

RESEARCH ARTICLE

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Contributions to the spider fauna (Arachnida: Araneae) of the South-Central Iran: new species and new records from Iran and Fars Province

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Abstract

The spider fauna of Iran is remarkably diverse but remains incompletely documented, particularly in the south-central area. We present here the result of a faunistic survey conducted in Darab County, Fars Province. A total of 28 species representing 23 genera and 11 families were collected and identified. All species represent new records for Darab County, among them a new record for Iran fauna (*Langona pallida*, Prószyński, 1993), 13 species are newly recorded for the Fars Province spider fauna, including *Berlandina artaxerxes* Zamani et al. 2021, *Cryptodrassus helvolus* (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1872), *C. iranicus* Zamani et al., 2021, *Cyrrba ocellata* (Kroneberg, 1875), *Filistata maguirei* Marusik & Zamani, 2015, *Langona pallida* Prószyński, 1993, *L. tartarica* (Charitonov, 1946), *Minosiella intermedia* Denis, 1958, *Zimiris doriae* Simon, 1882, *Plexippus minor* Wesolowska & van Harten, 2010, *P. paykulli* (Audouin, 1826), *Steatoda trianguloides* Levy, 1991, and *Wadicosa fidelis* (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1872). Additionally, we discovered three species belonging to the families Dysderidae, Gnaphosidae, and Salticidae as possibly new species, highlighting the region's unexplored diversity. One of these species belongs to the genus *Dysdera* (♂, Dysderidae) from the *ninni*-group, diagnosed by the extremely short stylus and distinctive triangular projection on the anterior side of the posterior apophysis. Another species, *Berinda* sp. (Gnaphosidae), differs from its congener in the longer and thinner tibial apophysis, shallowly bifurcated retrolateral tibial apophysis, and pitchfork-shaped median apophysis in lateral view. Moreover, *Evarcha* sp. (♂, Salticidae) is distinguished by a short and thin retrolateral tibial apophysis and a short triangular apophysis in the lateroventral view.

This species list is composed of widespread Palearctic elements and Iranian endemics, confirming Fars Province as a biogeographic confluence of diversity and highlighting the need for continuing research. This work establishes a foundational dataset and demonstrates that targeted surveys in poorly explored regions of Iran yield significant faunistic discoveries.

Keywords: New records, Spider, *Dysdera*, *Berinda*, *Evarcha*, Biodiversity, Faunistic, Araneae.

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INTRODUCTION

The spider fauna of Iran is remarkably diverse, comprising over 1,000 species in 328 genera and 57 families, and is among the most diverse in the Western Palearctic (Zamani et al. 2024). Since the first national checklist (Mozaffarian & Marusik, 2001), numerous studies have expanded the known diversity (Hosseinpour et al., 2019; Mirshamsi et al., 2015; Zamani et al., 2014, 2015a, 2015b, 2016, 2017a, 2017b,

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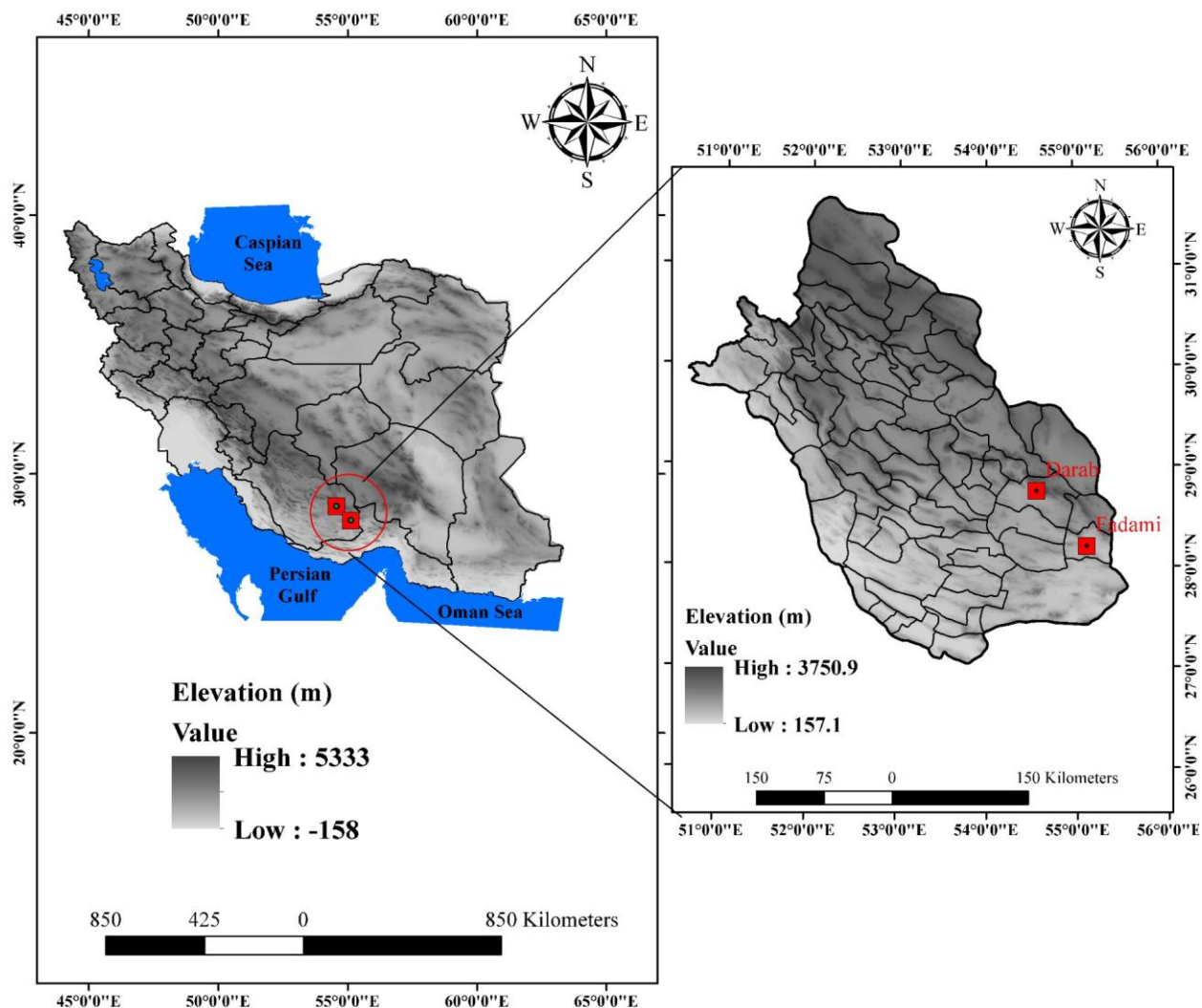


FIGURE 1. Collecting localities in Darab County.

[2022](#), [2024a](#), [2024b](#), [2026](#)), and significant geographical biases persist.

Fars Province, characterized by the Zagros Mountains and arid plains, contains diverse microclimates ([Khadivi, 2010](#)). Existing records are incidental, derived from scattered reports lacking systematic methodology ([Logunov, 2023](#); [Tahami et al., 2017](#)). Consequently, there is no reliable baseline for assessing species richness, endemism, or ecological patterns in the region, a major impediment to biogeographic synthesis and conservation planning. The spider fauna of Fars Province has not been studied as a project for the region; only some publications dealing with recording of new species and introducing of some species in the checklists of various studies ([Azarkina and Zamani, 2019](#); [Hosseinpour et al. 2019](#); [2022](#); [Kiany et al. 2016](#); [Logunov, 2023](#); [Logunov et al. 2007](#); [Malek Hosseini et al. 2015](#); [Malek-Hosseini and Zamani, 2017](#); [Tahami et al. 2017](#); [Zamani 2015](#); [Zamani et al. 2014](#); [2021](#); [Zamani & Marusik, 2023](#)) have been noted. As a result, there remains a significant gap in our understanding of the diversity and ecology of spiders in this area, highlighting the need for comprehensive research efforts to better document and analyze these essential arachnid populations.

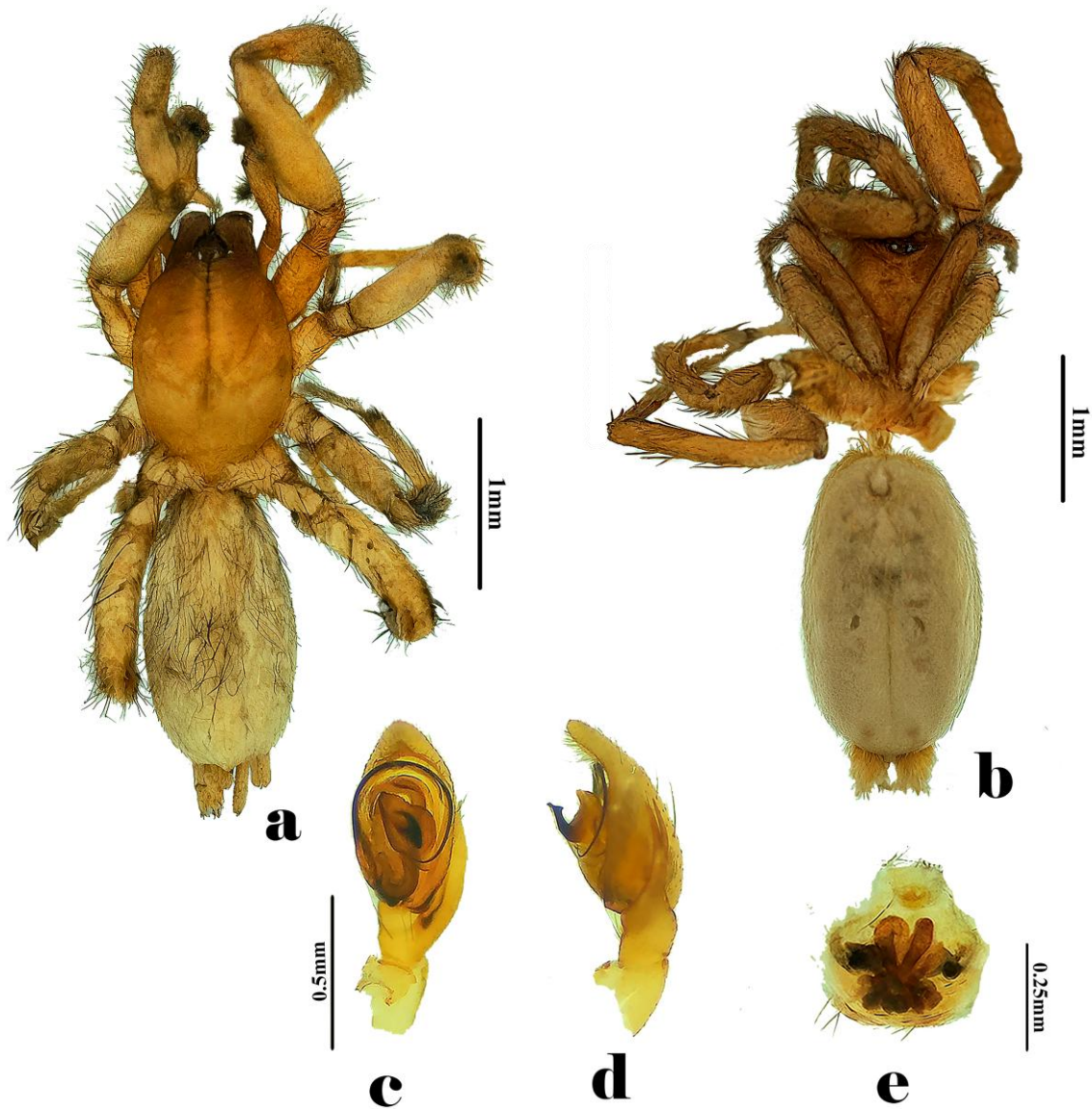


FIGURE 2. *Berinda* sp.: Male: a, habitus, dorsal, c, palp, ventral, d, palp, posterior; female: b, habitus, dorsal; e, epygine.

This contribution addresses this deficiency by providing the first rigorously documented spider inventory for Darab County in eastern Fars. We provide collection records to establish a verifiable benchmark for future research.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Sampling was conducted in 2022 at two localities in Darab County, Fars Province, south-central Iran (Figure 1): Darab ($54^{\circ}34'40.725''\text{N}$, $28^{\circ}45'38.779''\text{E}$) and Fadami ($55^{\circ}7'54.317''\text{N}$, $28^{\circ}13'10.058''\text{E}$). We collected 51 specimens by hand and pitfall trapping across gardens, agricultural lands, and plains. Specimens were preserved in 70% ethanol.

