

Butler, A. G. 1879. On Arachnida from the Mascarene Islands and Madagascar. Proc. zool. Soc. Lond. 1879: 730-731.

Drassodes malagassicus (Butler, 1879)

1. DRASSUS MALAGASSICUS, n. sp. (Plate LVIII. figs. 3, 3 a, 3 b.)

♂. Mahogany-red; the cephalothorax with a broad ill-defined blackish longitudinal band on each side; the caput and a stripe on each side beyond the blackish bands clothed with depressed whitish pile; palpi, excepting the bulbus and under surface of body, horn-yellow; bulbus castaneous, clothed with pale brown hair above, black below; falces castaneous, clothed with pale hair; legs sparsely clothed with pale hair and with black spines; abdomen above brown, densely clothed with short pale greyish-brown hair.

Cephalothorax ovoid, truncated in front, very slightly indented in the middle behind, shelving at the sides, but flattened along the dorsal or central longitudinal region; sutural outline of the caput feebly indicated; margins of cephalothorax behind the caput regularly convex; abdomen oval, flattened or truncated in front, posterior extremity obtusely pointed; pectoral shield oval and indistinctly nine-sided; coxæ barrel-shaped, those of the two anterior pairs of legs with straight anterior and convex posterior margins. Relative length of the legs 1 and 4, 2, 3; relative length of joints as follows:—femoral joints—first pair $8\frac{1}{2}$ millimetres, second pair 7, third 6, fourth 8; tibial (including basitibial or knee-joint)—first pair 11, second 9, third 7, fourth 11; tarsal joints or tarsus—first $13\frac{1}{2}$, second $11\frac{1}{2}$, third 9, fourth 14. Falces large, with three conical denticles on the inferior margins, and with a powerful curved movable fang; palpi about 9 millimetres in length, with the bulbus large, pyriform, and incurved. Length of cephalothorax and abdomen together (exclusive of falces) 17 millimetres.

Antananarivo (*Kingdon*).

