PECKHAMIA 159.1, 29 November 2017, 1—2

ISSN 2161—8526 (print)
ISSN 1944—8120 (online)

Tadpole predation by a jumping spider in Maharashtra (Araneae: Salticidae)

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Key words: Amphibia, Anura, Hasariini, *Hasarius*, India, *Indirana*, Kumbharli Ghats

An unidentified salticid spider was observed at about 7 feet above ground level on a cliff face (Figure 1:1) during a late afternoon botanical survey of the Kumbharli Ghats near Satara, Maharashtra in Western India (~16:00, 16 August 2014). Closer examination revealed the presence of many tadpoles, subsequently identified as *Indirana* sp. (Gururaja K. V., pers. comm.), clinging to the wet surface of the cliff. This salticid was apparently attempting to capture a tadpole, and eventually succeeded, proceeding to drag this prey further up the cliff face to one of the many small patches of mud that dotted the rocky outcrop (Figures 1:2, 2).

Figure 1. Small cliff in the Kumbarli Ghats. **1,** Seasonal streamlets or waterfall wetting the exposed rock of the cliff. **2,** Detail showing a salticid spider on the cliff face (center) feeding on a captured tadpole. Photos by S. Satpute.

Figure 2. Views of salticid holding a captured tadpole. Photos by S. Satpute.

This salticid was not captured but resembles the well-known and widely-distributed *Hasarius adansoni* (Audouin 1826) and appears to be a related member of the Tribe Hasariini, a group with many representatives in South Asia (W. Maddison, pers. comm.). Little photographic documentation or description of field marks exists to support identification of hasariines in the field. Although larger aquatic or semi-aquatic spiders as well as large salticids like *Phidippus regius* C. L. Koch 1846 are known to prey on amphibians (McCormick & Polis 1982; Menin et al. 2005; Nyffeler & Pusey 2014; Nyffeler et al. 2017), this is the first report of predation on a tadpole by a salticid.

Acknowledgments

We thank Nicky Bay, Stephane de Greef, Kiran Khalap and Tone Killick for their continuing encouragement and support.

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