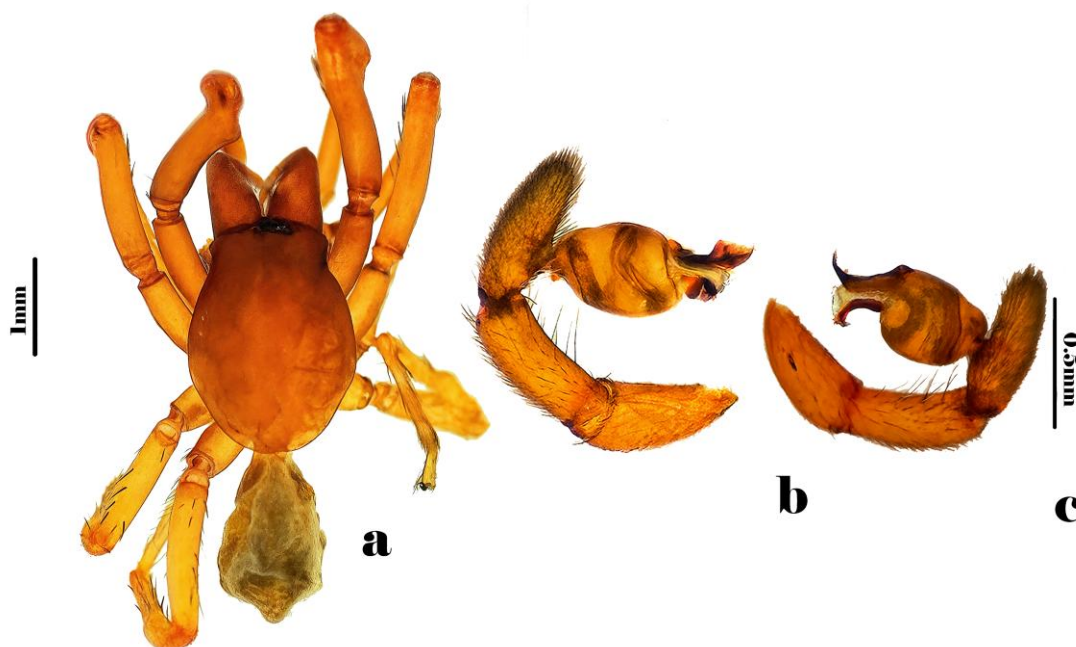


FIGURE 3. *Dysdera* sp.: Male: a, habitus, dorsal, b, palp, anterior, c, palp, posterior.

In the laboratory, specimens were photographed using an Olympus SZ40 stereomicroscope equipped with an Olympus 58MP FHD Camera V8 at the University of Jiroft, Jiroft, Kerman Province. For critical identification, female epigynes were cleared in 10% KOH, and male palps were excised and examined. Dr. Alireza Zamani confirmed the final identification.

RESULTS

We examined 51 adult spiders, identifying 28 species across 23 genera and 11 families. Three species, *Dysdera* sp., *Berinda* sp., and *Evarcha* sp. (families Dysderidae, Gnaphosidae, and Salticidae, respectively), represent putative new species. These species are not fully described here, as we had either only one male specimen (*Dysdera* sp. and *Evarcha* sp.) or a few samples (one female and two males for *Berinda* sp.) in our collection. Below, the list of species is presented with the diagnostic characters of the three putative species documented.

Berinda sp.

Material examined: 1♂2♀ Fars Province, Fadami 55°7'54.317"N, 28°13'10.058"E, 1247m a. s. l. 04 July 2022 A. Mashayekh leg.

Female (Figure 2b): total body length 5mm, including carapace (2mm) and abdomen (3mm). Epigyne 0.4 mm. Carapace, chelicera, and fangs yellow to orange. Legs and spinnerets yellow. Abdomen cream-colored and unpatented with two pairs of sigilla. With a posterior conical hood shaped like a tornado.

Male (Figure 2a): total body length 4.5 mm, including carapace (2mm), abdomen (2.5mm). Palp length 1mm. Carapace, chelicera and fangs yellow to orange. Legs and spinnerets yellow. Abdomen cream-colored, unpatented and without sigilla. A sclerotized hook-like structure that acts as a median apophysis and conducts the embolus. The embolus is narrow and long, originating from the left side of the pulp. Scutum almost triangular. The retrolateral apophysis of the tibia very long and slender, bifurcating from anterior to medial.

Remarks: Collected materials were found in the Yard without vegetation. This species is similar to *B. bifurcate*, but it differs in a longer, thinner tibial apophysis and in the shape of the median apophysis in a retrolateral view. The retrolateral tibial apophysis is shallow, bifurcated, clung to palp, very long, and transparent.

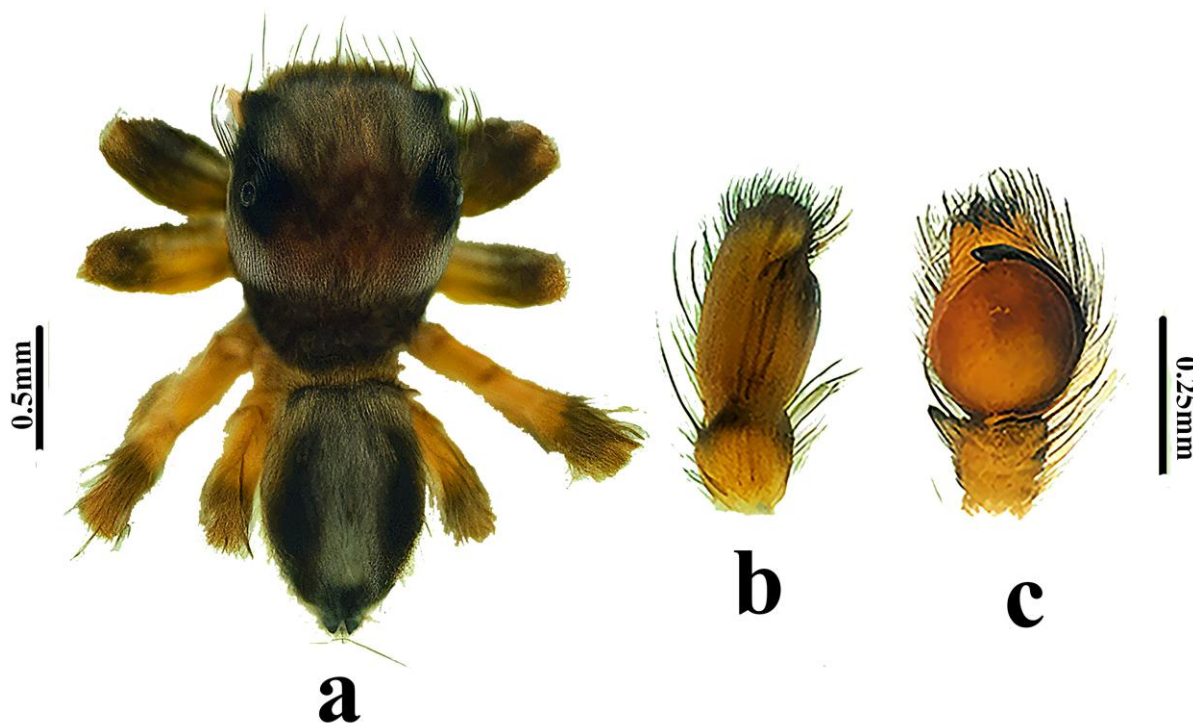


FIGURE 4. *Evarcha* sp.: Male: a, habitus, dorsal, b, palp, anterior, c, palp, ventral.

***Dysdera* sp.**

Material examined: 1♂ Fars Province, Darab 54°34'40.725"N, 28°45'38.779"E, 750 m a. s. l. 15 January 2022, A. Mashayekh leg.

Male (Figure 3): total body length 7 mm, including carapace (4.5 mm), and abdomen (2.5 mm). Palp length 1mm. Carapace, fang, and chelicerae orange. Palp and legs orange to yellowish. Abdomen and spinnerets light. Bulb small. Tegulum almost large, its length greater than its width, and bell shaped. Embolus shorter than tegulum. Median crest and apex triangular. Posterior apophysis, claw-shaped, with triangular growth on the anterior side. The stylus slightly bent and very short. This species differs from other species by having short stylus.

Remarks: Specimen was found in a mountainous area. The male was captured, and the female is unknown. The bulb in palp is small. Tegulum is almost large, its length is greater than its width, and bell shaped. Embolus is shorter than the tegulum. Median crest and apex are triangular. Posterior apophysis is claw-shaped with triangular growth on the anterior side. Stylus bent, short, and weak.

***Evarcha* sp.**

Material examined: 1♂2♀ Fars Province, Fadami 55°7'54.317"N, 28°13'10.058"E, 1247m a. s. l. 15 Septemehr 2021 A. Mashayekh leg.

Male (Figure 4): total body length 3 mm, including carapace (2 mm), and abdomen (1 mm). Palp length almost 0.5 mm. Eyes brown with black eye-ring. Legs and spinnerets brown to light brown. Palps, chelicera and fangs light brown. Anterior eyes on a brown band between two white bands. Anterior part of embolus short triangle and visible in lateral view, sloping towards the abdomen.

Remarks: Male specimens were collected on the grass in the yard. The female is unknown. The male has differed with other congeners in that the retrolateral tibial apophysis is short and thinner; the apophysis is a short triangle in lateroventral view.

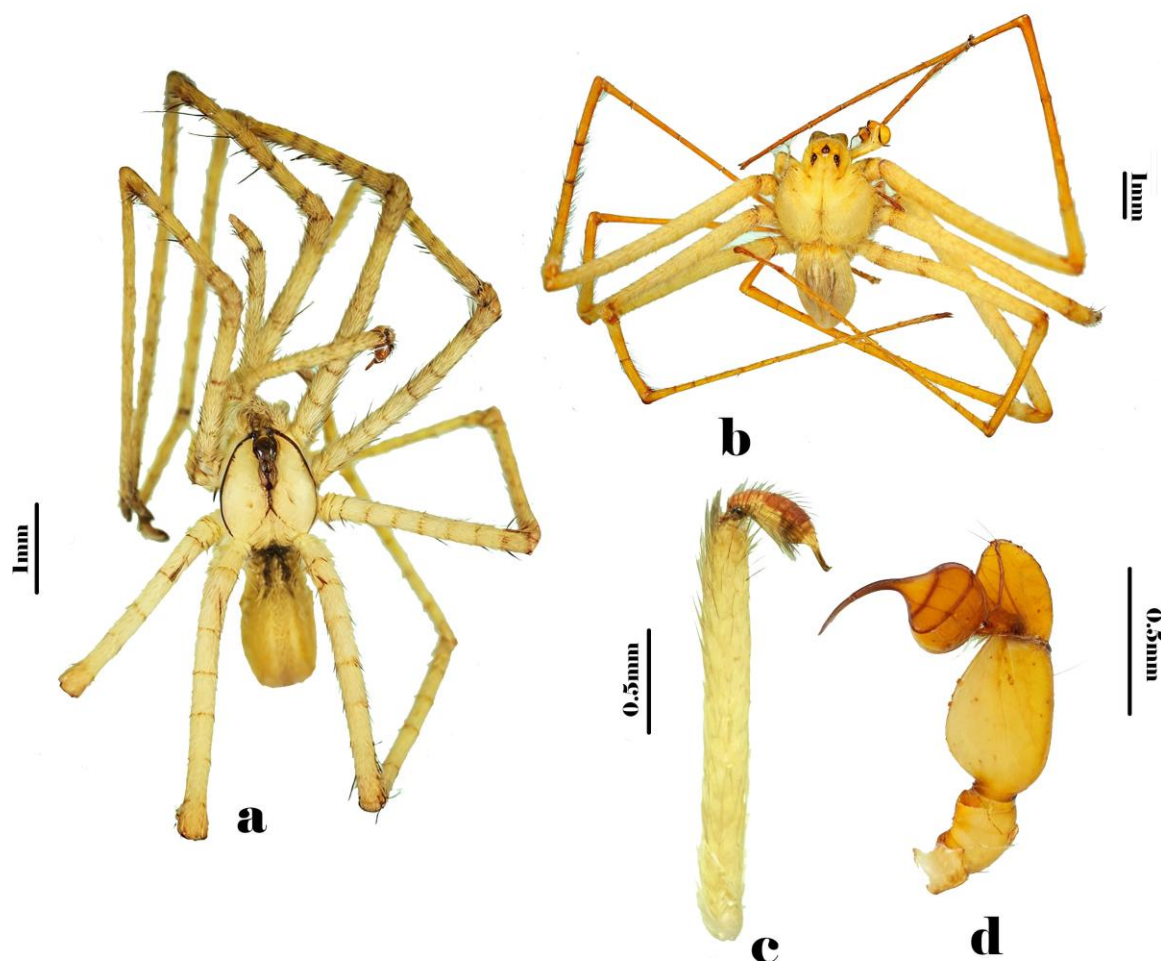


FIGURE 5. *Filistata maguirei*: male: a, habitus, dorsal; c, palp; *Loxosceles persica*: male: b, habitus, dorsal; d, palp.

