

## A new species of the spider genus *Himalafurca* Tanasevitch, 2021 from the Nepal Himalayas (Arachnida: Aranei)

### Новый вид рода *Himalafurca* Tanasevitch, 2021 из Гималаев Непала (Arachnida: Aranei)

**A.V. Tanasevitch**  
**А.В. Танасевич**

A.N. Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution, Russian Academy of Sciences, Leninsky prospekt 33, Moscow 119071 Russia.  
Институт проблем экологии и эволюции им. А.Н. Северцова РАН, Ленинский проспект 33, Москва 119071 Россия.  
Andrei Tanasevitch: tanasevitch@gmail.com, and-tan@mail.ru ORCID <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9116-606X>

KEY WORDS: Araneae, taxonomy, spiders, Palearctic, mountain fauna.

КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА: Araneae, таксономия, пауки, Палеарктика, горная фауна.

**ABSTRACT.** A new species, *Himalafurca gorkha* sp.n., is described based on two male specimens from high altitudes of the Nepal Himalayas. The species is similar to the two Nepalese congeners, both also known from the male sex only. The new species differs well by the structural details of the palp, mostly the shape of the convector.

How to cite this paper: Tanasevitch A.V. 2024. A new species of the spider genus *Himalafurca* Tanasevitch, 2021 from the Nepal Himalayas (Arachnida: Aranei) // *Arthropoda Selecta*. Vol.33. No.4. P.608–610. doi: 10.15298/arthsel.33.4.14

**РЕЗЮМЕ.** Новый вид, *Himalafurca gorkha* sp.n., описан по двум самцам из высокогорий Непала. Вид близок к двум другим видам рода, также известным лишь по самцам из непальских Гималаев. Новый вид хорошо отличается деталями строения пальпы, главный образом, формой конвектора.

### Introduction

A short review of the study of the Nepalese linyphiids was given in my previous publication on this subject [Tanasevitch, 2021]. The spider fauna of Nepal was noted to include at least 107 species of the family Linyphiidae. The present paper adds another species to this list.

The genus *Himalafurca* Tanasevitch, 2021 was established for two new species, *Himalafurca thudam* Tanasevitch, 2021 and *H. ladza* Tanasevitch, 2021, described from the Sankhua Sabha (3550–3650 m a.s.l.) and Taplejung (4100–4200 m a.s.l.) districts of Nepal, respectively [Tanasevitch, 2021].

The systematic position of the genus is still unclear, but, based on the habitus, chaetotaxy and male palpal structure, *Himalafurca* resembles *Ketambea* Millidge et Russell-Smith, 1992, *Prosoponoides* Millidge et Russell-Smith, 1992, *Plectembolus* Millidge et Russell-Smith, 1992, and some other genera which mainly occur in the Oriental Region. These genera of unclear subfamily af-

filiation show some characters combining the subfamilies Linyphiinae and Dubiaraneinae. For more information, see Tanasevitch [2021].

Two male linyphiid specimens remained undescribed for quite a long time, because they were left aside and waiting for their corresponding female, but because this did not happen, I describe the new species from the male sex only.

