

A NEW SPECIES OF *FORFICULA* LINNAEUS AND NEW RECORDS OF *FORFICULA*
DAVIDI (DERMAPTERA : FORFICULIDAE) FROM INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Forficula asketi sp. nov. is described and *Forficula davidi* Burr is recorded for the first time from India.

INTRODUCTION

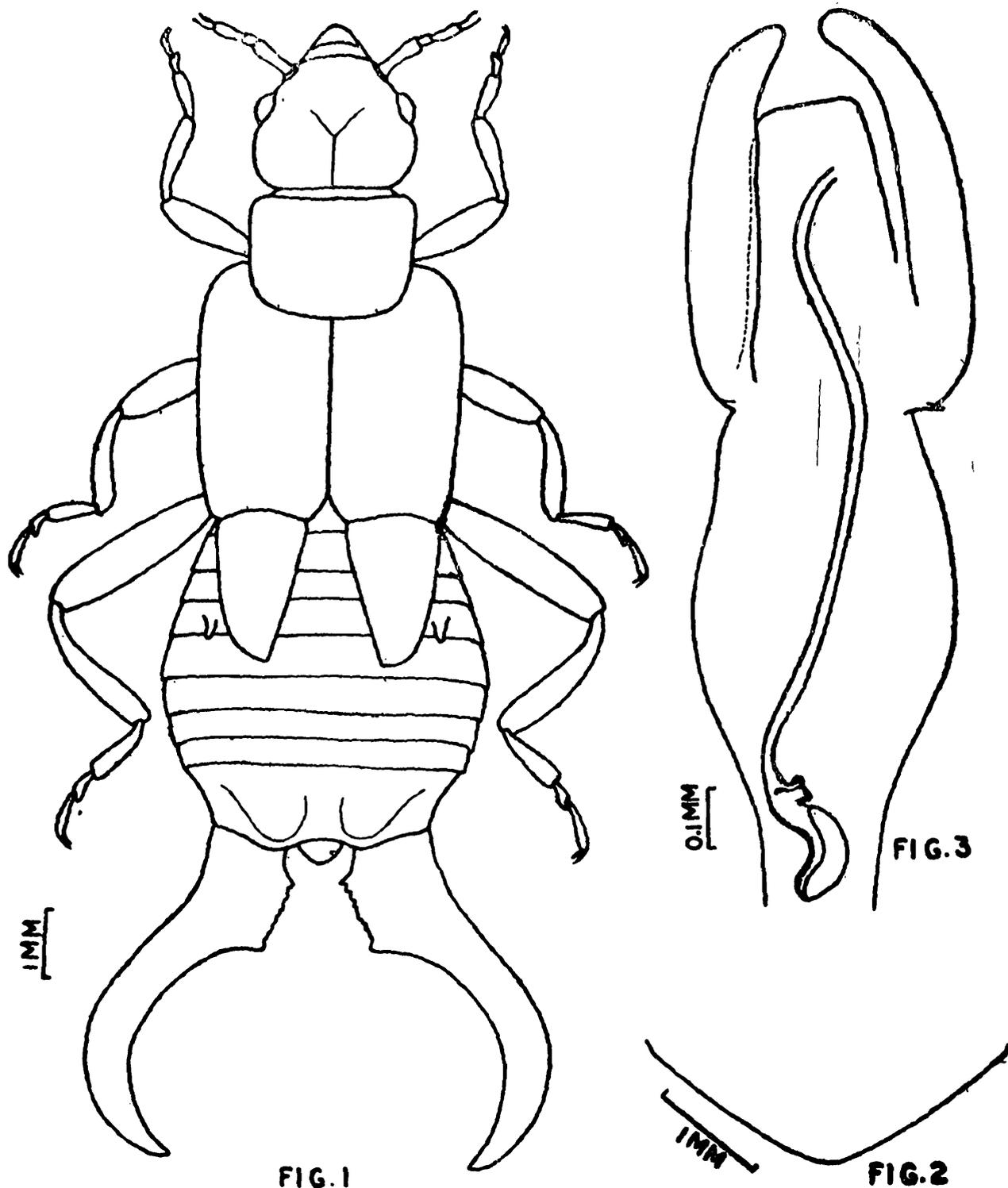
Forficula Linnaeus, 1758 is mainly Oriental, Ethiopian and Palaearctic, but also occurs in the Australian and Malagassian Regions. Of 72 species of this genus, Steinmann (1973) recognized 27 from the Oriental Region, to which Brindle (1975) added three more from Bhutan. Examination of a recent collection of earwigs from the western Himalayas in Himachal Pradesh, India has revealed the existence of a new species, *Forficula asketi*, which is described below. Another species, *Forficula davidi* Burr, 1905 is recorded for the first time from India.