Family Filistatidae Ausserer, 1867

Filistata maguirei Marusik & Zamani, 2015

(Figure 5A, C)

Material examined: 1♂ Fars Province, Fadami 55°7'54.317"N, 28°13'10.058"E, 1247m a. s. l. 03 January 2022 A. Mashayekh leg.

Global distribution: Iran: Hormozgan Province ([Marusik and Zamani, 2015](#))

Remarks: This species was found and described in a dried mountainous habitat from Bandar Abbas (Hormozgan Province). New materials collected from the house yard in Fadami city (Fars Province). This is the first provincial record in Fars.

Family Gnaphosidae Banks, 1892

Anagraphis pallens Simon, 1893

(Figure 6)

Material examined: 1♀ Fars Province, Darab 54°34'40.725"N, 28°45'38.779"E, 750 m a. s. l. 7 January 2022, A. Mashayekh leg.

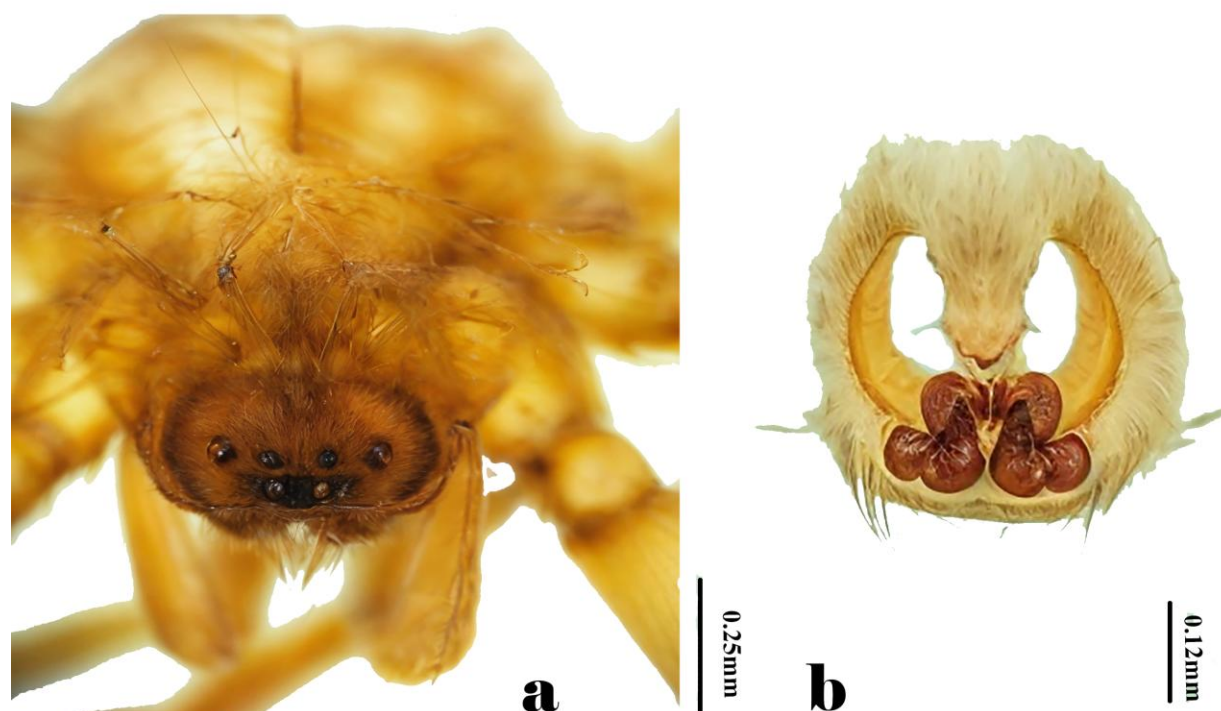


FIGURE 6. *Anagraphis pallens*: female: a, habitus, dorsal; b, epigyne.

Global distribution: Iran: East Azerbaijan; Fars; Golestan; Ilam; Khuzestan; Kohgiluyeh & Boyer-Ahmad Province; Lorestan; Khorasan-e-Razavi Province; Sistan & Baluchistan; Tehran. Libya, Malta, Greece, Turkey, Israel, Syria, Russia (Europe, Caucasus), Georgia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Central Asia ([Zamani et al., 2014](#); [Zamani et al., 2025](#)).

Remarks: Collected material was found in the mountain area in Darab City. This species has been recorded from East Azerbaijan, Fars, Golestan, Ilam, Khuzestan, Kohgiluyeh & Boyer-Ahmad, Lorestan, Razavi Khorasan, Sistan & Baluchistan, and Tehran. Globally, recorded from Libya and Malta to Tajikistan ([Zamani et al., 2025](#)).

Berlandina artaxerxes Zamani et al. 2021

(Figure 7A, C)

Material examined: 2♂ Fars Province, Fadami 55°7'54.317"N, 28°13'10.058"E, 1247m a. s. l. 01 November 2021 A. Mashayekh leg.

Remarks: The species was found in a desert area in Yazd Province. This is the second time reported from Iran. Materials were captured from house yards in Fadami City. It's new to the fauna of Fars Province.

Berlandina plumalis (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1872)

(Figure 7B, D)

Material examined: 1♀ Fars Province, Darab 54°34'40.725"N, 28°45'38.779"E, 750 m a. s. l. 05 March 2022, A. Mashayekh leg.

Global distribution: Iran: Khorasan-e-Razavi Province, Fars ProvinceMediterranean to Central Asia, Afghanistan, Myanmar, and the United Arab Emirates ([Zamani et al., 2026](#)).

Remarks: The species was hitherto known from the Mediterranean to Central Asia, Afghanistan, Myanmar, and the United Arab Emirates ([Zamani et al., 2026](#)). The Iranian records are from Khorasan-e Razavi Province and Fars Province. The species was reported from the Maharloo Lake area in Fars Province. The new material was collected from the mountains in Darab City. This species is the first record for Darab County.

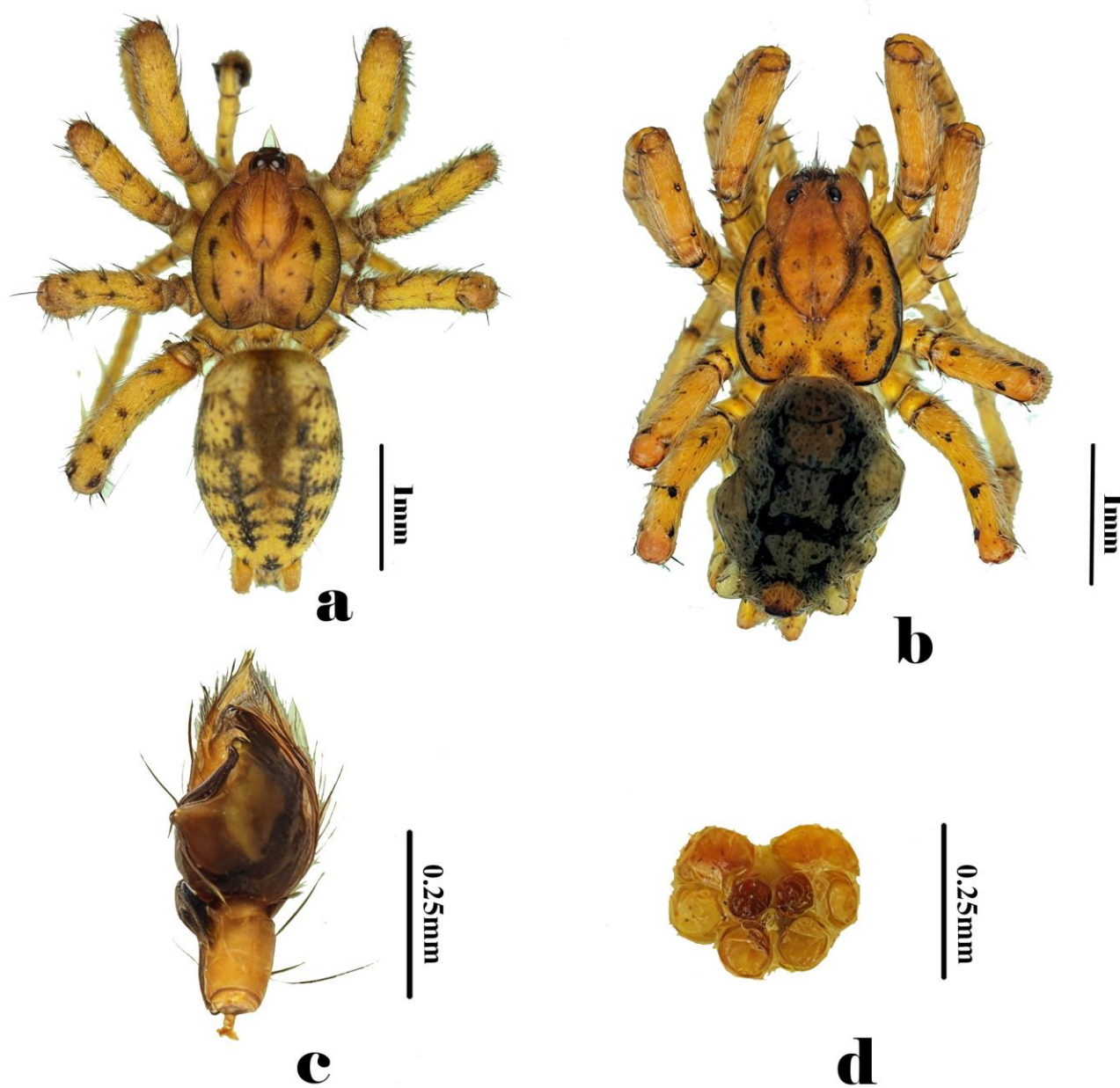


FIGURE 7. *Berlandina artaxerxes*: male: a, habitus, dorsal; c, palp; *Berlandina plumalis*: female: b, habitus, dorsal; d, epigyne.

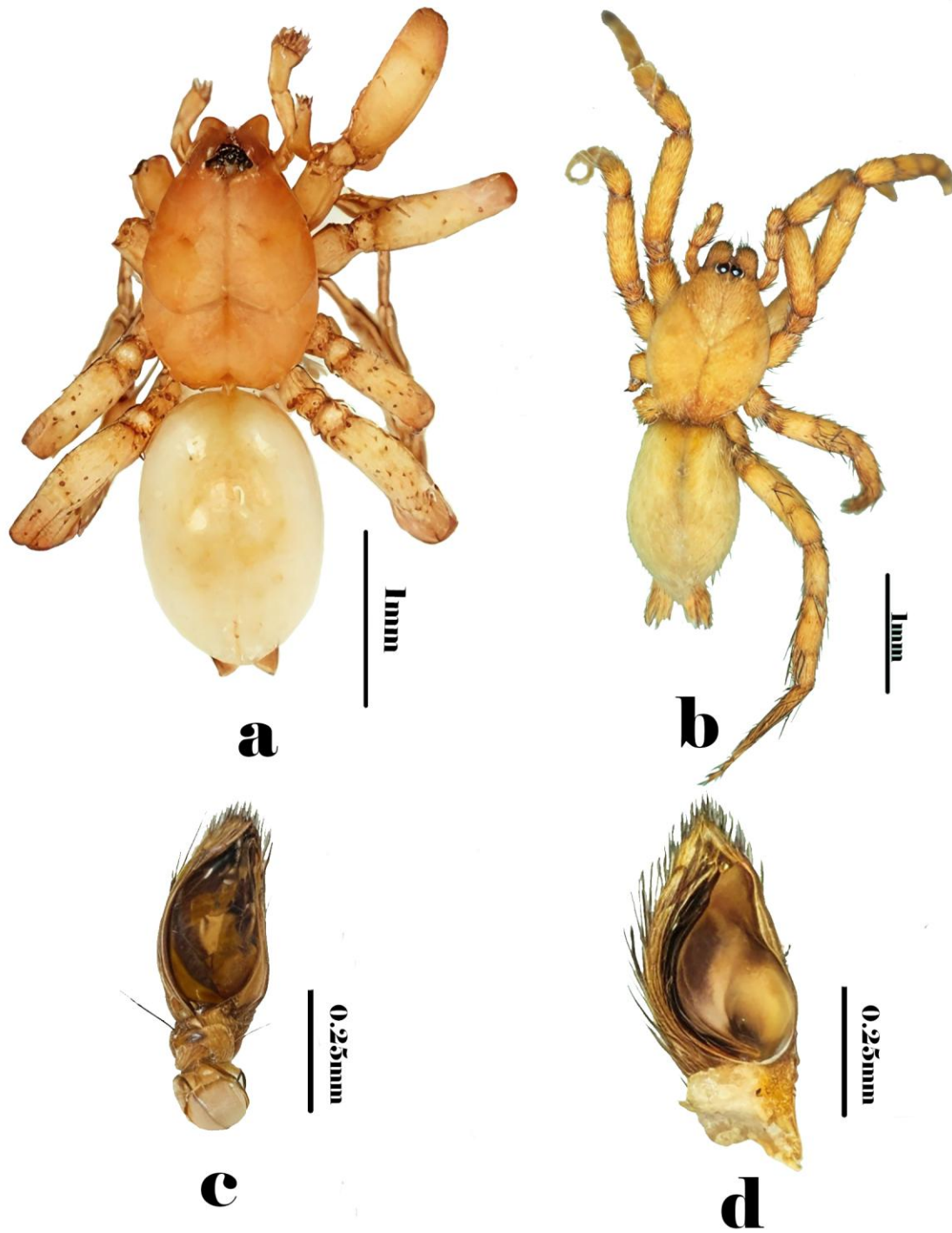


FIGURE 8. *Cryptodrasusus iranicus*: male: a, habitus, dorsal; c, palp; *Cryptodrasusus helvolus*: male: b, habitus, dorsal; d, palp.

