation and monotypy *Oecobius marathaus* Tikader, 1962 from Calcutta (India).

Diagnosis: The genus is most easily recognised by the median, anteriorly pointing, pit bearing, lip-like median protrusion of the epigyne

Description: As this is a monotypic genus its description is covered by that of the type species.



Figs. 1-4. *Maitreja marathaus* (Tikader, 1962). Original figures, scale bars in millimetres. 1) Left male palp mesially (A) and ectally (B) (type of *reefi*). 2) Male carapace and abdomen dorsally (type of *reefi*). 3) Epigyne ventrally (MZT 143.258). 4) Eye pattern of male (A = type of *reefi*) and female (B = MZT 143.258).

NOTES

Maitreja marathaus (Tikader, 1962) (Figs. 1-4)

Oecobius marathaus Tikader, 1962: 684 (female).

Maitreja marathaus, Lehtinen 1967: 246, f. (female; n. comb.).

Oecobius reefi Saaristo, 1978: 104, f. 46-51 (male) **New synonymy.**

Oecobius cellariorum, Benoit 1978: 679 (misidentification).

Diagnosis: The male of this species may be distinguished from all other oecobiids by an unbranched, slightly sinuous, blunt-tipped terminal apophysis (ta) and sharply pointed radical apophysis (ra) (Fig 1). In the epigyne of the female there is a fairly deep median atrium-like invagination (iv) followed by an anteriorly pointing lip-like median protrusion (mp) bearing a pit (Fig.3).

Description: The male of this species has been well described by Saaristo (1978, as *Oecobius reefi*). The female is essentially like the male but with slightly larger eyes (Fig. 4).

Distribution: The species has been recorded from India (Tikader 1962) and Seychelles: Mahé (Saaristo 1978 as *Oecobius reefi* and Benoit 1978, as *Oecobius cellariorum*).

Discussion: Since its original description the species has been known only from the female holotype. As I (Saaristo 1978) had collected only one male specimen from Mahé I was unable to connect it with *Maitreja marathaus* and accordingly described it as a new species. On the other hand, Benoit (1978) reported a female of *Oecobius cellariorum* also from Mahé. I have seen that specimen and it turned out to be a female of *M. marathaus* (MZT 143.258).

References

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