

**FIRST RECORD OF JUMPING SPIDER
Colyttus yiwui (Lin & Li, 2020) (Salticidae) FROM VIETNAM**

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Abstract. The jumping spider *Colyttus yiwui* Lin & Li, 2020 (Araneae: Salticidae) is reported for the first time from Vietnam. Specimens, including both males and females, were collected through hand-picking from understorey vegetation in Son La Province, northwestern Vietnam, during fieldwork conducted in 2024 and 2025. The study provides detailed morphological descriptions, measurements, and illustrations of the genital structures for both sexes. The general morphology and genital structures of the specimens are consistent with the original description from Yunnan, China. This record extends the known distribution range of *Colyttus yiwui* southward from China to Vietnam, contributing new data on the Salticidae fauna of the Indochina region.

Keywords: Vietnam, new record, taxonomy, Araneae, Salticidae, *Colyttus yiwui*

1. Introduction

The genus *Colyttus* Thorell, 1891 [1] comprises a group of Southeast Asian jumping spiders characterized by male genitalia situated on a small cymbium, tegular lobe development, and a clearly visible seminal vesicle that forms a distinct S-shaped dome. These structures are typically elongated and club-shaped. The female reproductive organs feature a large, well-defined pit with a distinct margin, a septum, and a prominent copulatory opening (Peng, 2020) [2]. The genus *Colyttus* has 9 recorded species worldwide (World Spider Catalog, 2026) [3]. To date, only one species of *Colyttus* has been recorded from Vietnam, namely *Colyttus lehtineni* Zabka, 1985 [4].

Colyttus yiwui was originally described by Lin and Li (2020) [5] from Xishuangbanna, Yunnan, China, based on both sexes. Here, we report the first record of this species from Vietnam, extending its distributional range southwards and adding a new species record to the Vietnamese spider fauna.

The documentation of *Colyttus yiwui* in Vietnam is of significant scientific importance as it not only fills a gap in the distribution data of this genus in Southeast Asia but also underscores the high level of biodiversity and endemism in the montane forests of the Northwest. Furthermore, identifying new species records contributes to the overall assessment of the Vietnamese spider fauna, providing a scientific basis for conservation efforts and ecological monitoring in protected areas like the Copia Special-Use Forest. This finding emphasizes that many remote regions in Vietnam remain under-surveyed, highlighting the need for continued taxonomic research to fully document the country's rich biological heritage. This finding improves the current understanding of *Colyttus* diversity in Vietnam, bringing the total number of known species of this genus in the country to two.

2. Materials and methods

Specimens were collected by hand from the understorey vegetation in Son La Province, northwestern Vietnam:

(1) 1♂ & 5♀ Chieng Sinh ward (21° 18' 13.9" N; 103° 57' 26.6" E), 930 m, tropical forest, 2024 May. Phung Thi Diep, Doan Hoai Thu;

(2) 1♂ Nam Lau Commune, (21° 24' 3.2" N, 103° 40' 3.3" E) 950 m, Copia Special-Use Forest, October 2024. Vi Thi Thao My, Sung Ba Hung, Vu Long Vuong;

(3) 1♂ Chieng Coi ward (21° 18' 29.4" N, 103° 51' 2.5" E), 720 m, tropical forest, 2025 October. Nguyen Hong Ngoc, Hoang Thanh Thuong.

Specimens were preserved in 70% ethanol and examined under a Nikon SMZ2T stereomicroscope and an Olympus BX51 microscope. Female epigynes were dissected, cleared in 10% KOH, and photographed using a Sony A7IV attached to the microscope. All measurements are given in millimetres (mm). Leg lengths are presented as: total length (femur, patella, tibia, metatarsus, tarsus). Morphological terminology follows Lin & Li (2020) [5].

3. Results and discussion

Family: Salticidae Blackwall, 1841;

Genus: *Colyttus* Thorell, 1891;

Species: *Colyttus yiwui* Lin & Li, 2020

Description of male (Figure 1).

Average measurements of 3 male specimens: Total length 5.46 mm; carapace length 1.65 mm, width 2.08 mm; abdomen length 3.81 mm, width 2.15 mm. Eye sizes: AME 0.60, ALE 0.20, PME 0.40, PLE 0.40. Leg lengths: I – 8.67 (2.19, 2.28, 1.65, 0.84, 1.71); II – 5.86 (1.94, 0.98, 1.52, 0.82, 0.60); III – 7.56 (2.51, 1.09, 1.49, 1.52, 0.95); IV – 7.24 (2.22, 0.98, 1.79, 1.48, 0.77).