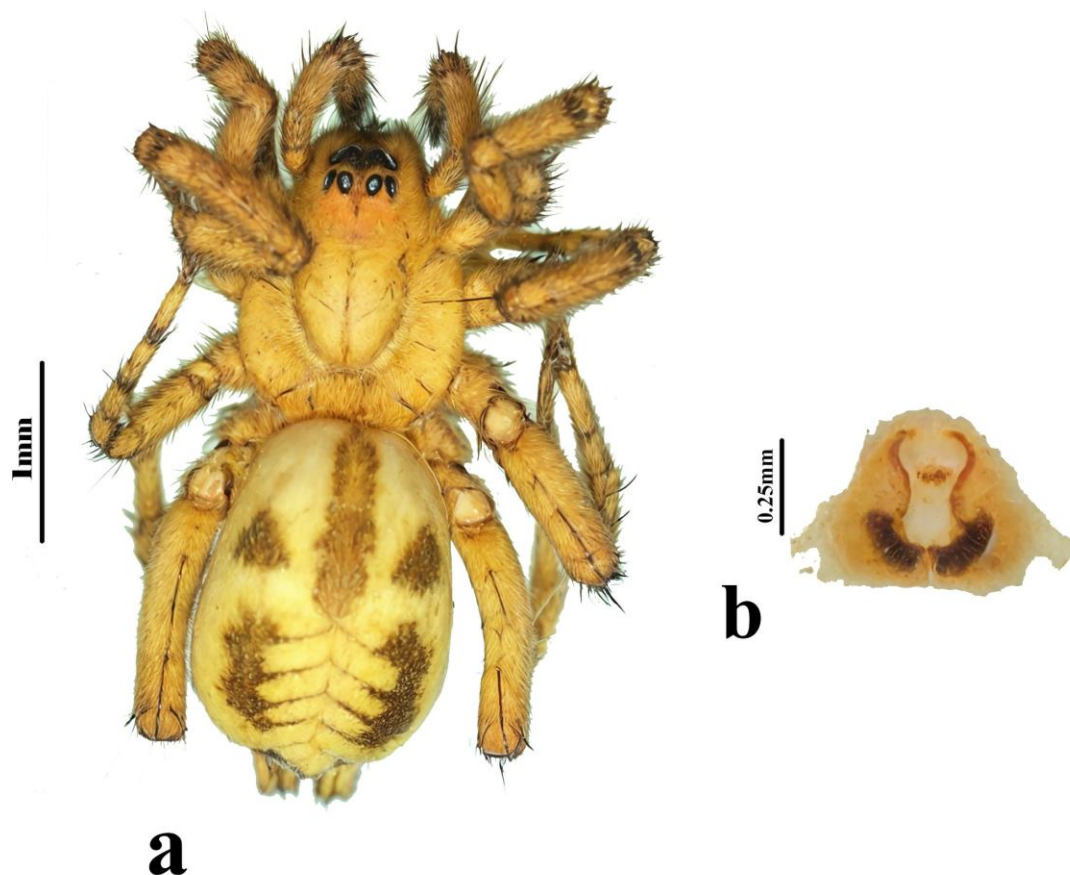


FIGURE 9. *Minosiella intermedia*: female: a, habitus, dorsal; c, epigyne; *Steatoda trianguloides*: female: b, habitus, dorsal; d, epigyne.

Cryptodrassus helvolus (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1872)
(Figure 8B, D)

Melanophora helvola O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1872: 243, pl. 16, f. 23 (Dm) Original description.

Material examined: 2♂ Fars Province, Fadami 55°7'54.317"N, 28°13'10.058"E, 1247m a. s. l. 31 October 2022 A. Mashayekh leg.

Global distribution: Iran: Kohgiluyeh & Boyer-Ahmad Province; Sistan & Baluchistan Province. Russia (Europe), Turkey, Cyprus, Israel, Kazakhstan, and Morocco ([Chatzaki & Russell-Smith, 2017](#); [Zamani et al., 2026](#)).

Remarks: This species was recorded from Morocco to the Caucasus and Kazakhstan ([Chatzaki & Russell-Smith, 2017](#); [Zamani et al., 2026](#)). It was known in Iran from Kohgiluyeh & Boyer-Ahmad and Sistan & Baluchistan ([Hosseinpour et al., 2019](#); [Zamani et al., 2026](#)). This is the first record of the species in Fars Province. Materials were collected in the house yard, devoid of vegetation.

Cryptodrassus iranicus Zamani et al. 2021
(Figure 8A, C)

Material examined: 1♂ Fars Province, Fadami 55°7'54.317"N, 28°13'10.058"E, 1247m a. s. l. 01 November 2022 A. Mashayekh leg.

Remarks: This species was known only from a single male specimen from Kermanshah Province ([Zamani et al., 2021](#)). Newly collected material is considered a new record for Fars Province and the southernmost distributional limit of the species globally.

Minosiella intermedia Denis, 1958

(Figure 9A, B)

Material examined: 1♀ Fars Province, Fadami 55°7'54.317"N, 28°13'10.058"E, 1247m a. s. l. 06 February 2023 A. Mashayekh leg.

Global distribution: Iran: Khorasan-e-Razavi Province. Central Asia, Afghanistan ([Denis, 1958](#); [Platnick, 2014](#)), Egypt ([El-Gendy, 2022](#)), Iraq ([Al-Khazali, 2024](#)), and the United Arab Emirates ([Zamani et al., 2026](#)).

Remarks: This species has been reported from Afghanistan, Central Asia, Egypt, Iran (Khorasan-e-Razavi Province), Iraq, and the United Arab Emirates ([Denis, 1958](#); [Platnick, 2014](#); [Zamani et al., 2014](#); [El-Gendy, 2022](#); [Al-Khazali, 2024](#); [Zamani et al., 2026](#)). Our records were collected under a grass bush and represented a new to Fars Province.

Nomisio conigera (Spassky, 1941)

(Figure 10)

Material examined: 1♀ 2♂ Fars Province, Darab 54°34'40.725"N, 28°45'38.779"E, 750 m a. s. l. 19 February 2022, A. Mashayekh leg.

Global distribution: Iran: Fars Province, Isfahan Province, Khuzestan Province, Kohgiluyeh & Boyer-Ahmad, North Khorasan Province, Sistan & Baluchistan Province, Tehran Province. Turkey, Tadjikistan, Central Asia republics and Azerbaijan ([World Spider Catalog, 2026](#)).

Remarks: This species is globally recorded from Turkey to Central Asia and Iran, the southernmost extent of its distribution. It has been widely distributed in Iran, and recorded from Ardabil, East or West Azarbaijan, Kermanshah, Kohgiluyeh & Boyer-Ahmad, Kurdistan, Tehran, Zanjan, Fars, Golestan, Isfahan, Khuzestan, Lorestan, North Khorasan, and Sistan & Baluchistan ([Hosseinpour et al., 2017](#); [Zamani et al., 2020](#)). This is the second record from Fars Province and is new to Darab County.

Pterotricha strandi Spassky, 1936

(Figure 11A, B)

Material examined: 2♂ Fars Province, Darab 54°34'40.725"N, 28°45'38.779"E, 750 m a. s. l. 22 February 2022, A. Mashayekh leg.

Global distribution: Iran: Alborz Province; Fars Province, Isfahan Province, Hormozgan Province, Kerman Province, Kohgiluyeh & Boyer-Ahmad Province, Yazd Province. Afghanistan ([Sajadi et al., 2024](#)), India ([Gajbe, 1983](#)), Iraq ([Zamani et al., 2024b](#)), and Turkmenistan ([Zamani et al., 2018](#)).

Remarks: This species is widespread on the Iranian plateau. It has been recorded from Afghanistan ([Sajadi et al., 2024](#)), India ([Gajbe, 1983](#)), Iraq ([Zamani et al., 2024b](#)), and Turkmenistan ([Zamani et al., 2018](#)). Records in Iran are from Alborz, Bushehr, Fars, Hormozgan, Isfahan, Kerman, Kohgiluyeh & Boyer-Ahmad, Tehran, and Yazd. It was previously known from Shiraz in Fars Province. It is herewith the second provincial record and the time from Darab County.

Family Lycosidae Sundevall, 1833

Hippasa deserticola Simon, 1889

(Figure 12A, B)

Material examined: IRAN: 3♀ Fars Province, Fadami, 55°7'54.317"N, 28°13'10.058"E, 1247m a. s. l. 24 September 2021, A. Mashayekh.

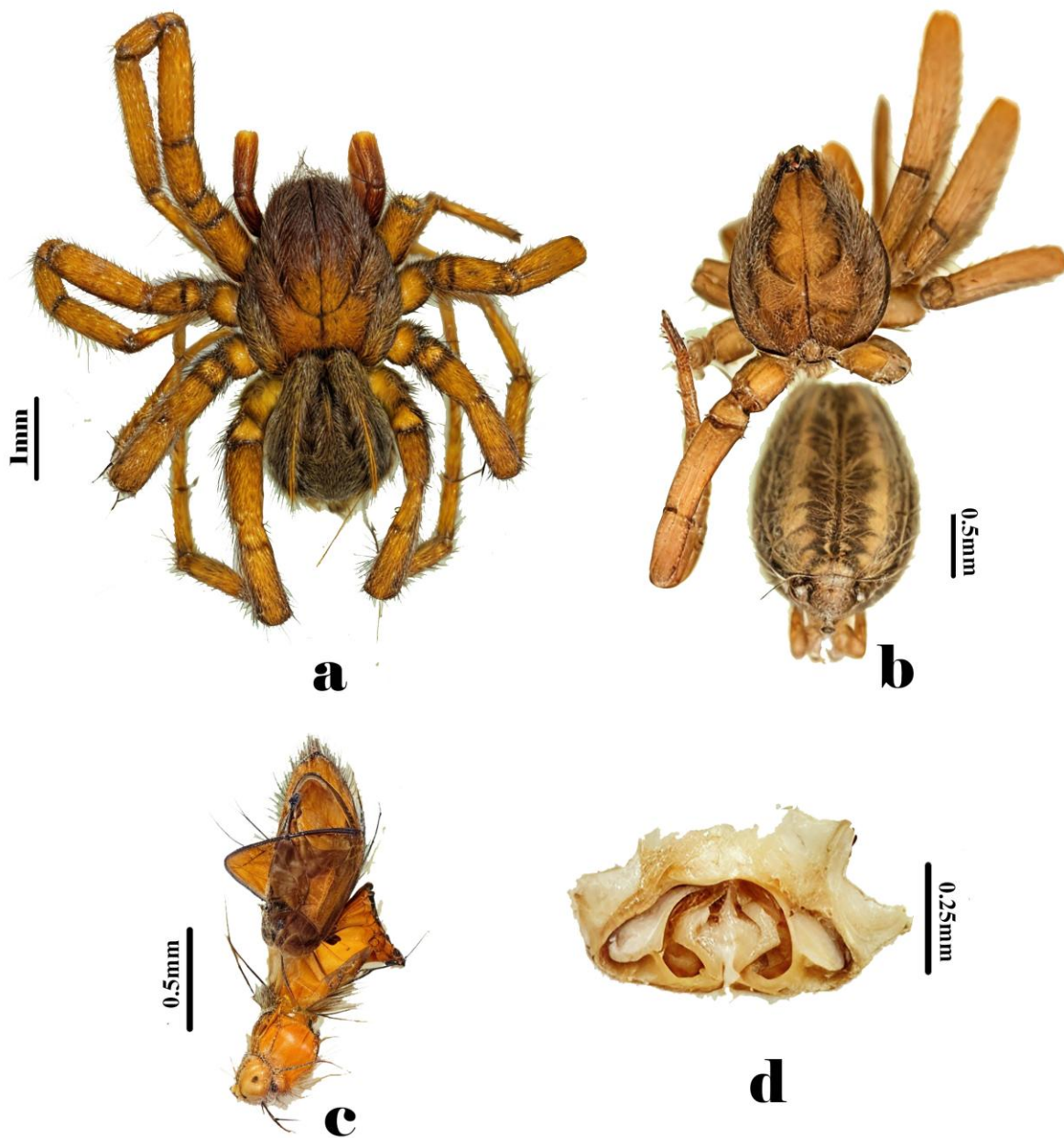


FIGURE 10. *Nomisia conigera*: male: a, habitus, dorsal; c, palpus; female: a, habitus, dorsal, d, epigyne.

