

**DYTISCIDAE : COLEOPTERA FROM HIMACHAL PRADESH WITH
DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES**

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ABSTRACT

This is a report on the collection of Dytiscidae received for identification from the High Altitude Field Station of the Zoological Survey of India, Solan, in connection with fauna of India project. It comprises 22 species spread over 10 genera including one new species. Seven species are being reported from Himachal Pradesh for the first time, for which remarks have been given, only the material examined has been mentioned for the other species. For bibliography and distribution, reference may be made to Catalogue of Oriental Dytiscidae by the author (1977).

Order COLEOPTERA

Family DYTISCIDAE

Subfamily LACCOPHILINAE

1. *Laccophilus inefficiens* Walker

Material examined—1 ex, Sirmour, 29. vii. 1972 (*M. Chandra*)

2. *Laccophilus flexuosus* Aube

Material examined—6 ex, Sirmour, 29. vii. 1972 (*M. Chandra*).

Subfamily HYDROPORINAE

3. *Hyphydrus renardri* Severin

Material examined—5 ex, Sirmour, 29. vii. 1972 (*M. Chandra*).

Remarks—This species extends from Rajasthan in the West to Burma in the East

and Tamil Nadu in the South ; but it is not so far known from Himachal Pradesh, which constitutes a new record from that state and extends its Northern limits.

4. *Hyphydrus lindamannae* Guignot

Material examined—5 ex, Sirmour, 29. vii. 1972 (*M. Chandra*).

Remarks—This is the first record of this species since it was described from Rawalpindi in Pakistan. This present report, extends the range of the distribution of species, to the East and represents its first record from India.

5. *Potamonectes belli* Vazirani

Material examined—2 ex, Sirmour, 29. vii. 1972 (*M. Chandra*) ; 10 ex, Bilaspur Dist. : Changar Khud, 11. viii. 1972 (*K. K. Mahajan*).

6. *Potamonectes (s. sth.) satie* n. sp.
(Figs. 1A & B)

Holotype—1 ♂ India: Himachal Pradesh: Sirmour, 29. vii. 1972 (*M. Chandra*) Reg. No 8443/H₄A, Paratype—1 ex, Reg. No 8444/H₄A with same particulars as holotype; in the National Zoological Collections, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta.

Length—4.7-4.9 mm.

Head—testaceous; antennae testaceous, surface micro-reticulate; punctuation fine and dense, separated by less than its own diameter.

Pronotum—testaceous; black along the middle of anterior and posterior borders;

reticulation similar but more impressed than on head; punctuation on disc fine and dense but a little larger than on head, also with a few larger scattered punctures; some irregular 2-3 rows of punctures along the middle of anterior and posterior borders; sides rebordered, slightly convex; posterior angles a little obtuse; somewhat depressed towards the base behind the disc.

Elytra—testaceous, with 6-7 black lines, excluding the sutural line, confluent at places; base not broader than the pronotum, pronoto-elytral angle not so prominent; two normal series of longitudinal/strial punctures distinct; reticulation prominent giving the surface mat appearance; punctuation moderate and very dense; some larger scattered punctures also

