

First records in Vietnam of *Chrysilla acerosa* Wang & Zhang 2012 and *Rhene flavicomans* Simon 1902 (Araneae: Salticidae)

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Abstract. Two jumping spiders, *Chrysilla acerosa* and *Rhene flavicomans*, are reported from Vietnam for the first time.

Here I report two jumping spiders, *Chrysilla acerosa* Wang & Zhang 2012 and *Rhene flavicomans* Simon 1902, from Nghe An province, north central Vietnam (Figures 1-4). Near midday on 2 June 2019 I observed and photographed a single female *C. acerosa*, on a galvanised steel road safety barrier at an elevation of approximately 80 metres in a remnant forested area adjacent to Vinh City, Nghe An, Vietnam (N18.646857, E105.699076). One half hour later I photographed a single male *R. flavicomans* on nearby vegetation. No specimens were collected for microscopic examination.



Figures 1-4. Salticids in Nghe An province, north central Vietnam. 1-3, Female *Chrysilla acerosa*. 4, Male *Rhene flavicomans*.

Identification of *Chrysilla acerosa* is based on photographs and illustrations posted on the internet (iNaturalist 2019b, Metzner 2019) and the original description of this species from Chongqing, China (Wang & Zhang 2012). *C. acerosa* now has over 40 posted photographic records from Hong Kong on the iNaturalist site (iNaturalist 2019b). Ahmed et al. (2014) described a new species, *C. assamensis*, from Sonitpur in India which has since been synonymised with *C. acerosa* (Caleb 2016). The Chinese records are over 1,000 km distant, and the Indian record over 1,500 km distant, from this new location in Vietnam.

Identification of *Rhene flavicomans* is also based on posted photographs and illustrations (iNaturalist 2019a, Metzner 2019). *R. flavicomans* was described over a century ago (Simon 1902) and has a primarily northern South Asian distribution (Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand; Metzner 2019). This observation represents a significant eastward extension into Southeast Asia.

This appears to be the first record of these species in the country, although several other species of *Chrysilla* and *Rhene* have been reported from Vietnam (Ono, Thinh & Sac 2012). Jumping spiders (Salticidae) constitute the largest of the spider families and collectively represent approximately 13% of all Araneae (Platnick 2012). Their diversity in Vietnam has been described as “practically unknown” as recently as 1985 (Žabka), and arachnid discoveries are not infrequent in the country (e.g. Logunov & Jäger 2015). As the Vietnamese jumping spider inventory currently numbers 103 species (Logunov 2008), it is a reasonable assumption that this is a significant undercount. Minimal, casual research effort has yielded a variety of Salticidae in this locality, representing several genera including *Chrysilla*, *Harmochirus*, *Phintella*, *Rhene*, *Siler*, *Telamonia* and *Thiania*. Here, as elsewhere in Vietnam, some focused attention would likely further expand the national salticid inventory.

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