Global distribution: Iran: Fars Province, Hormozgan Province, Lorestan Province, Sistan & Baluchistan Province. Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh ([Zamani et al., 2022](#); [Sankaran & Caleb, 2023](#)).

Remarks: This species has been recorded from Iran (Fars, Hormozgan, Lorestan, and Sistan & Baluchistan), Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh ([Zamani et al., 2022](#); [Sankaran & Caleb, 2023](#)). Freshly collected materials were collected in the palm grove in Fadami City.

Hogna effera (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1872)
(Figure 13A, B)

Material examined: 1♂ Fars Province, Fadami 55°7'54.317"N, 28°13'10.058"E, 1247m a. s. l, 12 September 2021, A. Mashayekh leg.

Global distribution: Iran: East Azerbaijan Province, Golestan Province, Kerman Province, Kohgiluyeh & Boyer-Ahmad Province, Sistan & Baluchistan Province, South Khorasan Province. Cyprus, Turkey, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen (Socotra), Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Iraq ([Zamani et al., 2025](#)).

Remarks: The species has been recorded from Cyprus, Turkey, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen (Socotra), Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Iran (Alborz, East Azerbaijan, Fars, Golestan, Hormozgan, Isfahan, Kerman, Kohgiluyeh & Boyer-Ahmad, Kurdistan, Mazandaran, Semnan, South Khorasan, Tehran, and Sistan & Baluchistan) ([Zamani et al., 2025](#)).

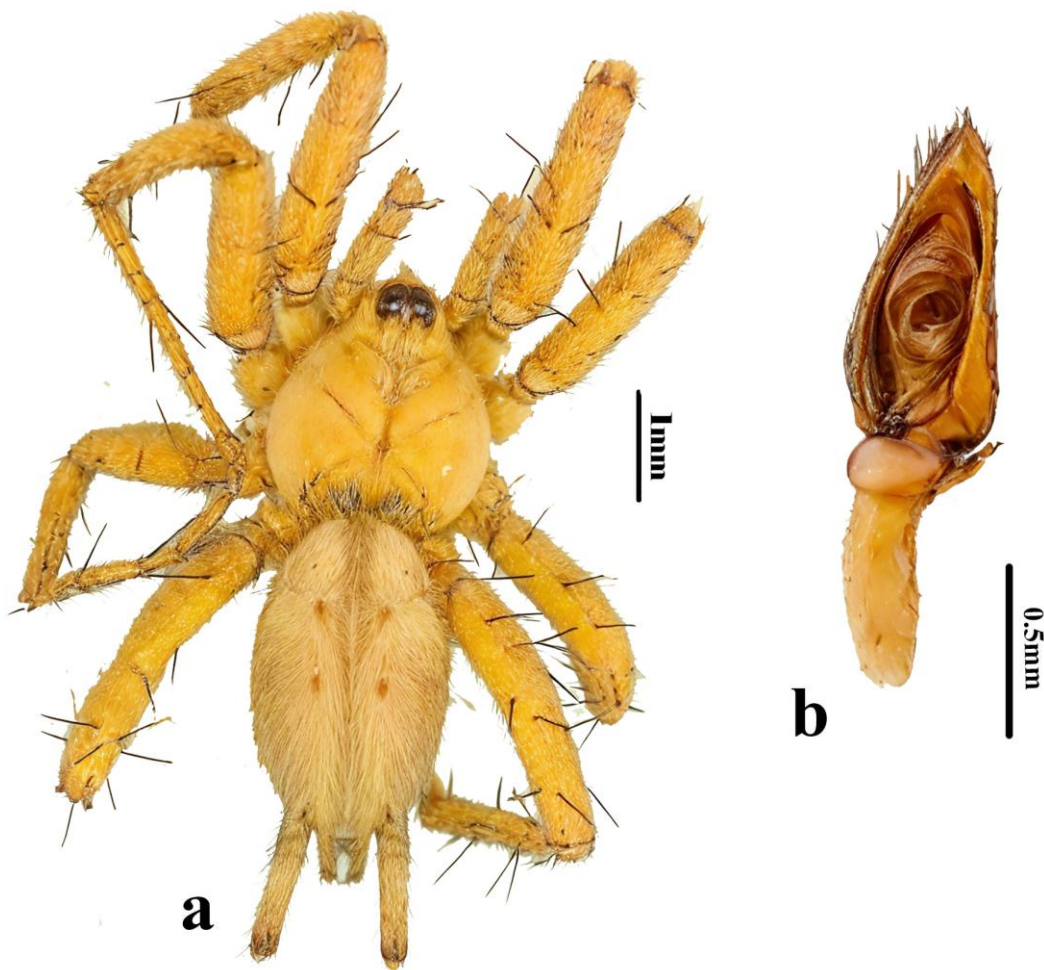


FIGURE 11. *Pterotricha strandi*: male: a, habitus, dorsal; b, palp.

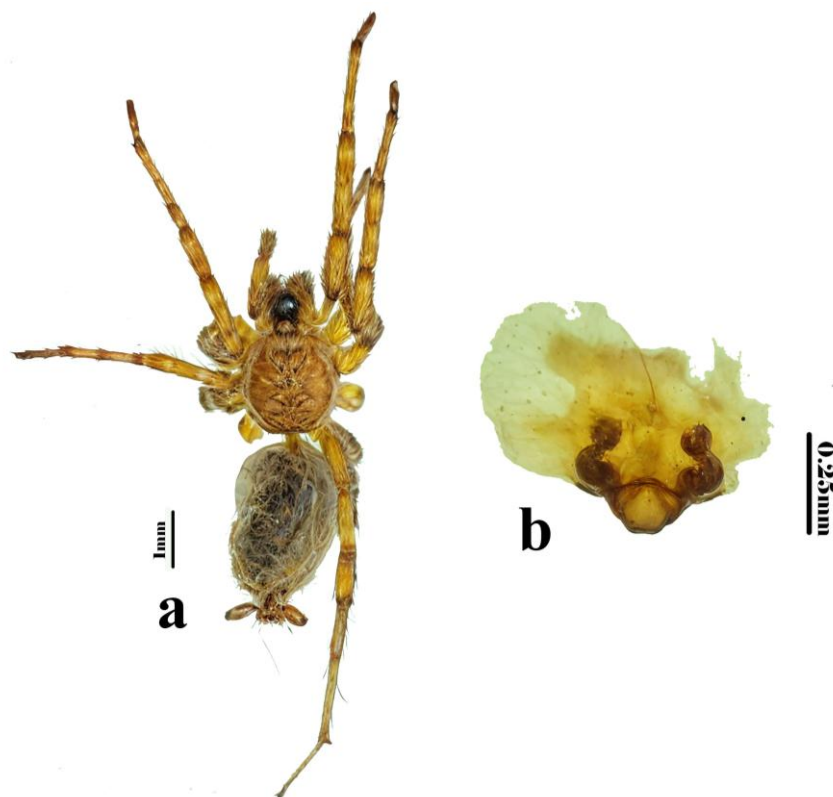


FIGURE 12. *Hippasa deserticola*: female: a, habitus, dorsal; b, epigyne.

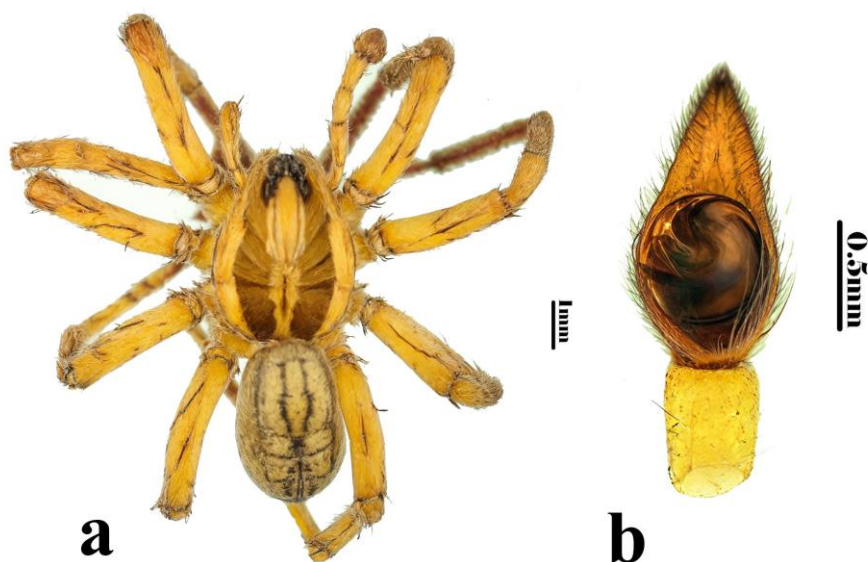
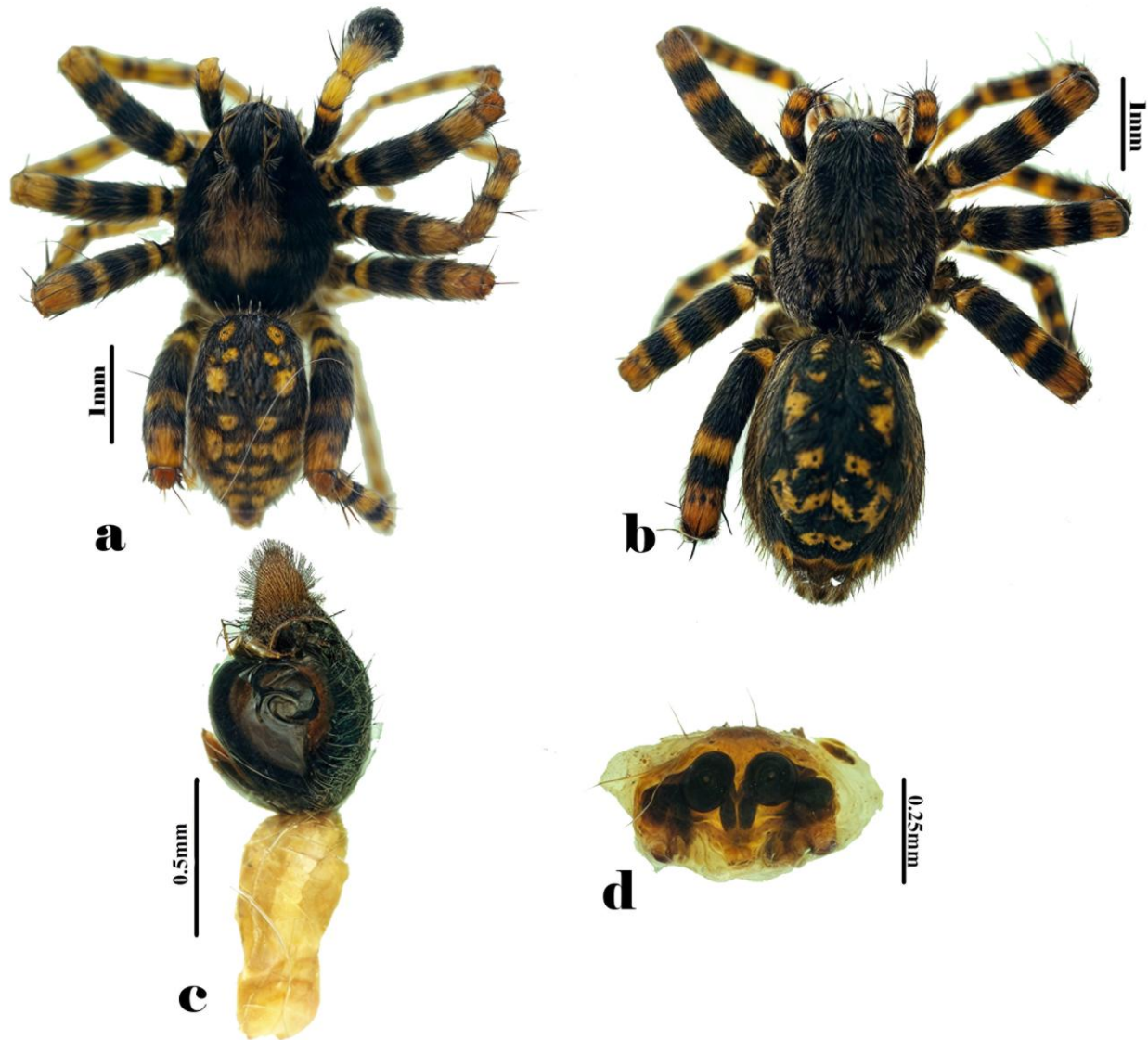


FIGURE 13. ; *Hogna effera*: male: a, habitus, dorsal; b, palp.