### Material and methods

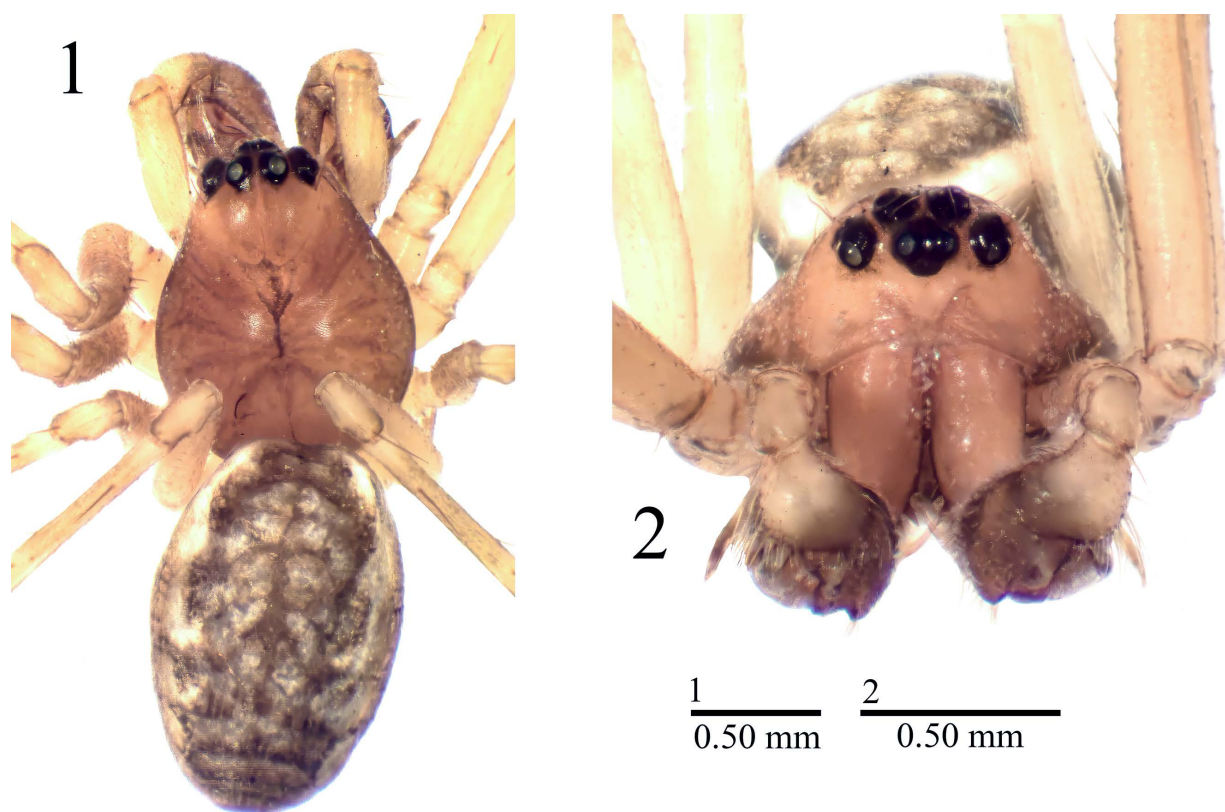
This paper is based on spider material taken by Jochen Martens and Wolfgang Schawaller in Nepal, now kept in the Senckenberg Museum, Frankfurt am Main, Germany (SMF). The sample number is given in square brackets. Specimens preserved in 70% ethanol were studied using a MBS-9 stereo microscope, with a Levenhuk C-800 digital camera used for taking photographs. The chaetotaxy is given in a formula, e.g., Ti I: 2-1-0-1(2), which means that tibia I has two dorsal, one prolateral, no retrolateral, and one or two ventral spines, the apical spines being disregarded. The sequence of leg segment measurements is as follows: femur + patella + tibia + metatarsus + tarsus. All measurements are given in mm. Scale lines in the figures correspond to 0.1 mm unless indicated otherwise. The terminology of copulatory organs mainly follows that of Merrett [1963] and that of the authors mentioned in the abbreviations below.

The following abbreviations are used in the text and figures: a.s.l. — above sea level; C — convector *sensu* Tanasevitch [1998]; E — embolus; Fe — femur; Mt — metatarsus; R — radix; TeA — tegular apophysis *sensu* Millidge [1995]; TeP — tegular prominence *sensu* Blest [1979]; Ti — tibia; TmI — position of trichobothrium on metatarsus I.

### Taxonomy

Order Aranei Clerck, 1758  
Family Linyphiidae Blackwall, 1859  
Genus *Himalafurca* Tanasevitch, 2021

*Himalafurca gorkha* sp.n.  
Figs 1–7.



Figs 1, 2. Photographs of holotype male of *Himalafurca gorkha* sp.n. 1 — habitus, dorsal view; 2 — prosoma, frontal view.  
 Рис. 1, 2. Фотографии самца *Himalafurca gorkha* sp.n., голотип. 1 — внешний вид сверху; 2 — просома, вид спереди.

HOLOTYPE ♂ (SMF), NEPAL, Gorkha District, NW Rupina La, Tabruk Kharka, 4000 m a.s.l., *Betula* stands on moraine, 7/8.VIII.1983, leg. J. Martens & W. Schawaller [237].

PARATYPE: 1 ♂ (SMF), collected together with holotype.

NAME. The specific name is a noun in apposition, referring to the Gorkha District of Nepal.

