

ON THE NEW RECORDS OF CENTIPEDES (SCOLOPENDROMORPHA :
SCOLOPENDRIDAE) FROM MADHYA PRADESH, INDIA

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ABSTRACT

A brief account of Centipedes (Scolopendridae) from Madhya Pradesh has been given here. A total of 9 species under 4 genera have been recorded, 8 of which are reported for the first time from this area.

INTRODUCTION

The Scolopendromorph fauna of Madhya Pradesh has not been studied so far. Keeping this in view, the author undertook the study of the unnamed material present in the collection of Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta. The study reveals the occurrence of 9 species out of which 8 are not so far recorded from these areas. Variations from the published descriptions (Attems, 1930 ; Gravely, 1910 and Jangi, 1955) have also been recorded.

1. *Asanada agharkari* (Gravely)

1912. *Pseudocryptops agharkari* Gravely, *Rec. Indian Mus.*, 7 : 417.

Specimens examined. : 1 ex. Rest House at Bargi, Dist. Jabalpur, 29.vi.1965, *H. Khajuria* coll. ; 3 ex. Pachmarhi, 15.xii. 1927, *H. S. Pruthi* coll. ; 1 ex. Ghorela, Dist. Balaghat, 3.iii.1961, *B. S. Lamba* coll.

Measurements. : Body length varies from 25 mm to 31 mm.

Known distribution. : INDIA : MAHARASHTRA.

Remarks. : The characters of the speci-

mens agree well with the revised description of the same by Jangi (1978).

2. *Cormocephalus dentipes* Pocock

1891. *Cormocephalus (C). dentipes* Pocock, *Ann. nat. Hist.*, 7 (6) : 66.

Specimens examined. : 2 ex. Amarkantak, Dist. Shahdol, Jan. 1927, *H. S. Pruthi* coll. ; 1 ex. Lamata Ghat ; Dist. Jabalpur, 16.vii. 1966, *V V Rao* coll.

Measurements. : The length of the body ranges from 28 mm to 38 mm.

Known distribution. : INDIA : WEST BENGAL, and DELHI.

Remarks. : The number of spines on anal legs varies from 18-19. Tergal margination is restricted to the last 6-8 tergites.

3. *Rhysida longipes longipes* (Newport)

1845. *Branchiostoma longipes* Newport, *Trans. Linn. Soc. Lond.*, 19 : 411.

1930. *Rhysida longipes longipes* Attems, *Das Tierreich*, 54 : 194.

Specimens examined. : 3 ex. Ghorela, Dist.

Balaghat, 13.ii.1954, *A. Hossain* coll. ; 7 ex.
Gala Sankar, 22.i.1954. *S. Biswas*.

Measurements : The length of the body varies from 43 mm to 72 mm.

Known distribution. : INDIA : MAHARASHTRA ; WEST BENGAL.

Remarks. : This is a medium sized centipede. The specimens agree fairly well with the characters of the species described by Attems (1930).

4. *Rhysida nuda immarginata* (Porat)

1876. *Branchiostoma immarginatum* Porat *Bih. K. svenska. Vetensk. Akad. Handl.*, 4 : 24.

1930. *Rhysida nuda immarginata* Attems *Das Tierreich*, 54 : 190.

Specimens examined. : 1 ex. Amkhas Vill. Dist. Jabalpur, 24.vi.1963, *S. Chakrapany* coll. ; 1 ex. Katangi Road, 20.vi.1961, *R. C. Sharma*, coll.

Measurements. : Body length varies from 38 mm to 53 mm.

Known distribution. : INDIA, ANDAMAN ISLAND, ASSAM, WEST BENGAL.

Remarks.—Antennal segments vary from 20 to 22 ; in one specimen, last three tergites marginate, in another only the last. Number of spines on anal legs varies from 3-4.

5. *Rhysida nuda nuda* (Newport)

1845. *Branchiostoma nudum* Newport, *Trans. Linn. Soc. Lond.*, 19 : 412.

1930. *R. n. nuda* Attems, *Das Tierreich.*, 54 : 190.

Specimens examined. : 1 ex. Ghorella, Dist. Balaghat, 17.ii.1954, *H. Khajuria* coll. ; 1 ex. Gourighat, Dist. Jabalpur, 23.vii.1962 ; *S. Chakrapany* coll. ; 1 ex. Amarkantak, Dist. Shahdol, 20.v.1962, *P. Singh* coll.

Measurements. : The length of the body ranges from 50 mm -87 mm.

Remarks. : This is a medium sized centipede, found usually under stones, bricks and also in moist soil. A large and rare specimen is being reported for the first time from India.

6. *Scolopendra morsitans* Linn.

1758. *Scolopendra morsitans* Linn., *Syst. Nat. Ed.*, 10 : 638.

Specimens examined : 1 ex. Forest Rest House at Joga, Dist. Hosangabad. 14.xii. 1965, *H. P. Agrawal* coll. ; 1 ex. Gopalpur vill., Dist. Jabalpur 14.i.1961, *H. K. Khajuria* coll., 1 ex. Kanha National Park, Dist. Mandala, 10.vi. 1964, *O. B Chhotani* coll.

Measurements : The length of the body ranges from 61 mm to 94 mm.

Known distribution. : Cosmopolitan in distribution.

Remarks : This is a most common centipede and is usually found in dwelling houses and in other habitats such as under bricks, stones or fallen wood in damp soil. Different patterns of spines arrangements on anal legs such as 2 : 3 : 2-2 : 2 ; 2 : 2 : 2-2 : 2 ; 3 : 3 : 3-2 : 2 are present.

7. *Scolopendra amazonica* Bucherl

1946. *S. morsitans amazonica* Bucherl, *Mem. Inst. Butantan*, 19 : 135.

1959. *S. amazonica* Jangi, *Ent. News*, 70 : 253.

Specimens examined : 2 ex. Handia vill., Dist. Hoshangabad, 21.xii. 1965 ; *H. P. Agrawal* coll. ; 3 ex. Khetgaon, Rewa State, Fob. 1929, *H. S. Pruthi* coll. ; 2 ex. Sibia, Dist. Jabalpur, 24.xii.1961, *P. Singh* coll.

Measurements : Body length varies from 46 mm to 49 mm.

Known distribution : INDIA : ANDAMAN and NICOBAR ISLANDS, MAHARASHTRA.

Remarks : This is one of the commonest

centipede. Spines on anal legs vary from 14-17. The specimens have been collected from forest areas.

8. *Scolopendra subspinipes dehaani* Brandt

1840. *Scolopendra dehaani* Brandt *Bull. Ac.*, 7 : 152.

1930. *Scolopendra s. dehaani* Attems, *Das Tierreich*, 54 : 31.

Specimens examined. : 2 ex. Jabalpur, Dist. Jabalpur, 29. x.1929, S. H. Rebeiro coll.

Measurements : Body length varies from 149 mm to 151 mm.

Known distribution : INDIA : ANDAMAN and NICOBAR ISLANDS, TAMIL NADU (MADRAS), WEST BENGAL.

Remarks : This is a large variety of centipede and agrees well in characters described by Attems (1930). The specimens have been collected from under the stones.

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