



Short Communication

NEW RECORDS OF ACRIDOIDEA (INSECTA : ORTHOPTERA) FROM HARYANA, INDIA

The Superfamily Acridoidea includes short-horned grasshoppers and is one of the most sought after superfamilies of the order Orthoptera. They constitute an interesting and agriculturally important group of insects. They are moderate in size, but range from less than 10 mm to 65 mm. The form of body shape, head and thorax are diverse; antennae are filiform but sometimes ensiform; tarsi three segmented; hind femora long, slender and thick towards base and adapted for leaping; wings are either fully developed or reduced or absent; forewings in the form of leathery tegmina; hind wings fan like; male external genitalia complex, symmetrical and concealed, when not in use, by the enlarged ninth abdominal sternum (Subgenital plate). Male of most of these insects produce sound by different methods; female, generally, do not produce sound. They are also well adapted for flight since both direct and indirect muscles work together during flight movements thus explaining the reason that these insect can cover long distances during swarming conditions that mainly result from overcrowding and scarcity of food.

The most notable work on Indian grasshoppers was made by Kirby (1914) in "Fauna of British India, including Ceylon and Burma" wherein 329 species belonging to 124 genera under 8 subfamilies were dealt with.

The Acridoidea fauna of of Haryana has not been studied yet except Sharma (2013). The latter author gave an account of 27 species belonging to 2 families and 23 genera from Kalesar National Park & Wildlife Sanctuary.

The present paper deals with 2 new records

of Acridoidea under 2 genera and 1 family from the state, Haryana. Classification followed here is according to Uvarov (1966) and Shishodia *et al.* (2010).

ABBREVIATIONS USED

Coll.– Name of the Collector.

SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNT

Order ORTHOPTERA

Superfamily ACRIDOIDEA

Family ACRIDIDAE

Key to Subfamilies

1. Prosternal process usually absent; if present, then antenna ensiform and body strongly elongate.....**Acridinae**
- Prosternal process always present; antenna and body variable..... **Eyprepocnemidinae**

Subfamily ACRIDINAE

1. *Ceracris fasciata* (Brunner)

1893. *Parapleurus fasciatus* Brunner von Wattenwyl, *Ann. Mus. Civ. Stor. Nat. Giacomo Doria Genova, Ser 2, 13(33): 127.*

1951. *Ceracris fasciata*, Willeme, *Publties naturrh. Genoot Limburg, 4: 66.*

1990. *Ceracris fasciata*, Ingrisch, *Spixiana, 13: 178.*

Material examined: Gurgaon, Sultanpur NP: 2 males, 24-26.ix.2013 (Coll. N. Sharma & party).

Diagnosis: Medium-sized insects; general colour of the body dark brown, lateral carinae of pronotum broken, a little divergent anteriorly

in prozona and strongly divergent in metazona; antennae with white tips; tegmina dark-brown or blackish, except radial and anal areas; hind femora dark brown with black knee and a pale pre apical ring; hind tibiae black at base, followed by a white ring, rest blackish blue to dark brown.

Distribution: India: Assam, Haryana, Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. *Elsewhere:* Myanmar, S. China, and Thailand.

Subfamily EYPREPOCNEMIDINAE

2. *Cataloipus himalayensis* Singh & Tandon

1978. *Cataloipus himalayensis* Singh & Tandon, *Bull. Zoo. Surv. India*, **1**(1): 61.

Material examined: Gurgaon, Sultanpur NP: 3 male, 3 female, 24-26.ix.2013 (Coll. N. Sharma & party).

Diagnosis: Size medium to large; head smooth, vertex horizontal passing smoothly into the frontal

costa; pronotum with a well median carina, cut by three transverse sulci, principal sulcus placed well behind the middle; prosternal process spathulate, with broadly rounded apex, inclined backwards; tegmina slightly shorter than abdomen; in female subgenital plate almost truncated behind.

Distribution: India: Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Panjab, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh.

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NARENDER SHARMA

Zoological Survey of India, Northern Regional Centre,
218 Kaulagarh Road, Dehradun-248 195
Email : narender@scientist.com