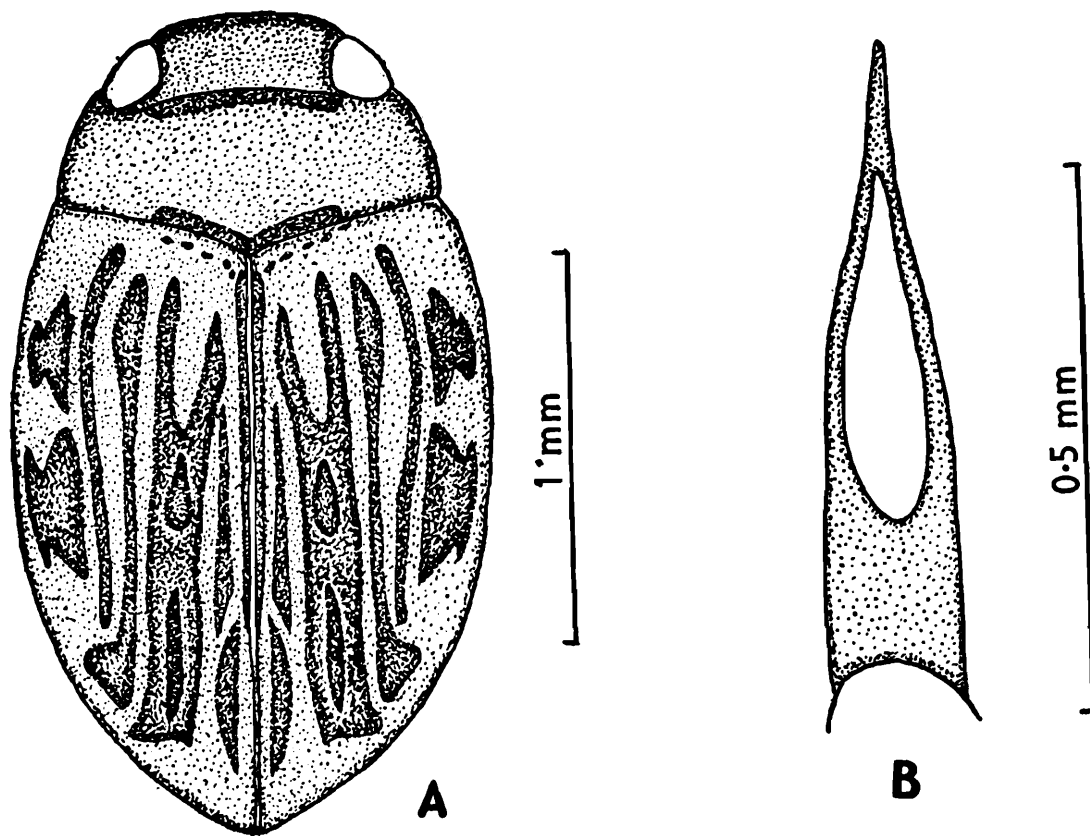


Fig. 1. *Potamonectes satie* n.sp., A—Dorsal view (with out legs). B—Dorsal view of penis.

present between the striae ; lateral margin without any teeth in the apical portion.

Ventral side—black except the legs, mid metasternum, median portion of abdominal sternites and epipleurae, which are ferruginous ; hind coxal lines entire, quite divergent in anterior half ; metasternum moderately punctate except narrow posterior portion.

Male—fore and middle tibiae with the basal three segments feebly dilated ; anterior tarsal claws unequal ; inner about half the length of outer ; penis (fig. 1B) acuminate in the apical one-third, strongly (about 90°) curved at base ; sides subparallel, then suddenly narrowing to the pointed apex.

Remarks—This species is closely related to the widely distributed species *griseostriatus* (Degeer) in the absence of antiapical denticles on lateral borders of elytra. However it differs from it in (i) head testaceous, without any markings, (ii) shape of pronotum normal, not trapezoidal, (iii) penis abruptly narrowed in apical one-third portion and pointed at apex as against not abruptly narrowed and blunt at apex.

Distribution—India.

Subfamily COLYMBETINAE

7. *Platynectes kashmirenus* Balfour Browne

Material examined—1 ex, Sirmour, 29. vii. 1972 (*M. Chandra*) ; 11 ex, Simla Dist. : Kaula Vill. near Matiana, 19. xi. 1972 (*H. P. Agarwal*).

8. *Agabus (Gaurodytes) conspersus* (Marshall)

Material examined—2 ex, Simla Dist. : Kufri, 28. xii. 1972 (*M. Chandra*)

9. *Agabus (G.) debilipes* Regimbart

Material examined—5 ex, Simla Dist. : Kaula Vill. near Matiana, 19. xi. 1972 (*H. P. Agarwal*)

10. *Agabus (G.) amoenus sinuaticollis* Regimbart

Material examined—1 ex, Simla Dist. : Kufri, 28. xii. 1972 (*M. Chandra*)

11. *Agabus (Dichonectes) nitidus* (Fabricius)

Material examined—1 ex, Simla Dist. : Kaula Vill. near Matiana, 19. xi. 1972 (*H. P. Agarwal*).

12. *Rhantus taprobanicus* Sharp

Material examined—15 ex, Simla Dist. : Kaula Vill. near Matiana 19. xi. 1972 ; 4 ex, Simla Dist. : Tara Devi, on Simla-Kalka road, 10. iv. 1972 ; 4 ex, Sirmour Dist. : Tikker near Sarhan, 27. ix. 1973 ; 3 ex, Solan Dist. : 5 km. from Arki, 20. iv. 1972—all *H. P. Agarwal* Colln. ; 1 ex, Sirmour, 29. vii. 1972 ; 3 ex, Simla Dist. : Kufri, 28. xii. 1972—all *M. Chandra* Coll.