Wadicosa fidelis (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1872)

(Figures 14)

Material examined: IRAN: 2♂ 1♀ Fars Province, Fadami 55°7'54.317"N, 28°13'10.058"E, 1247m a. s. l, 12 September 2021/2 September 2022 A. Mashayekh leg.**Global distribution:** Iran: Sistan & Baluchistan Province, Hormozgan Province. Macaronesia, North Africa, Southern Europe, Caucasus, , Central Asia, China, Japan, Pakistan, Indonesia (Sumatra), India, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Philippines, and the United Arab Emirates ([Hosseinpour et al., 2022](#); [Zamani et al., 2026](#)).**FIGURE 14.** *Wadicosa fidelis*: male: a, habitus, dorsal; c, palp; female: b, habitus, dorsal; d, epigyne.**Remarks:** The species has been recorded from Macaronesia, North Africa, Southern Europe, Caucasus, Middle East, Central Asia, China, Japan, Pakistan, Indonesia (Sumatra), India, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Philippines, Indonesia (Sumatra), and the United Arab Emirates. This species was recorded from several provinces in Iran -Golestan, Hormozgan, Ilam, Kermanshah, Khuzestan, Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad,

Kurdistan, and Razavi Khorasan ([Hosseinpour et al., 2022](#); [Zamani et al., 2026](#)). New materials were collected on a palm tree and vegetation in the garden from Fadami City (Fars Province). Recorded here for the first time from Fars Province.

Family Oecobiidae Blackwall, 1862

Oecobius pasargadae Zamani & Marusik, 2023

(Figure 15A, B)

Material examined: 1♂ Fars Province, Fadami 55°7'54.317"N, 28°13'10.058"E, 1247m a. s. l, 06 February 2023, A. Mashayekh leg.



FIGURE 15. *Oecobius pasargadae*: male: a, habitus, dorsal; b, palpus.

Global distribution: Iran: Fars Province: ♂ (MMUE) Shiraz, 29.6°N, 52.516667°E, Y.M. Marusik (Zamani & Marusik, 2023).

Remarks: This species was recorded from Fars Province (Shiraz). This is the first record from Darab County (Fars Province). Fresh material was found on the wall in the car garage.

Family Philodromidae Thorell, 1869

Thanatus vulgaris Simon, 1870

(Figure 16A, B)

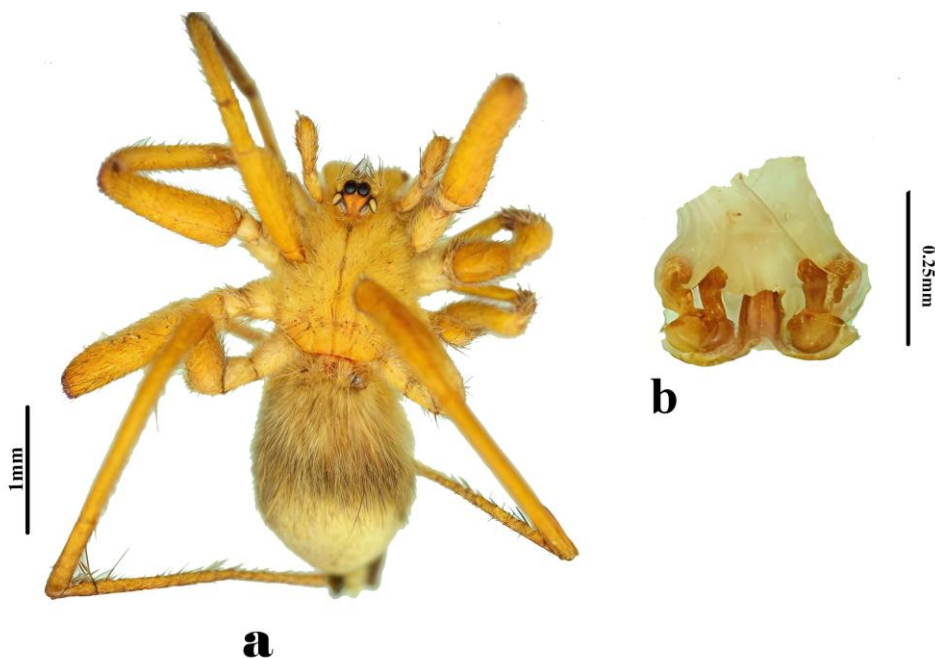
Material examined: 2♂ Fars Province, Darab 54°34'40.725"N, 28°45'38.779"E, 750 m a. s. l, 07 January 2022, A. Mashayekh leg.

Global distribution: Iran: Isfahan Province, Ilam Province, Sistan & Baluchistan Province.

Remarks: Collected from the mountainous area and in-house next to the drainage (Darab). This species is probably the most widespread philodromid species, and is mostly transported by humans to new areas (Jäger, 2002). It is widely distributed in Iran (Alborz, Fars, Golestan, Hormozgan, Ilam, Isfahan, Kermanshah, Khuzestan, Kohgiluyeh & Boyer-Ahmad, Mazandaran, Qazvin, Tehran, Zanjan, Sistan & Baluchistan, Europe, North Africa, Turkey, Caucasus, Russia (from Europe to the Far East), Middle East, Iran, Kazakhstan, Central Asia, China, Korea, Japan. Introduced to North America, South Africa, and Australia ([Zamani et al., 2025](#)).

Family Prodidomidae Simon, 1882***Zimiris doriae* Simon, 1882**

(Figure 17A, B)

Material examined: 2♀ Fars Province, Fadami 55°7'54.317"N, 28°13'10.058"E, 1247m a. s. l, 12 September 2021/2 September 2022 A. Mashayekh leg.**Global distribution:** Iran: Hormozgan Province. Ivory Coast, Sudan, Eritrea, Yemen, Iran, Pakistan, India. Introduced to Mexico, the Caribbean, French Guiana, Brazil, Ascension, Germany, Indonesia (Java), and Malaysia ([World Spider Catalog, 2026](#)).**FIGURE 16.** *Thanatus vulgaris*: male: a, habitus, dorsal, b, palp.**FIGURE 17.** *Zimiris doriae*: female: a, habitus, dorsal.

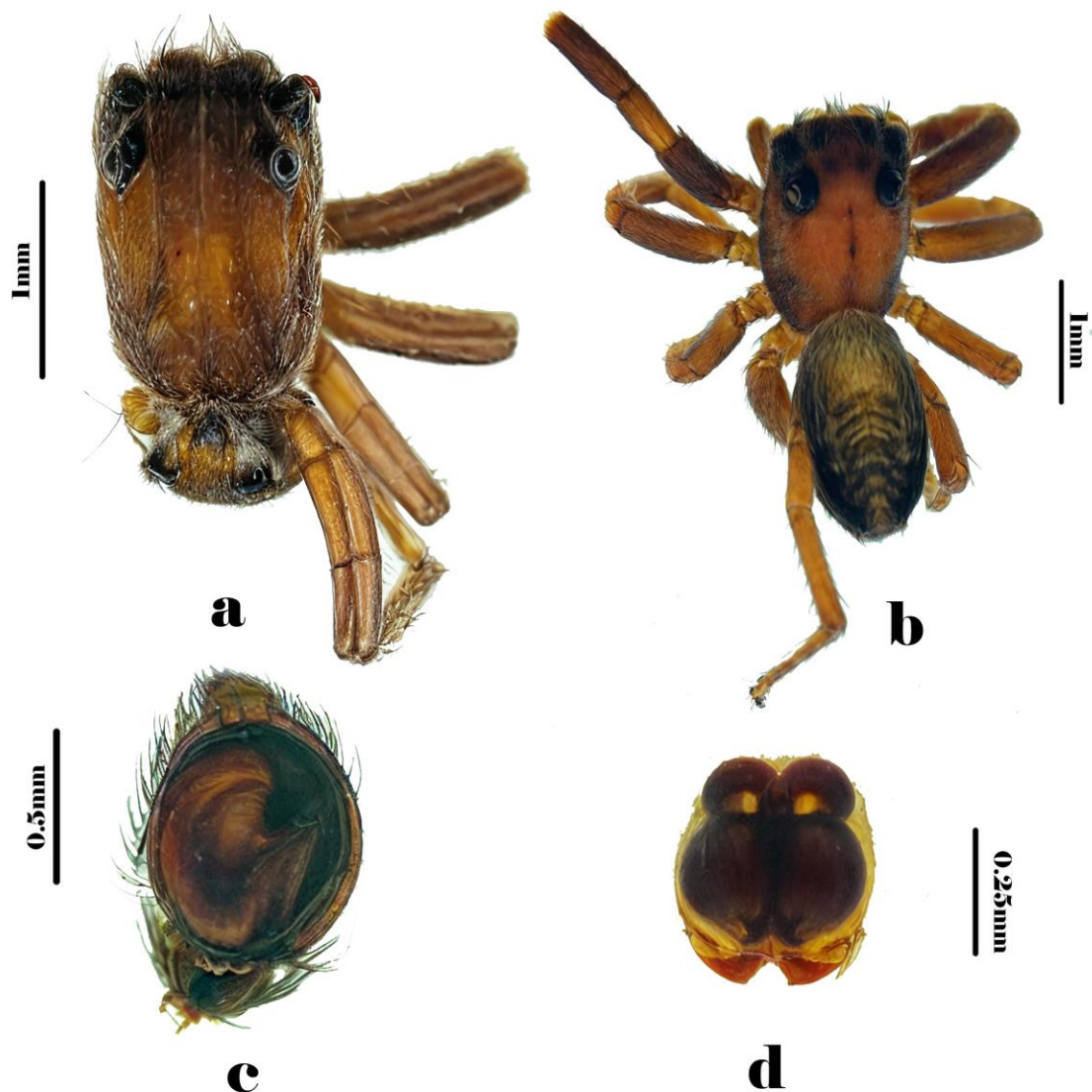


FIGURE 18. *Cyrba ocellata*: male: a, habitus, dorsal; c, palpus; female: habitus, dorsal; d, epigyne.

Remarks: This species is distributed in tropical areas from Mexico to Malaysia ([Zamani et al., 2015](#); [World Spider Catalog, 2026](#)). Specimens were found in the garden under the grass bushes. This is the first record in Fars Province.

Family Salticidae Blackwall, 1841

Cyrba ocellata (Kroneberg, 1875)

(Figure 18)

Material examined: 1♂ 1♀ Fars Province, Darab 54°34'40.725"N, 28°45'38.779"E, 750 m a. s. l, 13 October 2022, A. Mashayekh leg.