DIAGNOSIS. The species is similar to the two other Nepalese congeners known to date, *H. thudam* Tanasevitch, 2021 and *H. ladza* Tanasevitch, 2021, both described also from the male sex alone. The new species differs well by the structural details of the palp, mostly the shape of the convector which possesses three long branches, vs two in both congeners.

DESCRIPTION. Male holotype. Total length 2.55. Carapace unmodified, as shown in Figs 1 & 2, 1.18 long, 0.95 wide, pale brown, with a vague, grey, polygonal spot in its centre, and with narrow radial stripes. Eyes normal, not enlarged. Chelicerae 0.50 long, a mastidion absent. Legs yellow, distal parts of segments darkened. Leg I, 5.36 long (1.55 + 0.35 + 1.25 + 1.38 + 0.83), IV, 4.06 long (1.15 + 0.28 + 0.90 + 1.13 + 0.60). Chaetotaxy. FeI: 1-2-0-0, II: 1-0-0-0, III-IV: 0-0-0-0; TiI-II: 2-1-1-1, III: 2-1(0)-0-1; IV: 2-1-0-1; MtI-IV: 1-1(0)-0-0. Tibial spines 2–3 times as long as diameter of corresponding leg segment. TmI, 0.29. Metatarsus IV without trichobothrium. Palp (Figs 3–7): Patella short, rounded. Tibia unmodified, with very short pubescence. Paracymbium small, L-shaped, its distal part narrow and transparent. Tegulum with a small prominence at its lower edge. Tegular apophysis conical, with a wide base, pointed apically. Convector massive, with three long, differently shaped branches. Convector membrane vague. Embolus small, slender, vermiform, its radical part indistinctly shaped. Abdomen 1.38 long, 0.93 wide, dorsal pattern as in Fig. 1.

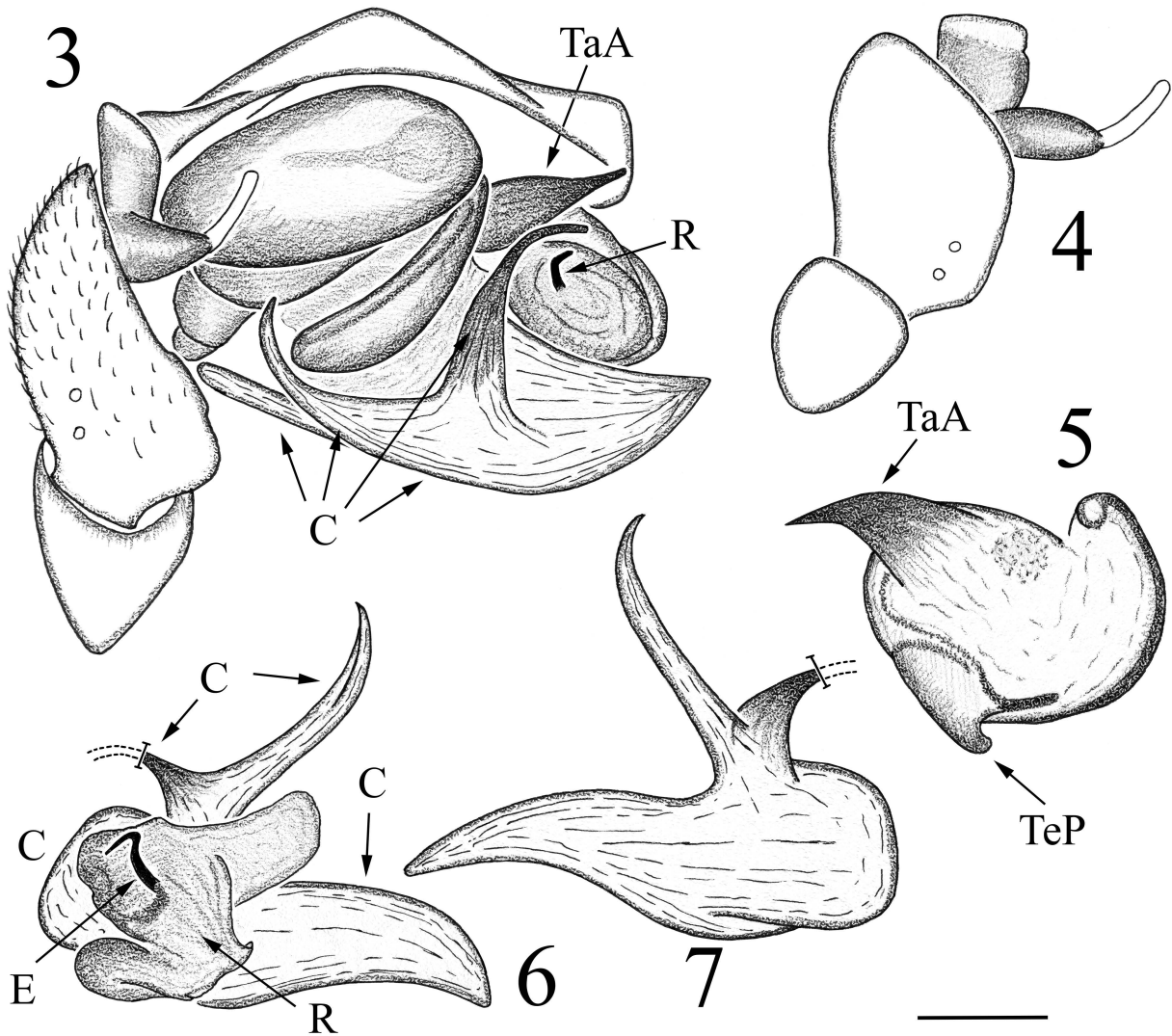
Female. Unknown.