Remarks : It is so far known from—INDIA : Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Meghalaya, W. Bengal, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry, besides Pakistan and Sri Lanka. It is now being reported from Himachal Pradesh.

13. *Rhantus sexualis* Zimmermann

Material examined—5 ex, Simla Dist. : Kufri, 28. xii. 1972 ; 1 ex, Sirmour, 29. vii. 1972—all *M. Chandra* Coll.

Subfamily DYTISCINAE

14. *Eretes sticticus* (Linn.)

Material examined—1 ex, Solan, 24. x. 1971 (M. Chandra).

15. *Hydaticus* (Gignotites) *incertus* Regimbart

Material examined—3 ex, Simla Dist. : Chail, 16. iv. 1972 ; 3 ex, Simla Dist. : Tara Devi, on Simla-Kalka road, 10. iv. 1972 ; 1 ex, Solan Dist. : 5 km. from Arki, 20. iv. 1972 ; 1 ex, (all H. P. Agarwal Coll.) ; Bilaspur Dist. : Changar Khud, 11. viii. 1972 (K. K. Mahajan).

16. *Hydaticus* (G.) *histrion* Clark

Material examined—1 ex, Solan Dist. : 5 km. from Arki, 26. iv. 1972 (H. P. Agarwal) ; 1 ex, Sirmour Dist. : Tikker near Sarhan, 27. ix. 1973 (H. P. Agarwal) ; 1 ex, Bilaspur Dist. : Swarghat, 20. viii. 1972 (K. K. Mahajan).

17. *Hydaticus* (G.) *vittatus* Clark

Material examined—9 ex, Sirmour Dist. : Tikker near Sarhan, 27. ix. 1973 (H. P. Agarwal) ; 1 ex, Bilaspur Dist. : Swarghat, 20. viii. 1972 (K. K. Mahajan).

18. *Sandracottus dejeani* Aube

Material examined—1 ex, Sirmour, 29. vii. 1972 (M. Chandra), 1 ex, Bilaspur Dist. : Bhakra Reservoir, 24. viii. 1972 ; 2 ex, Bilaspur Dist. : Swarghat, 20. viii. 1972 (K. K. Mahajan).

Remarks : Though quite common and widely distributed in India : Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu besides Pakistan, it is now being reported from Himachal Pradesh for the first time. It indicates its North-Western limit.

19. *Sandracottus festives* (Illiger)

Material examined—8 ex, Bilaspur Dist. :

Swarghat, 20. viii. 1972 (K. K. Mahajan) ; 2 ex, Sirmour, 29. vii. 1972 (M. Chandra) ; 1 ex, Sirmour Dist. : Tikker near Sarhan, 27. ix. 1973 (H. P. Agarwal).

Remarks : Though not so common as *S. dejeani*, this is also quite widely distributed in India : Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Punjab and Tamil Nadu besides Pakistan, Sri Lanka & China. It is now being reported from Himachal Pradesh for the first time.

20. *Cybister* (Melanectes) *posticus* Aube

Material examined—1 ex, Sirmour, 29. vii. 1972 (M. Chandra) ; 1 ex, Solan Dist. : 5 km. from Arki 24. x. 1971 (M. Chandra) ; 1 ex, Bilaspur Dist. : Swarghat, 20. viii. 1972 (K. K. Mahajan) ; 1 ex, Simla Dist. : Tara Devi, on Simla-Kalka road, 10. iv. 1972 (H. P. Agarwal).

Remarks : So far known in India : Assam, Manipur, Maharashtra, W. Bengal and Bangla Desh, it is now being reported from Himachal Pradesh for the first time. It thus extends the range of distribution to North-Western India.

21. *Cybister* (Meganectes) *cognatus* Sharp

Material examined—2 ex, Solan Dist. : 5 km. from Arki, 24. x. 1971 (M. Chandra).

Remarks : It is known from India : Bihar, West Bengal, Maharashtra & Goa and extends up to Indonesia in the East. The present record extends the range of its distribution to Himachal Pradesh.

22. *Cybister* (M.) *tripunctatus asiaticus* Sharp

Material examined—1 ex, Solan Dist. : 5 km. from Arki, 24. x. 1971 (M. Chandra).

REFERENCE

VAZIRANI, T. G. 1977. Catalogue of Oriental Dytiscidae. *Rec. zool. Surv. India, Occ. Pap.*, 6: 1-111.