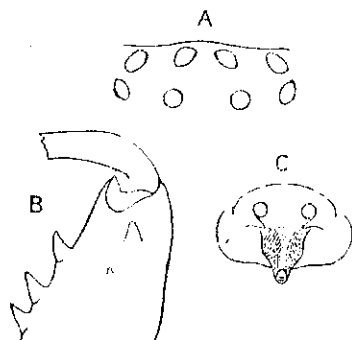


Pocock, R. I. 1903. On a new species of marine spider of the genus *Desis* from Zanzibar. Proc. zool. Soc. Lond. 1903(2): 390-392.

DESIS CROSSLANDI, sp. n. (Text-fig. 78.)

♀. Colouring like that of the other species of the genus, the mandibles and cephalic region of the carapace deep castaneous; sternum and mouth-parts a little or considerably paler; legs pale ochre, with scopular hairs on tarsi and protarsi fuscous; abdomen testaceous.

Text-fig. 78.



Desis crosslandi.

A. Eyes from above. B. Distal extremity of right mandible from below. C. Vulva.

Carapace about as long as tarsus + protarsus, rather longer than patella + tibia of 4th leg; a little shorter than patella + tibia of 1st and as long as protarsus + $\frac{1}{2}$ the tarsus of this appendage. *Eyes* (text-fig. 78, A) of the posterior line slightly procurved, subequally spaced, the medians only a little farther apart than either is from the lateral, the medians about 2 diameters apart and perhaps $1\frac{1}{2}$ diameters from the laterals; anterior median eyes about a diameter apart and about two diameters from the anterior laterals (in other specimens the eyes appear to be larger and the distances between them consequently less).

Mandibles (text-fig. 78, B): of the two teeth on the postaxial (posterior or outer) border of the fang groove the distal is much the larger, the space between the two being equal to about three or four times the length of the proximal, and only a little less than the space between the distal and the base of the fang; teeth of the preaxial or inner side of the fang-groove normally seven in number, the first, situated opposite the interval between the two teeth of the outer (postaxial) row, smaller than the second, third, or fourth, which are large and progressively but only slightly

decrease in size towards the proximal end of the mandible; all the teeth evenly spaced.

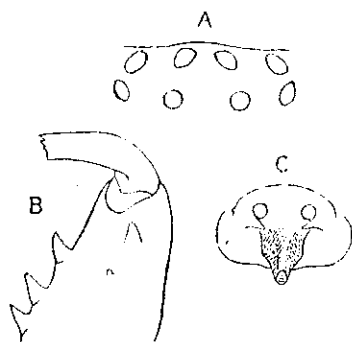
Legs 1, 4, 2, 3 in length. 1st leg with a superior basal spine on femur, the remaining segments unspined: 2nd leg with superior basal and anterior apical femoral spine, three inferior apical protarsal spines (sometimes one median inferior protarsal spine as well), and one inferior median tarsal spine: 3rd leg with one superior basal and three apical spines on femur, one superior, two or one anterior and two or one posterior, and two inferior apical spines on tibia; one superior, two anterior, two posterior, and five inferior, of which three are apical, on the protarsus, and six inferior spines on the tarsus: 4th leg with one superior basal and one posterior apical spine on femur, two or three posterior, three inferior spines, of which two are apical, on the tibia, and about twelve spines on the protarsus somewhat irregularly arranged as follows—two above, two behind, two in front, and three pairs beneath; the tarsus armed with about six spines: the protarsi of the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th legs furnished beneath with a pad of greyish hairs.

Vulva (text-fig. 78, C) formed upon the same plan as in the other species of the genus, the median excavation very shallow, the lateral teeth distinct and projecting inwards and downwards, the posterior median angle forming a rounded, smooth, sub-vertical prominence showing a shallow basal constriction.

Measurements in mm.: Total length 10, carapace 5; 1st leg 15, 2nd leg 11, 3rd leg 13, 4th leg 9.5.

Loc. Zanzibar. "Under stones at low tide" (*Cyril Crossland*).

Text-fig. 78.



Desis crosslandi.

A. Eyes from above. B. Distal extremity of right mandible from below. C. Vulva.

In a young specimen (about 2 mm. in length) the eyes have the same arrangement as in the adults, but are relatively much larger and consequently closer together; the mandibles are less prominent, and armed below with one outer and four inner teeth; the trochanter of the palp is small, not elongate; the maxillary processes are parallel-sided, lightly convergent, and obtusely rounded at the apex; and the labium is wider than long and almost semicircularly rounded marginally.

In the spacing of its eyes and the spine-armature of its legs this species is allied to *D. maxillosa*, *vorax*, *martensi*, and *marina*, which constitute a group hitherto believed to be restricted in range to the coasts lying between Singapore and New Zealand. Of these four species, the only two known to me are *D. martensi* from Singapore and *D. marina* from New Zealand and Australia. From both of these *D. crosslandi* differs in the form of the vulva and the closer spacing of the eyes. It resembles *D. marina* in the size and spacing of the two teeth on the posterior or outer side of the fang-groove of the mandible; but in *D. marina* the first tooth of the inner row is separated by a relatively wider space from the second than is the case in *D. crosslandi*.

Of the other two species, namely, *D. vorax* from Upolu and *D. maxillosa* from New Guinea, &c., I can only speak with hesitation, knowing them merely from the published figures and description. *D. crosslandi* apparently differs from both in the dentition of the mandible, the two outer teeth of the fang-groove being apparently equal and widely spaced in *D. vorax*, and close together and unequal in *D. maxillosa*, whereas in *D. crosslandi* they are unequal as in *D. maxillosa* and widely spaced as in *D. vorax*. No doubt other differences will be discovered when examples of the three species are compared side by side.