DISTRIBUTION. Known only from the type locality in Gorkha District, Nepal, from 4000 m a.s.l.

## Conclusion

*Himalafurca gorkha* sp.n. is a third representative of the genus *Himalafurca*. Two other species, *H. thudam* and *H. ladza*, are also known from their type localities of the Nepal Himalayas alone: Thudam (Sankhua Sabha Distr.), at 3550–3650 m a.s.l., in *Betula* & *Rhododendron* forest, and Ladza Kharka (Taplejung Distr.), at 4100–4200 m a.s.l., in dwarf *Rhododendron* with creeping *Juniperus* stands. Thus, all representative of the genus appear to inhabit mountain vegetation near the timberline in the high altitudes of the Himalayas. All currently known localities of the *Himalafurca* species lie within the southernmost area of the Palearctic Region just near the border with the Oriental Realm. Given that representatives of similar genera (see Introduction) are distributed mainly in the Oriental Region, one can readily assume that further members of *Himalafurca* will also be found there as well.

**Acknowledgements.** I am most grateful to Jochen Martens (Mainz, Germany) who provided the material he collected during his expeditions in the Himalayas, as well as to Peter Jäger and Julia Altmann (SMF), who supplied me with the samples under their care. Thanks go to Sergei Golovatch (Moscow, Russia), who kindly checked the English of an advanced draft.



Figs 3–7. Details of palp of *Himalafurca gorkha* sp.n., paratype. 3 — right palp, retrolateral view; 4 — patella, tibia and paracymbium, postero-dorsolateral view; 5 — tegulum, mesal view; 6 — embolic division, prolateral view; 7 — convector, retrolateral view. Note: in Figs 6 and 7 one branch of convector is broken off.

Рис. 3–7. Детали строения пальпы *Himalafurca gorkha* sp.n., паратип. 3 — правая пальпа; 4 — колесо, голень и парацимбиум, вид сбоку и сзади; 5 — тегулом, вид изнутри; 6 — эмболозный отдел, пролатерально; 7 — конвектор, ретролатерально. На рис. 6 и 7 одна из ветвей конвектора отломана.

## References

- Blest A.D. 1979. The spiders of New Zealand. Part V. Linyphiidae-Mynoglenidae // Otago Museum Bulletin. Vol.5. P.95–173.  
 Merrett P. 1963. The palpus of male spiders of the family Linyphiidae // Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London. Vol.140. P.347–467.  
 Millidge A.F. 1995. Some linyphiid spiders from south-east Asia // Bulletin of the British Arachnological Society. Vol.10. Pt.2. P.41–56.

- Tanasevitch A.V. 1998. *Gorbothorax* n. gen., a new linyphiid spider genus from the Nepal Himalayas (Arachnida, Araneae, Linyphiidae) // Bonner Zoologische Beiträge. Bd.47. H. 3–4. P.421–428.  
 Tanasevitch A.V. 2021. Two new erigonine spiders from Nepal (Aranei, Linyphiidae) // Arthropoda Selecta. Vol.30. No.1. P. 107–119.

Responsible editor K.G. Mikhailov