The type specimens will be deposited in the National Zoological Collection, Z. S. I., Calcutta in due course of time.

Forficula asketi sp. nov. (Figs. 1-3)

Male : General colour shiny black, legs unicolourous, brownish. Head smooth, broader than long, tumid, occiput depressed, epicranial suture distinct. Antennae 10-

segmented, 1st segment long, stout, 2nd small, 3rd longer than 4th but slightly shorter than 5th, remaining long and cylindrical. Pronotum coriaceous, about one and a half times broader than long, lateral margins straight, slightly reflexed, posterior margin rounded. Elytra coriaceous, humeral angles weak, posterior margin concave. Wings well-developed, coriaceous. Legs slender, tibiae and tarsi densely pubescent below, hind leg with first tarsal segment almost as long as the combined length of second and third. Abdomen convex, sparsely punctulate, lateral tubercles on 3rd tergite slightly and on 4th well-developed. Penultimate sternite with posterior margin broadly rounded (Fig. 2). Ultimate tergite smooth, about three times broader than long, faintly tumid above the roots of forceps, posterior margin trisinate. Pygidium distinct, small, broader than long, obtuse. Forceps short, concave externally, dilated internally in basal one third with margin straight and crenulate, branches strongly bowed in distal two third, tapering



Figs. 1-3. *Forficula asketi* sp. nov., ♂ : 1. dorsal view ; 2. penultimate sternite ; 3. genitalia.

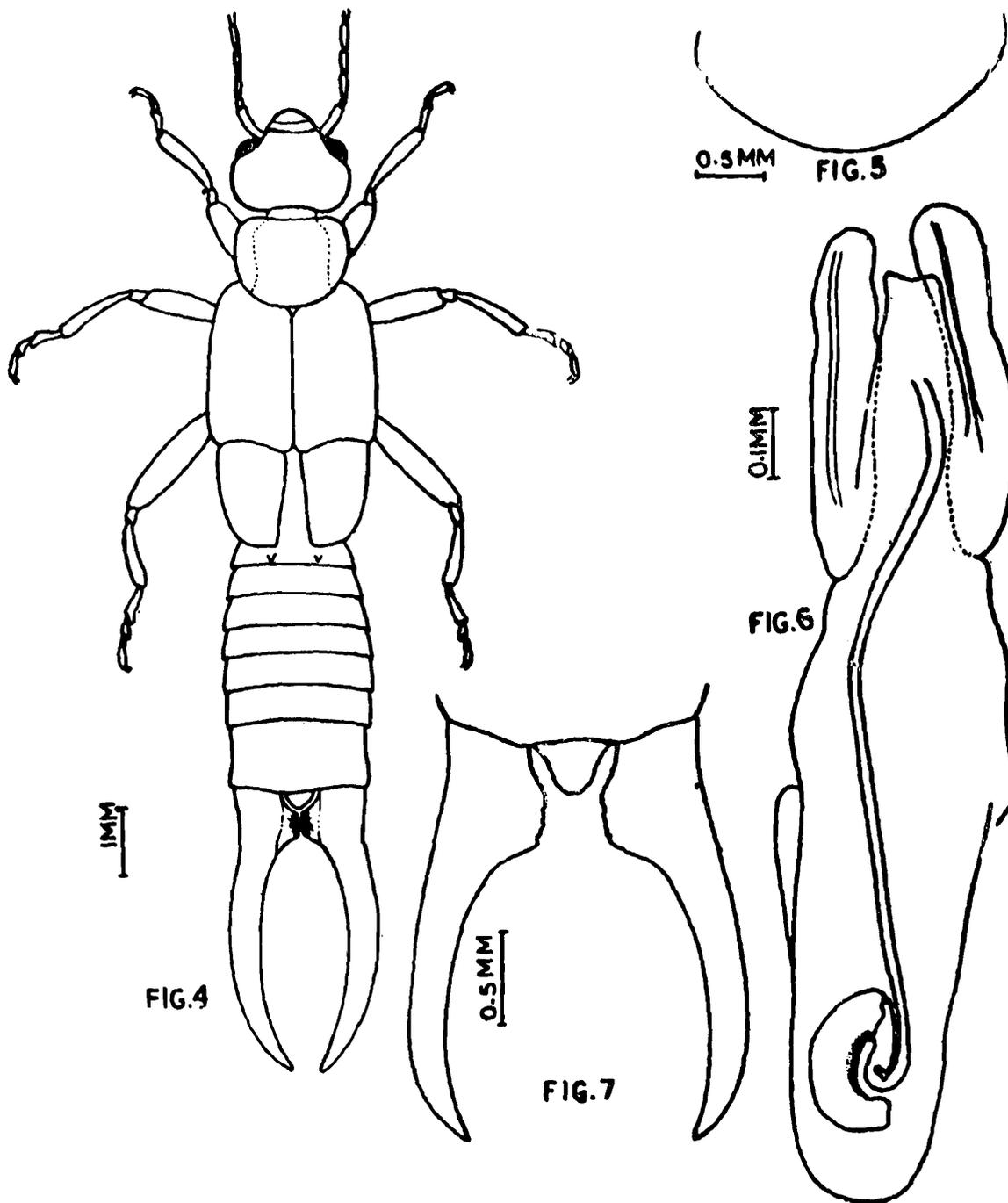
with apices bluntly pointed (Fig. 1). Genitalia as in Fig. 3.