Habitus: Carapace yellowish brown with dark marginal bands; eye field dark brown with black eye rings; clypeus narrow and dark. Chelicerae are dark with two promarginal

and one retromarginal tooth. Sternum brown, oval. Legs are robust and black; other legs are pale yellow with darker annulations on the femora. Abdomen elongate-oval, dorsum with a pale herringbone-shaped pattern, covered with sparse brown setae. Spinnerets brownish.

Male palp: Cymbium longer than wide, covered with white setae; retrolateral tibial apophysis (RTA) relatively long, thin, and tapered; tegular bump longer than wide, with the development of the tegular lobe, and the seminal vesicles are clearly visible, forming an S-shape; embolus slender, slightly flattened, and blunt. The structure agrees well with the original figures of *Colyttus yiwui* (Lin & Li, 2020: Figure 1) [5].



Figure 1. *Colyttus yiwui* (Lin & Li, 2020) male. **A** – habitus, dorsal view; **B** – same, ventral view; **C** – left palp, ventral view; **D** – habitus, lateral view; **E** – same, frontal view. Scale bar: **A, B, D, E** = 1.0 mm; **C** = 0.1 mm.



Figure 2. *Colyttus yiwui* (Lin & Li, 2020) female. **A** – habitus, dorsal view; **B** – same, ventral view; **C** – same, lateral view; **D** – same, frontal view; **E** – epigyne, ventral view. Scale bar: **A - D** = 1.0 mm; **E** = 0.1 mm.

Description of female (Figure 2).

Average measurements of 3 female specimens: Total length 5.03 mm; carapace 1.62 long, 2.57 wide; abdomen 3.41 long, 2.51 wide. Eyes: AME 0.61, ALE 0.33, PME 0.35, PLE 0.28.

Habitus: Color pattern similar to that of the male, but generally lighter. Carapace yellowish brown, eye field brown; abdomen yellow with a pale herringbone-shaped band on the dorsal surface.

Epigyne: The female genitalia are pear-shaped, very broad, and the rear is slightly wider than the front; the genitalia are concave and divided into two halves by a median septum, with the copulatory opening located posteriorly; the spermatheca is oval-shaped, and the copulatory duct is unclear. The structure corresponds well with the type description from China.

