

Araneophagy by *Hyllus semicupreus* (Araneae: Salticidae)

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Abstract. A female *Hyllus semicupreus* was observed feeding on an oxyopid spider (*Oxyopes* sp.) in Sunwal Municipality, Province 5, Nepal.

Keywords. jumping spider, Nepal, *Oxyopes*, Oxyopidae

Hyllus C. L. Koch 1846 is a genus of tropical jumping spiders (Salticidae). Of 64 species presently placed in this genus (WSC 2020), only *Hyllus semicupreus* (Simon 1885) is known from Nepal, based on a single female found on a branch of the Sal tree (*Shorea robusta*) in Chitwan National Park (Magar et al. 2020). Here we present a second record for this species in Nepal (Figures 1-3), based on our observation of a female feeding on an oxyopid spider. Previously published records indicate that *H. semicupreus* occurs in India, Nepal and Sri Lanka, but posted photographs indicate that this species may also be found in the Malaysian Peninsula and Borneo (Ahmed et al. 2018; Magar et al. 2020; WSC 2020). We know little of the behaviour of *H. semicupreus*, but this spider has been observed feeding on the eggs of a coreid bug (Hemiptera) and a large brachyceran fly (Ahmed & Satam 2015; Ahmed et al. 2018). The related *H. brevitarsus* Simon 1902 has also been observed feeding on a large orb weaver, *Nephila senegalensis* (Walckenaer 1841) (Gilman 2016).

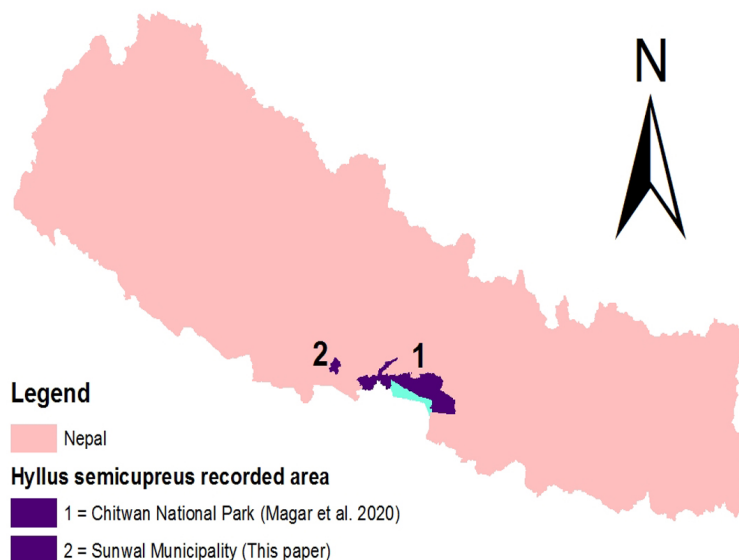


Figure 1. Known distribution of *Hyllus semicupreus* in Nepal.



Figures 2-3. Two views of a female *Hyllus semicupreus* feeding on an oxyopid spider (*Oxyopes* sp.) on the twig of a guava tree (*Psidium guajava*) in Sunwal Municipality, Nepal.

One of the authors (MS), while harvesting guava (*Psidium guava*) at a garden in Sunwal Municipality, Nawalparasi District, Province 5, Nepal (2 AUG 2020, 08:55, 27.56316°N, 83.6586°E, 120 m), observed a female *Hyllus semicupreus* feeding on the abdomen of an oxyopid (*Oxyopes* sp.) about 8 feet above ground level on a twig of a guava tree (Figures 2-3). The twig bearing these spiders was cut and removed for photography and close observation.

Although we cannot find published records for any Nepalese oxyopids, photographic records recently posted on the internet (iNaturalist 2021; nepalispiders 2021) suggest that *Oxyopes* are widely distributed in Nepal.

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