

Phrynarachne decipiens

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About Phrynarachne decipiens:

- It is better known as the **bird dung or bird-dropping crab spider**.
- **Distribution:** It was known to be distributed in **Malaysia and Indonesia's** Java and Sumatra.
- It has been **recorded** for the **first time** in the country from Assam's Sonapur in the Kamrup (Metropolitan) district and the Chirang Reserve Forest in the Kokrajhar district.
- The spider is usually seen lying motionless 1-2 ft above the ground on the upper side of broad leaves.
- The **chalky white colour** of the spider and **whitish deposition** (its web) on the leaves, looking like bird excreta, make it very **difficult to be sighted**
- **Feature:** It has the **stout spermathecae** (a sac-like organ in the female reproductive tract that stores sperm received during copulation) with posterior heads almost touching each other.

- The genus Phrynarachne presently consists of **35 accepted species** of which three – P. ceylonica, P. ceeliana, and P. Tuberosa – before the bird dung crab spider recorded and re-described based on female specimens collected from Assam.

What are arachnids?

- These are members of **the arthropod group** that includes spiders, daddy longlegs, scorpions, and the mites and ticks.

Q1: What is spermatheca?

It is a sac-like organ in the female reproductive tract of spiders that stores sperm received during copulation.

Source: Spider mimicking bird excreta found in Assam

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/phrynarachne-decipiens/>

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