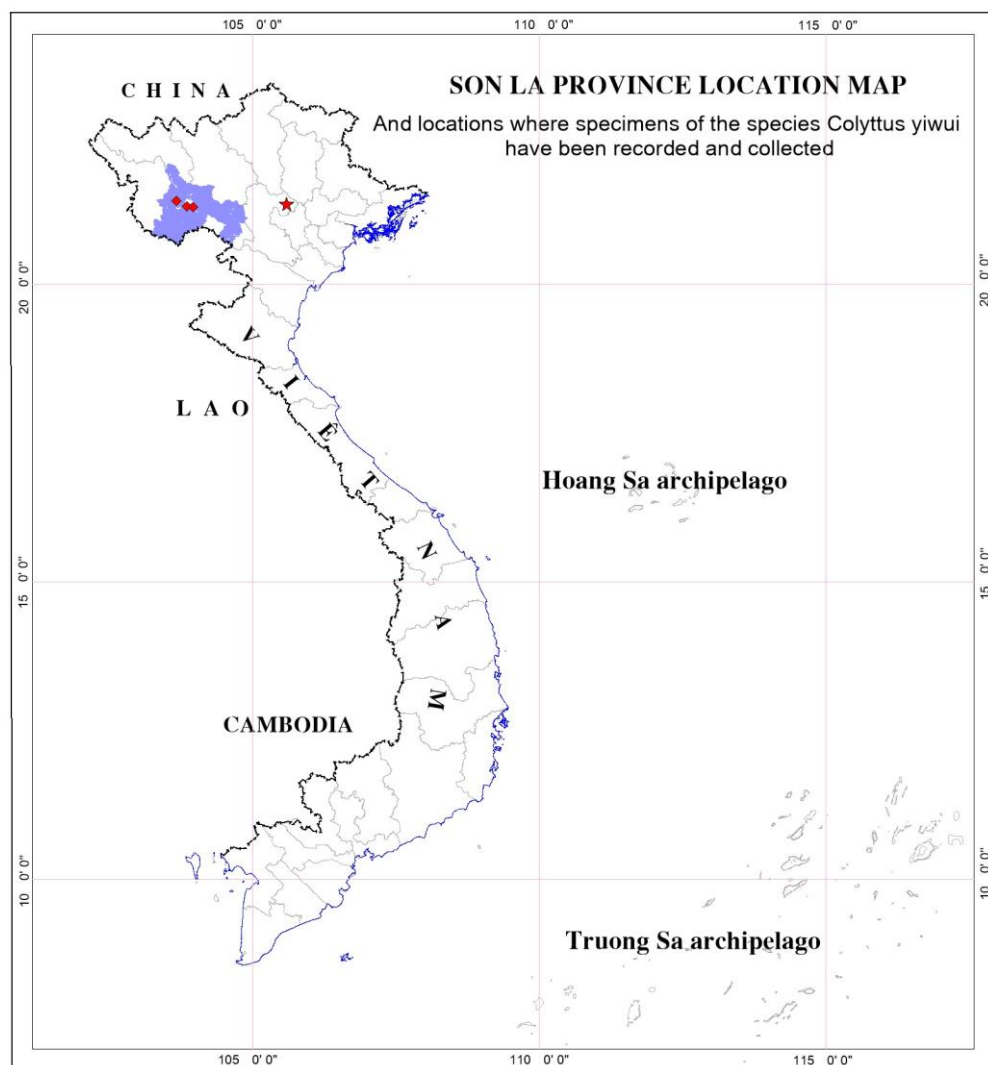


Figure 3. Map of *Colyttus yiwui* specimen collection locations from Son La province, northwestern Vietnam

Distribution:

Previously known only from Yunnan Province, China (Lin & Li, 2020). This is the first record of *Colyttus yiwui* from Vietnam, extending its distributional range southwards.

Discussion:

The Vietnamese specimens closely match the diagnostic characters of *Colyttus yiwui* as described by Lin & Li (2020) [5] in the original description, including the shape of the male palp and female epigyne. The discovery confirms the presence of this species in northern Indochina, suggesting biogeographic continuity between the spider faunas of southern China and northwestern Vietnam.

This record enriches the known diversity of Salticidae in Vietnam and highlights the importance of biodiversity surveys in the montane forests of the northwestern region.

4. Conclusions

This study records, for the first time, the jumping spider *Colyttus yiwui* Lin & Li, 2020 in Vietnam, based on specimens collected from Son La Province. The morphological characteristics and genital structures of both males and females are described in detail and found to be consistent with the original description of the species from Yunnan, China.

The discovery of *Colyttus yiwui* in northwestern Vietnam extends its known distribution range southward. These findings enrich the documented diversity of the family Salticidae in Vietnam, increasing the number of recorded *Colyttus* species in the country to two. Furthermore, this record emphasizes the high potential for discovering new species and new records in the montane forests of the Northwest.

Future research should focus on broader biodiversity surveys across different habitats in Son La and adjacent provinces to fully evaluate the distribution and ecological roles of *Colyttus yiwui* and other poorly known jumping spiders in Vietnam.

Note for contributor:

- Short bio: Vi Thi Thao My, Phung Thi Diep, and Nguyen Hong Ngoc are second-year students majoring in Biology Education at Tay Bac University, Vietnam; Sung Ba Hung is a third-year student majoring in Resource and Environmental Management at Tay Bac University, Vietnam; Hoang Thanh Thuong, Vu Long Vuong, Doan Hoai Thu, and Vu Duc Toan are lecturers at Tay Bac University, Vietnam.

- Author's contributions: Vi Thi Thao My: Field investigation in Nam Lau commune, manuscript writing; Sung Ba Hung: Field investigation in Nam Lau Commune, followed by specimen classification in the laboratory; Phung Thi Diep: Field investigation in the Chieng Sinh ward area, followed by specimen classification in the laboratory; Nguyen Hong Ngoc: Field investigation in the Chieng Coi ward area, followed by specimen classification in the laboratory; Hoang Thanh Thuong: Field data collection, field monitoring in Chieng Coi Commune, preparation of Figure 1; Vu Long Vuong: Field data collection, field monitoring in Nam Lau commune, preparation of Figure 2; Doan Hoai Thu: Field data collection, field monitoring in Chieng Sinh ward, preparation of Figure 3; Vu Duc Toan: Conceptualization, supervision, investigation, manuscript review, and editing.

Conflict of interest: The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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