



Short Communication

***DICRANOCENTRUS CERCIFER* (IMMS, 1912) MARI MUTT, 1979 (COLLEMBOLA : ENTOMOBRYIDAE) NEW RECORD FROM JHARKHAND, INDIA**

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Heteromuricus* described by Imms (1912) with *Heteromuricus cercifer* as its type species. Imms erected this new genus due to presence of a single median circus to the fifth abdominal segment which separates this genus from other known genera of Collembola. The other characters of this genus include: 1) Antennae 5-6 segmented; 2) 8+8 eyes; 3) body and furcula covered by apically rounded scales. Mari Mutt (1979) synonymized *Heteromuricus cercifer* Imms, 1912 as *Dicranocentrus cercifer* (Imms) owing to the similar characters of the genus *Dicranocentrus*.

Imms(1912) described this species from Calcutta on the basis of collection of 13 examples, taken under dead leaves at Calcutta (Indian Museum Collector, Jan. 14th-20th, 1908 and Feb, 18th, 1910). Imms described five-jointed antennae and did not mention about the presence of dental spines. Handschin (1929) recorded it from several localities in the Nilgiris (1600 to 2590 m) and described six jointed antennae and two rows of dental spines. After that Prabhoo (1971) recorded several examples from Wyanad, Kerala and described both five and six jointed antennae and four to five rows of dental spines.

The present collection is made from Pakur district, Jharkhand state as a part of Annual Action Plan of Research Work by Apterygota section.

Dicranocentrus cercifer (Imms, 1912) Mari Mutt, 1979

1912. *Heteromuricus cercifer* Imms, *Proc. Zool. Soc. London.*, 80-125
1929. *Heteromuricus cercifer* Handschin, *Rev. Suisse. Zool.*, **36**: 256.
1971. *Heteromuricus cercifer* Prabhoo, *Oriental Insects*, **5**: 1-46.

Material examined: Tussar Plantation garden, Littipada, Pakur distt., Jharkhand, 27.viii.2013, 6 exs., altitude: 69 meters (226 ft.), co-ordinates, Lat: 24°42'35.3" N and Long: 87°36'51.8"E, habitat: under leaf litter.

Diagnostic characters: Coloration: Ground colour of the body and furcula varies from whitish to dull ochre-yellow; the legs, antennae bluish-violet. The eyes on a black patch on each side of the head.

Head: Inclined at an angle of 45° with the long axis of the body; invested with scales and scattered setae. The eyes eight in number on each side; post antennal organs wanting.

Antennae: Equal in length to the furcula; five jointed, relative length index of Ant. I: II: III: IV: V as 1:10:12:25:14. The basal joint small and annular, provided with a whorl of short spine like setae ; the second and third joint scaled; the fourth and fifth joints clothed with closely-set whorls of short, curved hairs.

Body: Densely clothed with scales. The segments

mutually related in length as 6:6:5:6:8:12:4:1. Arising from the dorsal aspect of the fifth abdominal segment is a prominent median cercus nearly equal in length to the third abdominal segment. The cercus densely clothed with scales and provided ventrally with long slender setae. Possibly sensory, along the anterior border of the mesothorax is a "collar" or "frill" of stout setae, and a tuft of similar setae at the extremity of the abdomen.



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Furcula: The dentes related in length to the manubrium as 4:3. Dentes having spines. The mucrones small, armed with a curved terminal tooth, a single dorsal tooth and a basal spiniform tooth.

Distribution: Pakur (Jharkhand), Calcutta (W.B), Nilgiris (Tamil Nadu) and Wynad (Kerala).

Remarks: Imms(1912) described this species from Calcutta, West Bengal. After a long period nearly above 100 years, we have collected from Eastern India, Pakur district of Jharkhand state.

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