

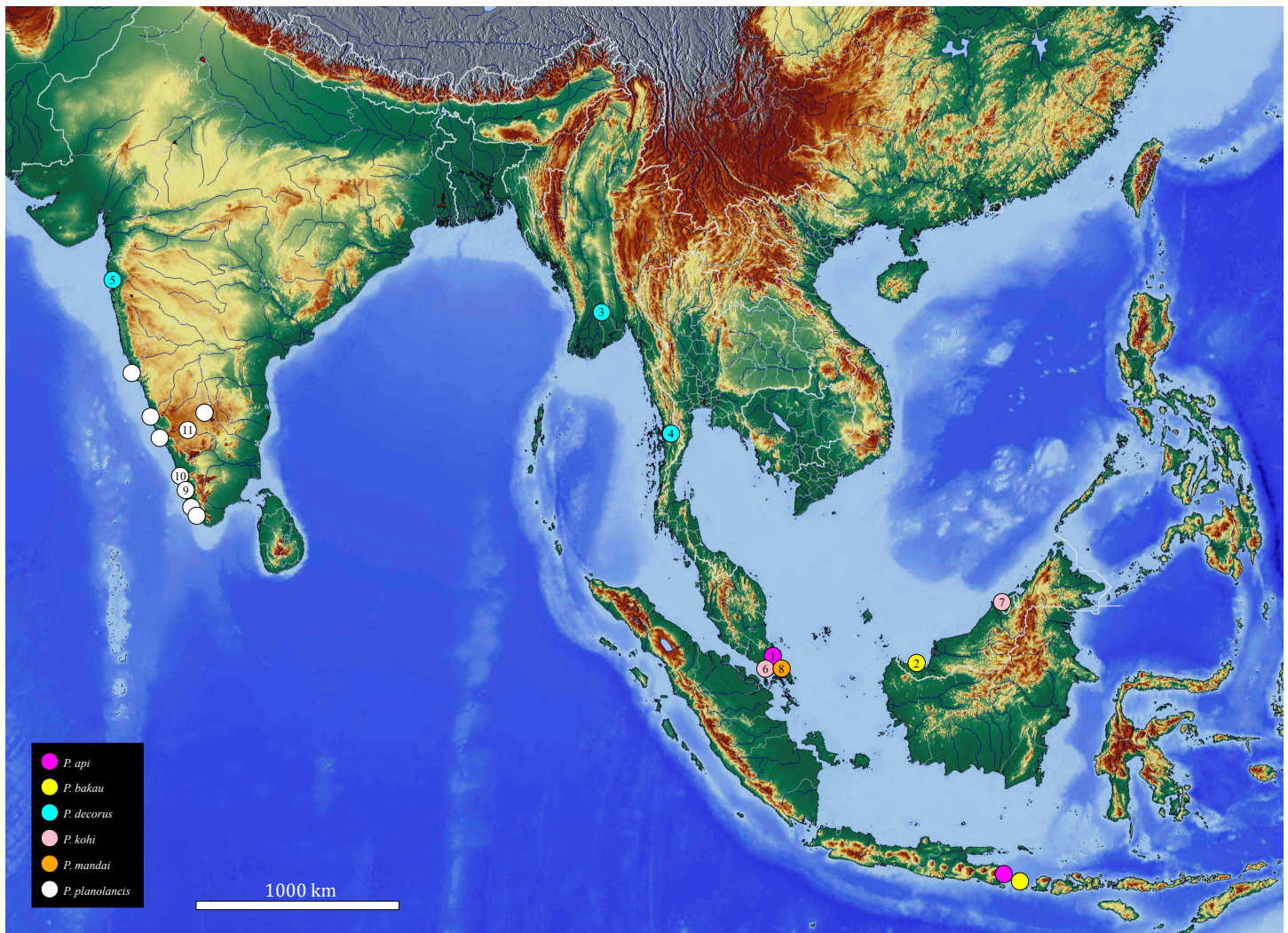
## Brood nest of *Piranthus planolancis* (Araneae: Salticidae: Baviini)

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Until recently only a single sex (♀) for one species of the genus *Piranthus*, *P. decorus* Thorell 1895, was known. Malamel et al. (2019) and Maddison (Maddison et al. 2020) added five new species to this baviine genus, three from Singapore (Figure 1; Table 1). Two species, *P. decorus* and *P. planolancis* (Figures 2-4), are now known from India.