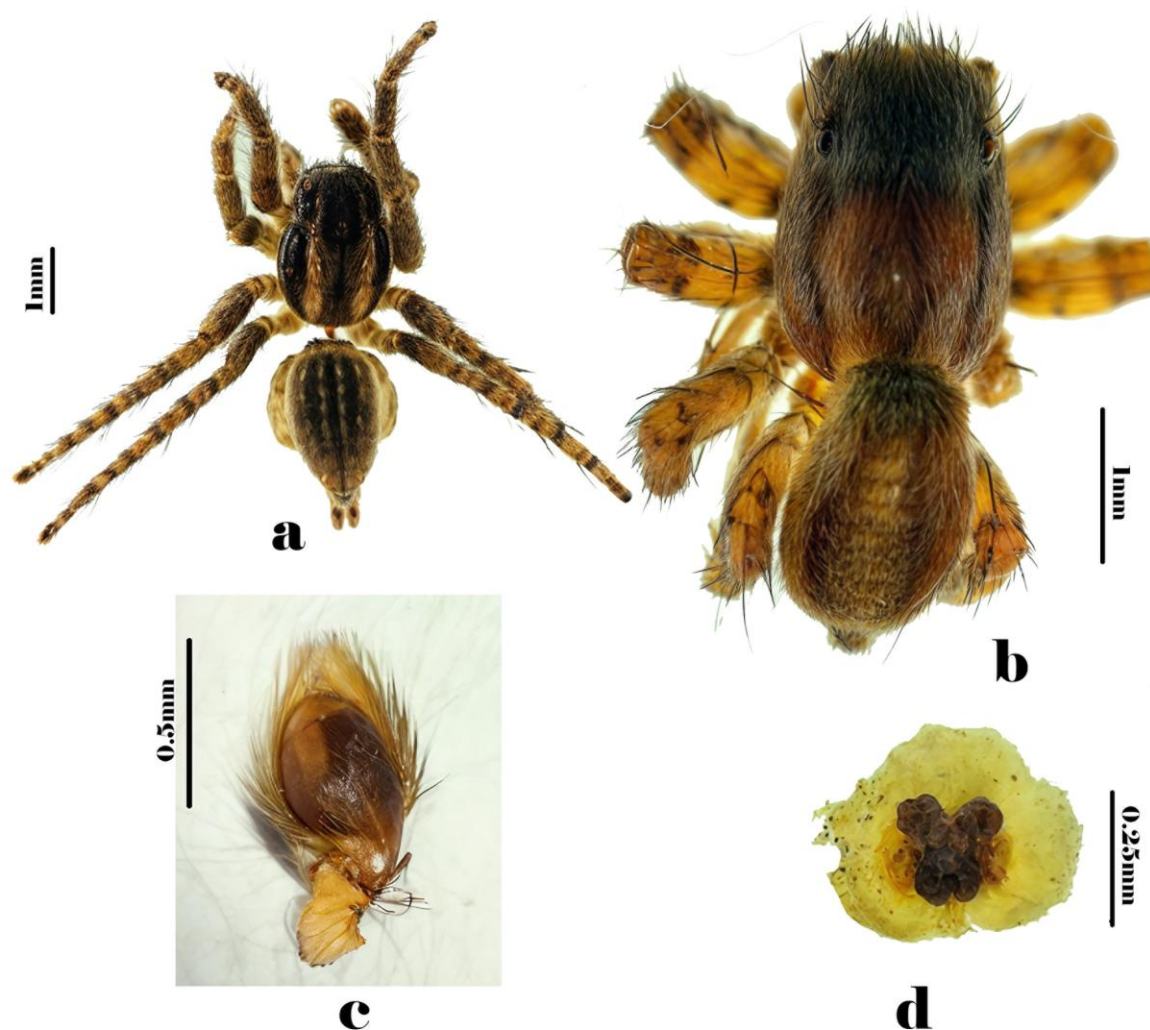


FIGURE 19. *Langona pallida*: male: a, habitus, dorsal; c, palp; *Langona tartarica*: female: b, habitus, dorsal; d, epigyne.

Global distribution: Iran: Sistan & Baluchistan Province, Mazandaran Province, Razavi Khorasan Province, Tehran Province. Eastern Africa to India and Indonesia, Caucasus to Central Asia and China, and the United Arab Emirates are recorded as the distributional area of the species. to Australia ([Zamani et al., 2026](#)).

Remarks: This species is globally recorded from Eastern Africa to India and Indonesia, the Caucasus to Central Asia and China, the United Arab Emirates, and introduced to Australia. It has previously been reported from Golestan, Kerman, Mazandaran, Razavi Khorasan, Tehran, and Sistan & Baluchestan in Iran ([Mirshamsi et al., 2015](#); [Zamani et al., 2026](#)). The specimens were collected under a grass bush. Herewith recorded for the first time from the spider fauna of Fars Province.

Langona pallida Prószyński, 1993

(Figure 19A, C)

Material examined: 2♂ Fars Province, Fadami 55°7'54.317"N, 28°13'10.058"E, 1247m a. s. l, 22 November 2022 A. Mashayekh leg.

Global distribution: Iran: Turkmenistan, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Afghanistan ([Sajadi et al., 2024](#); [Zamani et al., 2025](#)).

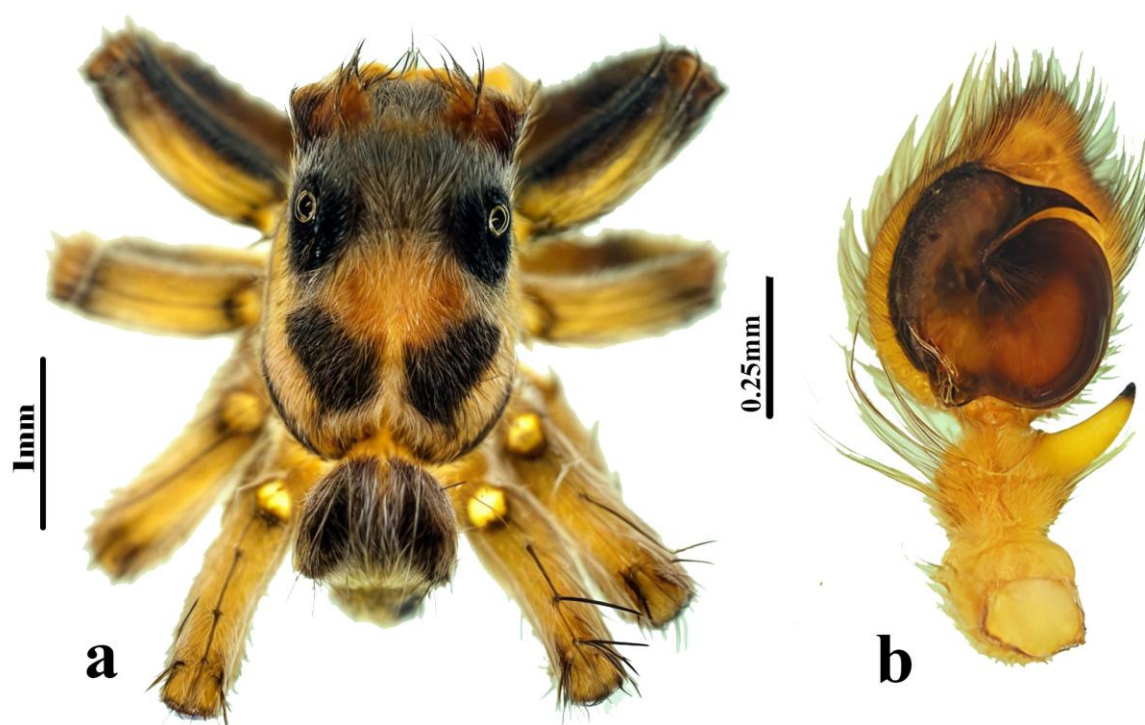


FIGURE 20. *Plexippus minor*: male: a, habitus, dorsal; b, palp.

Remarks: This species is recorded from Afghanistan to Saudi Arabia to the United Arab Emirates. According to [Logunov et al. \(2023\)](#), *L. pallindula* Logunov & Rakov, (1998) has been recorded in Iran (Khorasan-e-Razavi), as reported by [Mirshamsi et al. \(2015\)](#) as *L. pallida*. Collected materials from Fars Province belong to *L. pallida*. Therefore, this is the first record of the species in Iran.

Langona tartarica (Charitonov, 1946)

(Figure 19B, D)

Material examined: 1♀ Fars Province, Fadami 55°7'54.317"N, 28°13'10.058"E, 1247m a. s. l, 5 December 2022 A. Mashayekh leg.

Global distribution: Iran: Hormozgan Province, Sistan & Baluchistan Province. Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, China, Yemen? ([Mirshamsi et al., 2015](#); [World Spider Catalog, 2026](#)).

Remarks: Material was collected under a grass bush. This is the first record of Fars Province. Other records from Iran are in Hormozgan and Sistan & Baluchistan Province.

Plexippus minor Wesolowska and van Harten, 2010

(Figure 20A, B)

Material examined: 2♂ Fars Province, Fadami 55°7'54.317"N, 28°13'10.058"E, 1247m a. s. l, 6 December 2022 A. Mashayekh leg.

Global distribution: Iran: Hormozgan Province. United Arab Emirates, India ([World Spider Catalog, 2026](#)).

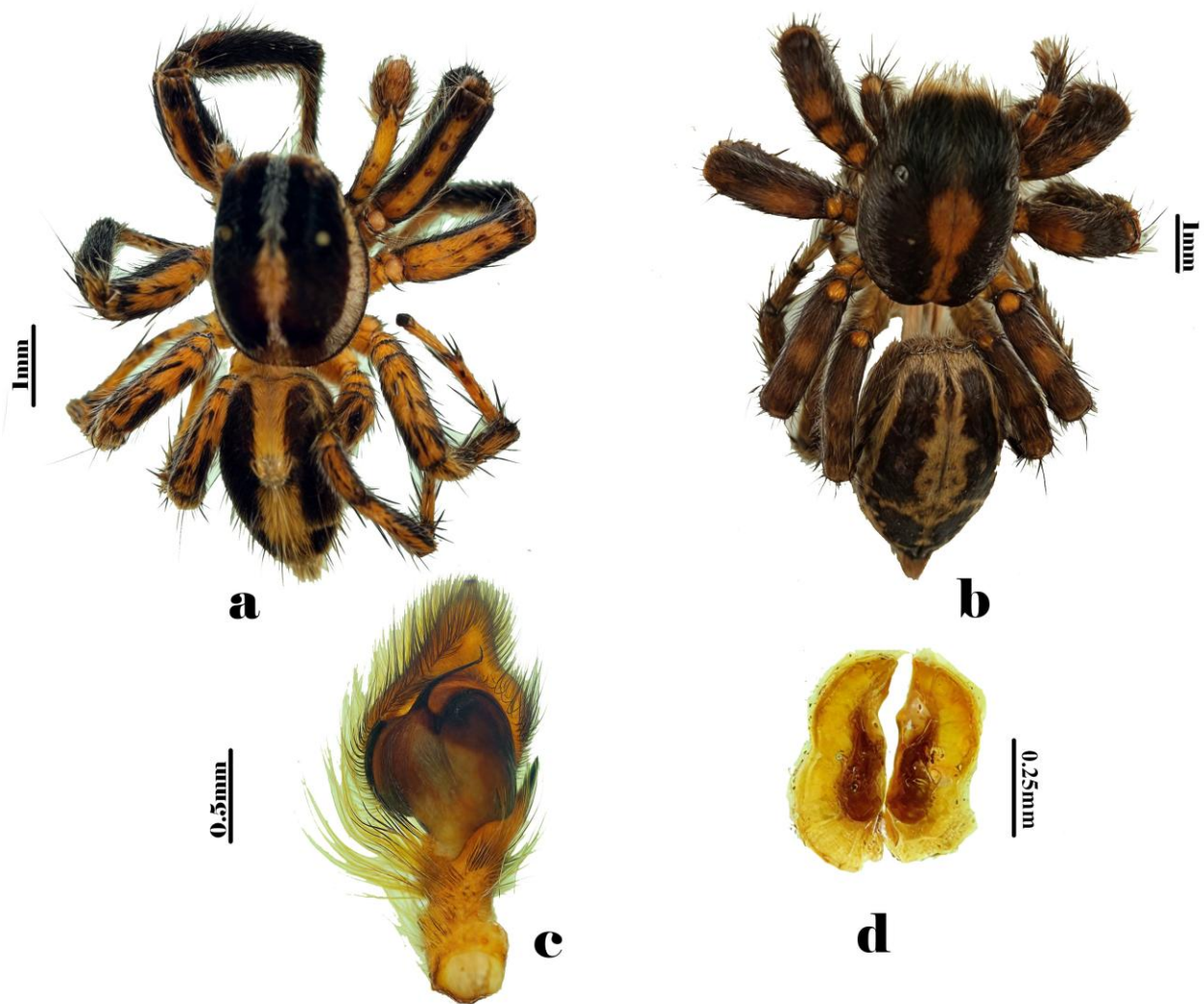


FIGURE 21. *Plexippus paykulli*: male: a, habitus, dorsal; c, palp; female: b, habitus, dorsal; d, epigyne.

Remarks: This species has been recorded from the United Arab Emirates, India, and Iran. This is the second record of the species in Iran and the first in Fars Province. Collected materials were found under a grass bush.

Plexippus paykulli (Audouin, 1826)

(Figure 21)

Material examined: 2♂ 1♀ Fars Province, Fadami 55°7'54.317"N, 28°13'10.058"E, 1247m a. s. l, 10 January 2023 A. Mashayekh leg.

Global distribution: Iran: Golestan Province, Hormozgan Province, Sistan & Baluchistan Province, Isfahan Province, Kerman Province, Khuzestan Province, Mazandaran Province, Tehran Province. Africa. Introduced to both Americas, Europe, West Asia, Nepal, South Asia, Australia, Pacific Islands ([Zamani et al., 2025](#)).

Remarks: This species is cosmopolitan, distributed, and introduced to all continents. This is the first record of the species in Fars Province. Materials were observed in vegetation.

