

## Final molt of a male *Telamonia dimidiata* (Araneae: Salticidae: Plexippina) in Karnataka

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*Telamonia dimidiata* (Simon 1899) is widely distributed in tropical south and southeast Asia, from Pakistan to Sumatra (Ahmed et al. 2019; Abhijith & Hill 2020; WSC 2021). They construct their nocturnal retreats or shelters by laying down silk lines between the leaves of a variety of small trees, and may prepare a new retreat each night (Roy et al. 2016; Ahmed et al. 2019). According to Chaubey (2019), they may revisit this resting sac if it is not disturbed. Brood sacs constructed by females have a different structure, with a more or less regular, dense, planar cover of fibers over an inner sac (Abhijith & Hill 2020).

Previously we documented the final molt of a penultimate female *T. dimidiata*, either in the confines of a temporary shelter, or while hanging from the dragline in the mode of many other spiders, including the plexippine salticid *Vailimia* (Hill et al. 2020). During and after this molt the female may be attended by an adult male.

Here (Figure 1) we document the appearance and final molt of a penultimate male *Telamonia dimidiata* at the Indraprastha Organic Farm of the senior author at Kalalwadi Village, Mysuru, Karnataka, India. When immature, both male and female immature *T. dimidiata* resemble adult females in colouration. Penultimate males (Figure 1:1-5) can be identified by the greater width of the developing apical segment, or cymbium, of each pedipalp. The final molt took place within the confines of a temporary retreat or shelter constructed between two leaves (Figure 1:6-11). This male remained in its shelter until the next day, after discarding the exuvium (Figure 1:12-14).



**Figure 1 (continued on next page).** Male *Telamonia dimidiata* observed in Karnataka, India, before and after the final molt. **1-2,** Two views of a penultimate male. **3-4,** Penultimate male in resting sac or retreat, constructed beneath a leaf of an ornamental *Bougainvillea* flower. **5,** A different penultimate male in its resting sac. **6-7,** Adult male in resting sac with exuvium just after molting. Photo credits: 1-4, 6-7, Abhijith A. P. C.; 5, Hayath Mohammed.





**Figure 1 (continued from previous page).** Male *Telamonia dimidiata* observed in Karnataka, India, before and after the final molt. **8-11**, Adult in resting sac with exuvium just after molting. Image (9) is a composite of two different photographs. **12-14**, Same adult in or near the resting sac on the next day, after discarding the exuvium. Photo credits: 8-14, Abhijith A. P. C.

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