**Figure 1.** Distribution records for *Piranthus* in tropical south and southeast Asia. Numbered (published) records are shown in Table 1. Other records (unnumbered circles), from southwestern India and Bali, are based on photographs posted on *iNaturalist*.



**Table 1.** Published descriptions and distribution records for *Piranthus*. Localities (locality#) correspond to numbered sites shown in Figure 1.

species	sex	locality#	locality	reference
<i>Piranthus api</i> Maddison 2020	♀	1	Singapore, 1.440°N 103.734°E	Maddison et al. 2020
<i>Piranthus bakau</i> Maddison 2020	♂ (♀?)	2	Bako National Park, Sarawak, 1.722°N 110.446°E	Maddison et al. 2020
<i>Piranthus decorus</i> Thorell 1895	♀	3	Tharrawaddy	Thorell 1895
	♀	4	Palon, Burma	Prószyński 1984
	♀ (♂?)	5	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Caleb & Sanap 2017
	♂		Singapore, 1.44°N 103.73°E	
<i>Piranthus kohi</i> Maddison 2020	♀	6	Singapore, 1.418°N 103.985°E	Maddison et al. 2020
	♀		Pulau Ubin, Chek Jawa, 1.412°N 103.991°E	
	♀		Kuala Balai, Belait, Brunei, 4.439°N 114.358°E	
	♀	7	Mandai Track 15 Trail, Singapore, 1.411°N 103.778°E	
<i>Piranthus mandai</i> Maddison 2020	♂	8	Mandai Track 15 Trail, Singapore, 1.411°N 103.778°E	Maddison et al. 2020
<i>Piranthus planolancis</i> Malamel et al. 2019	♀	9	Pathiramanl Island, Kerala, 9.619°N 76.385°E	Malamel et al. 2019
	♀	10	Vellangallur, Thrissur, Kerala, 10.306°N 76.204°E	
	♀		Vellangallur, Thrissur, Kerala, 10.306°N 76.204°E	Nafin et al. 2020
	♂♀		Vellangallur, Thrissur, Kerala, 10.306°N 76.204°E	
	♂♀	11	Mysuru, Karnataka, 12.223°N 76.627°E	



**Figure 2.** Immature *Piranthus planolancis* at the Indraprastha Organic Farm of the senior author (Abhijith), Kalalwadi Village, Mysuru, India.



**Figure 3 (continued on next page).** Adult male *Piranthus planolancis* at the Indraprastha Organic Farm of the senior author (Abhijith), Kalalwadi Village, Mysuru, India.





**Figure 3 (continued from previous page).** Adult male *Piranthus planolancis* at the Indraprastha Organic Farm of the senior author (Abhijith), Kalalwadi Village, Mysuru, India.





**Figure 4 (continued on next page).** Three (1-3, 4-6, 7-8) adult female *Piranthus planolancis* at the Indraprastha Organic Farm of the senior author (Abhijith), Kalalwadi Village, Mysuru, India.





**Figure 4 (continued from previous page).** Three (1-3, 4-6, 7-8) adult female *Piranthus planolancis* at the Indraprastha Organic Farm of the senior author (Abhijith), Kalalwadi Village, Mysuru, India.

Here (Figure 5) we document the recent discovery of a nest of this species, containing a brood of second instar immatures ready to emerge.



**Figure 5 (continued on next page).** Brood nest of *Piranthus planolancis* within a coiled Lychee (*Litchi chinensis*) leaf, photographed at the Indraprastha Organic Farm of the senior author (Abhijith), Kalalwadi Village, Mysuru, India.





**Figure 5 (continued from previous page).** Brood nest of *Piranthus planolancis* within a coiled Lychee (*Litchi chinensis*) leaf, photographed at the Indraprastha Organic Farm of the senior author (Abhijith), Kalalwadi Village, Mysuru, India. **6**, Note that both sides of this leaf were coiled.

Little is known of the biology of *Piranthus* species. This discovery of a nest in association with the Lychee tree (*Litchi chinensis*), a widely-distributed native of tropical south and southeast Asia, should lead more students of nature to find and to observe these salticids in the future.

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