

A NEW SPECIES OF *LASIOCHILUS* REUTER (HETEROPTERA : ANTHOCORIDAE) FROM INDIA

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ABSTRACT

The genus *Lasiochilus* Reuter is recorded for the first time from the Indian mainland and a new species, *Lasiochilus indicus*, is described.

The subfamily Lasiophilinae Carayon (1972), recognised to be the most primitive of anthocorids, is characterised by the metathoracic scent gland canal curved backwards, second and third antennal segments with long setae, surface of pronotum and margins of hemelytra closely packed with setae, hamus arising from m-cu and split of the abdominal segment not extending beyond second tergite. This subfamily is not well represented in India with the exception of *Lasiochilus corticus* Reuter, reported from Nicobar Island (Distant, 1910). During the present investigation on Indian anthocorids the author has come across an interesting new species of *Lasiochilus* and this forms the first record of this genus from the Indian mainland.

Genus *Lasiochilus* Reuter

Lasiochilus Reuter, 1871, *Ofvers. K. Vetensk Akad. Forh.*, 5 : 562. Type species : *Lasiochilus pallidulus* Reuter

Body longly pilose. Head with apex produced and rostrum reaching intermediate coxae. Antennae long and pilose ; first

segment reaching apex of head, second incrassate at apex, remaining segments slender and filiform. Anterior margin of pronotum with collar well developed, basal margin slightly concave, lateral margins straight and densely setose. Ostiolar canal backwardly directed. Hemelytra covering abdomen ; longly pilose. Ovipositor well developed.

Lasiochilus indicus sp. nov.

(Fig. 1)

Colour : General body colour dark. Head, pronotum and scutellum brown ; rostrum yellowish brown, antennal segments I and II brown, III brown at base and yellow at apex, IV pale yellow. Embolium, cuneus, inner margin of clavus and corium brown, rest pale brown, membrane clouded. Legs yellowish brown. *Structure* : Body hirsute ; head almost as long as wide ; ocelli situated near posterior margin of eyes. Rostrum reaching base of midcoxae. Eyes with setae. Antero-lateral margins of pronotum broadly rounded and posterior margin a little concave. Ostiolar canal backwardly directed. Fore and hindfemora, a little incrassate, midfemora not thickened ;

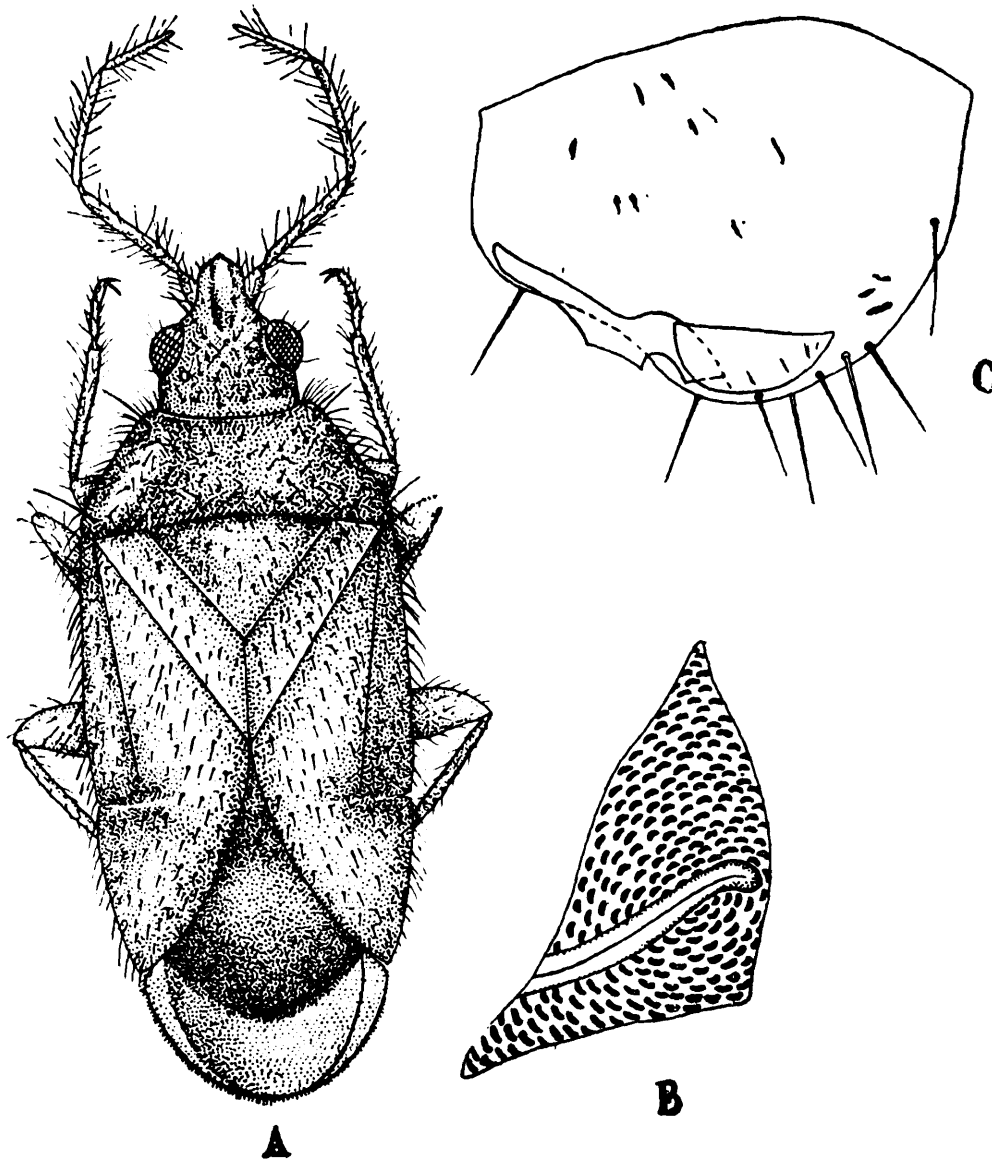


Fig. 1. *Lasiochilus indicus* sp. nov. A—Adult female, B—Metathoracic scent gland, C—Abdominal apex of male showing paramere.

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tibiae with strong spines and fore-tibiae with a setal cushion. Abdominal apex with long bristles. Genital clasper of male simple. Phallus very long and thorny.

Measurements in mm.	♂	♀
Total length of body	1.52	1.53—1.58
Length of head	0.31	0.33—0.35
Width across eyes	0.28	0.31—0.38
Length of rostrum	0.72	0.75—0.77

	♂	♀
Length of antennal segment I	0.10	0.10—0.12
do II	0.26	0.26—0.28
do III	0.22	0.25
do IV	0.22	0.25
Length of pronotum	0.20	0.25
Width of pronotum along posterior margin	0.55	0.57

Holotype : ♂ (Reg. No. 378/H 15) on slide, INDIA : Tamil Nadu, Madras 10.1.1972,

Coll. *Muraleedharan*, Paratypes : 5 ♀ ♀ (Reg. No. 379/H 15) in spirit, data same for holotype.

The species, resembles *Lasiochilus perminutus* Poppius (1909) in general appearance but the presence of setae on eyes and nature of male genitalia make this species distinct.

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