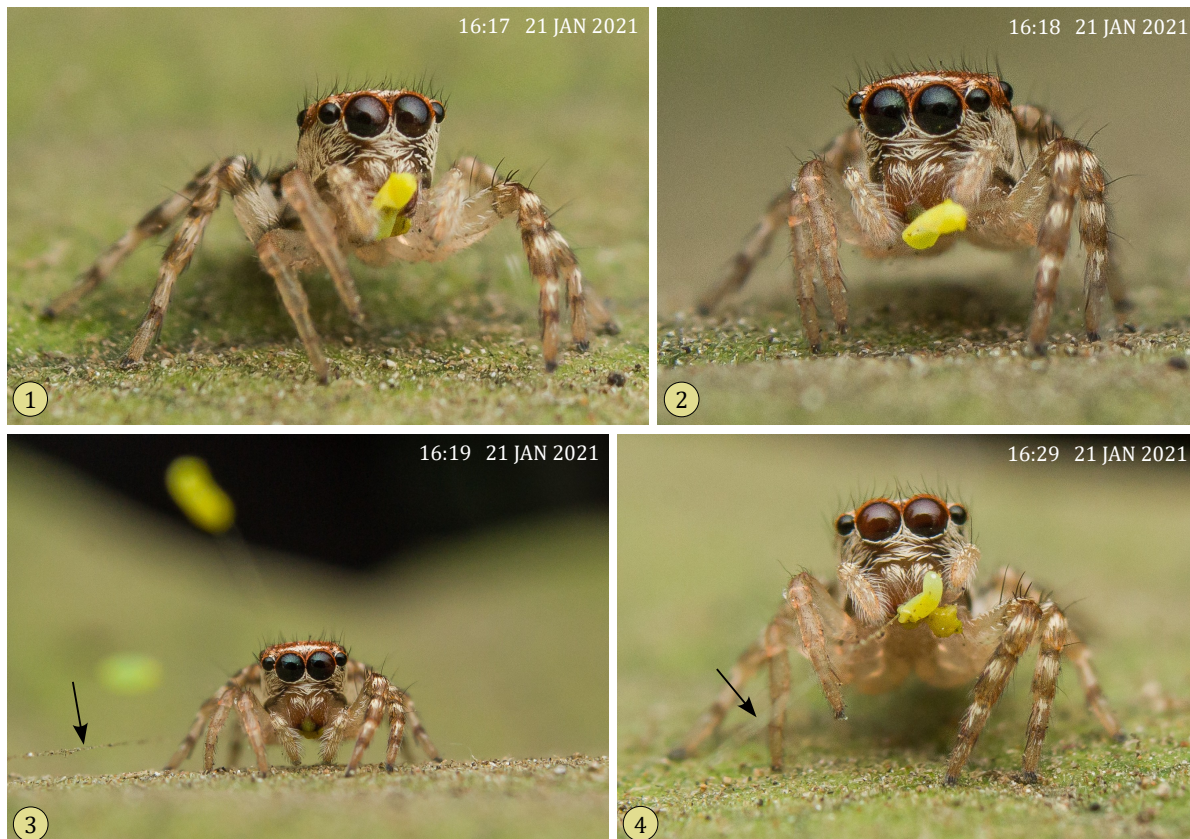


## Jumping spider (Araneae: Salticidae) feeding on the stalked eggs of a lacewing (Neuroptera: Chrysopidae) in Mumbai

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On 21 January 2021 at 16:17, I observed a jumping spider, species not identified, feeding on four lacewing (Neuroptera: Chrysopidae) eggs that were attached by long stalks to the top of a leaf (Figure 1). This spider consumed the first two eggs by sucking out the contents, and then discarded the empty egg cases (Figure 1:1-2). A third egg was completely eaten, including the egg case (Figure 1:3). The spider initially sucked out the contents of a fourth egg (Figure 1:4), but after a brief interval continued to feed on the egg case for about 5 minutes. After feeding on these four eggs the spider ballooned away. These observations took place in a private property (my backyard) next to Sanjay Gandhi National Park in Mumbai, Maharashtra, India (19°13'59.6"N 72°51'52.5"E).



**Figure 1.** Jumping spider feeding on a series of lacewing eggs (sequence 1-4). 3-4, Arrows show the position of a stalk, still connected to the respective egg as this spider fed.

Although seldom observed, facultative oophagy by salticids is probably widespread (e.g., Donovan & Hill 2017; Ahmed et al. 2018; Marangelo 2019; Cukier 2020; Harshith & Hill 2020). But feeding on the stalked eggs of a chrysopid demonstrates something new, the ability of at least one salticid to recognize and to harvest eggs that are elevated well above the surface of a leaf.

## References

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