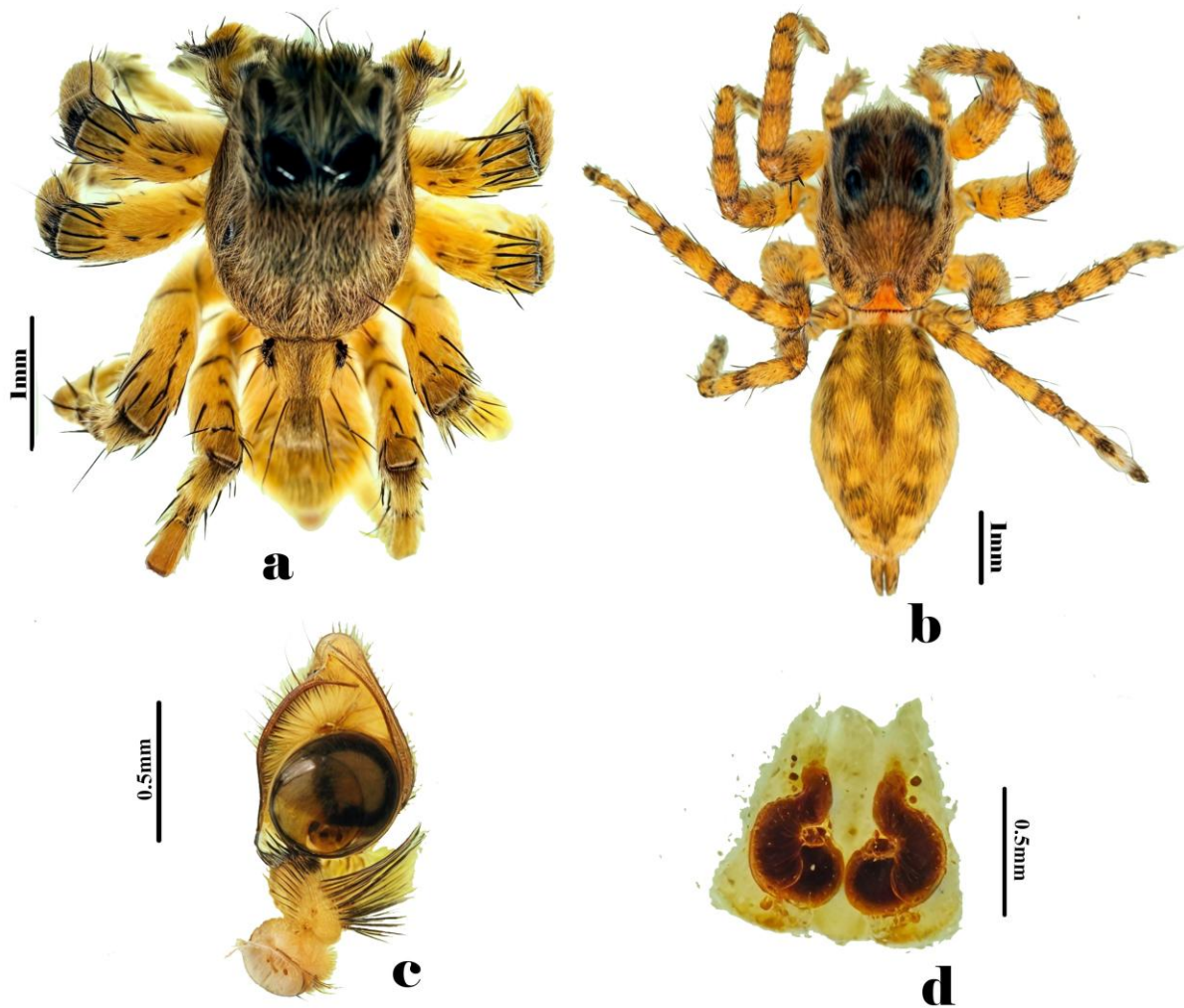


FIGURE 22. *Plexippoides flavescens*: male: a, habitus, dorsal, c, palp; female: b, habitus, dorsal; d, epigine.

Plexippoides flavescens (O.Pickard-Cambridge, 1872)

(Figure 22)

Material examined: 1♂ 2♀ Fars Province, Fadami 55°7'54.317"N, 28°13'10.058"E, 1247m a. s. l, 18, 30 January 2023 A. Mashayekh leg.

Global distribution: Iran: Fars Province, Kerman Province, Khuzestan Province, Tehran Province, Chahar Mahal & Bakhtiari Province, Isfahan Province, Kerman Province, Kohgiluyeh & Buyer-Ahamd Province, Lorestan Province, Mazandaran Province, Khorasan-e-Razavi Province ([Mirshamsi et al., 2015](#)). Egypt, Sudan, West Asia, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, and Afghanistan. Introduced to Ukraine and the USA ([World Spider Catalog, 2026](#)).

Remarks: This species has been found in vegetation. It is mostly distributed in Asia and Africa and has been introduced to Europe and America. This is the first record in Darab County.

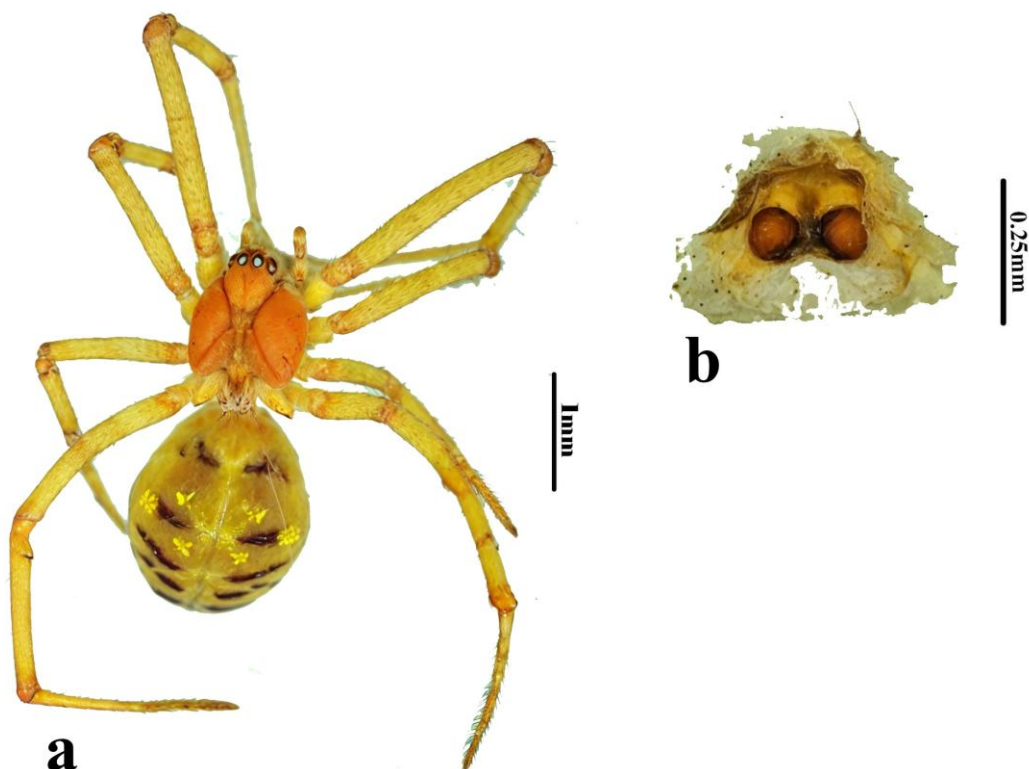


FIGURE 23. *Steatoda trianguloides*: female: a, habitus, dorsal; b, epigyne.



FIGURE 24. *Bassaniodes loeffleri*: male: a, habitus, dorsal; b, palp.

Family Sicariidae Keyserling, 1880

Loxosceles persica Ribera & Zamani, 2017

(Figure 5B, D)

Material examined: 1♂ Fars Province, Darab 54°34'40.725"N, 28°45'38.779"E, 750 m a. s. l, 28 December 2021, A. Mashayekh leg.

Global distribution: Iran: Khuzestan Province, Fars Province, Yazd Province,

Remarks: The species is endemic to Iran. It has been recorded from Fars, Khuzestan, and Ilam ([Zamani et al., 2021](#)). The new material was found in the Montanus area in Darab County.

Family Theridiidae Sundevall, 1833

Steatoda trianguloides Levy, 1991

(Figure 23A, B)

Material examined: 1♀ Fars Province, Darab 54°34'40.725"N, 28°45'38.779"E, 750 m a. s. l, 21 January 2022, A. Mashayekh leg.

Global distribution: Iran: Khuzestan Province. Portugal, Spain, France (Corsica), Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, Israel ([Zamani et al., 2022](#); [World Spider Catalog, 2026](#)).

Remarks: This is the second record of the species in the Iranian fauna. Herewith is the first provincial report of Fars. It has been collected in a mountain area of Darab City.

Family Thomisidae Sundvall, 1833

Bassaniodes loeffleri (Roewer, 1955)

(Figure 24A, B)

Material examined: 2♂ Fars Province, Darab 54°34'40.725"N, 28°45'38.779"E, 750 m a. s. l, 25 January 2022, A. Mashayekh leg.

Global distribution: Iran: Alborz Province, Fars Province, Gilan Province, Kohgiluyeh & Boyer-Ahmad Province, Isfahan Province, West Azerbaijan Province, Zanjan Province. Greece, Turkey, Caucasus, Kazakhstan, Central Asia ([World Spider Catalog, 2026](#)).

Remarks: This species has been recorded from Greece to Central Asia. It was found in Fars, Gilan, Isfahan, Kohgiluyeh & Boyer-Ahmad, West Azerbaijan, and Zanjan in Iran. New materials were captured in the mountains of Darab City.

DISCUSSION

The richness of spider species recorded from Iran showcases the country's rich biodiversity. Researchers continue to explore various habitats, contributing to our understanding of these fascinating arachnids. In our study of the spider fauna of Darab County in Fars Province, 28 species were collected and identified. *Langona palida* is being recorded for the first time for the spider fauna in Iran. [Logunov et al \(2013\)](#) have recorded *L. pallidula* from Khorasan-e-Razavi. All species were recorded for the first time from Darab. Moreover, 13 species, including *Berlandina artaxerxes*, *Cryptodrassus helvolus*, *C. iranicus*, *Cyrba ocellata*, *Filistata maguirei*, *Langona pallida*, *L. tartarica*, *Minosiella intermedia*, *Pardosa parathompsoni*, *Plexippus minor*, *P. paykulli*, *Steatoda trianguloides*, *Wadicosa fidelis*, and *Zimiris doriae*, are newly recorded for Fars Province, significantly expanding known distributions in Iran. The detection of three putative new species further suggests that the region's arachnid diversity is understudied. To verify these records, we compared our findings with the most comprehensive recent catalogues of Iranian spiders and all available regional publications ([Zamani et al., 2021](#), [2022](#), [2023](#); [World Spider Catalogue, 2026](#)). Dr. Alireza Zamani verified the final identification.

In our collection, only males of *Dysdera* sp. and *Evarcha* sp. were found. Both male and female of *Berinda* sp. were collected, but we could only catch one female, so we need more female specimens to compare with other congeners for a definite decision. Future research will focus on locating the missing sexes to enable more accurate descriptions and to enhance our knowledge of their ecology and distribution.

Family Dysderidae C.L. Koch, 1837 is distributed in the West Palearctic. 15 species of the genus *Dysdera* Latreille, 1804 were recorded from Iran ([Zamani et al., 2023](#)). *Dysdera* Latreille, 1804 has 10 species groups ([Zamani et al., 2023](#)). The species recorded here belongs to the *ninnii*-species group. The *ninnii*-species group is distinguished from other groups by chelicerae shorter than the width of the carapace, relatively short with anteriorly converging lateral margins, a bulb with a simple crest, a simple apex bearing a long subapical tooth, and a crescent-shaped lateral projection ([Deeleman-Reinhold and](#)

[Deeleman, 1988](#)). *Dysdera* sp., differs from other species by an extremely short stylus and a distinctive triangular projection on the anterior side of the posterior apophysis.

Evarcha Simon, 1902, a genus of jumping spiders, with a relatively large body, often brownish and not colorful ([World Spider Catalog, 2026](#)), found mainly on grass, trees, branches, and in the forest. The retrolateral tibial apophysis of *Evarcha* sp. is similar to *E. nenilini*, except it is slightly thicker and shorter in the new species. The anterior part of the embolus is inclined towards the abdomen, which is in the shape of a short triangle and is visible in lateral view.

The discovery of three putative new species within a limited sampling area is particularly compelling. It strongly suggests that the spider fauna of Fars Province is not only rich, but also contains a notable proportion of undocumented taxa. Fars Province occupies a transitional zone between the Zagros Mountains and the Persian Gulf lowland, also a marginal desert, encompassing diverse habitats from oak forests to arid steppes. This environmental heterogeneity likely underlies the region's high spider diversity. The presence of species with both Mediterranean/Afrotropical affinities (*Plexippus*, *Cyrba*) and Irano-Turanian elements (*Berlandina*, *Cryptodrassus*) reflects this transitional position.

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