Length : Body 10.2-10.8 mm. ; forceps 4.1-4.4 mm.

Female ; Unknown.

Holotype ♂, INDIA : HIMACHAL PRADESH : Sirmour district, Kotla, nr. Habban, 2092 m, 24.v.1980, J. M. Julka & G. L. Purohit. *Paratype* : 1 ♂, same data as for the holotype.

F. asketi sp. nov. is closely related to *F.*



Figs. 4-7. *Forficula davidi* Burr, ♂ : 4, dorsal view ; 5, penultimate sternite ; 6, genitalia ; 7, ultimate tergite, pygidium and forceps.

schlagintweiti (Burr, 1904) and *F. bhutanensis* Brindle, 1975 in having unicolourous legs, pronotum strongly transverse and perfect elytra and wings. It can be readily distinguished from both these species by the deplinate forceps in the basal one third which in

the latter are in the basal one fourth only. The abdomen in *schlagintweiti* is smooth, whereas in *asketi* it is sparsely punctulate. This species is named after Dr. Asket Singh, Officer-in-Charge, High Altitude Zoology Field Station, Zoological Survey of India, Solan.

Forficula davidi Burr (Figs. 4-7)

Forficula davidi Burr, 1905, *Ent. mon. Mag.* (ser. 2), 16 : 86. ♂, China : Mou-Pin, Szechwan ; Burr, 1911, *Genera Insectorum* : 81 ; Borelli, 1915, *Boll. Mus. zool. Anat. comp., Torino*, 30 (698) : 2 ; Bey-Bienko, 1934, *Ark. Zool.*, (20) 25A : 6 ; Bey-Bienko, 1959, *Ent. Obozr.*, 38 : 617 ; Bey-Bienko, 1967, *Acta ent. bohém.*, 64 : 431 ; Srivastava, 1976, *Rec. zool. Surv. India, Occ. Pap.*, 2 : 62.

Male : General colour black, legs, elytra and wings light brown. Head smooth, broader than long, tumid, epicranial suture indistinct. Antennae 12-segmented, 1st segment long, stout, 2nd small, 3rd slightly longer than 4th but shorter than 5th, remaining long and cylindrical. Pronotum coriaceous, broader than long, slightly narrowed posteriorly, lateral margins pale, slightly convex, angles rounded, prozona somewhat tumid. Elytra about twice as long as pronotum, humeral angles weak, posterior margin concave. Wings well-developed. Legs slender, tibiae and tarsi pubescent below, hind leg with first tarsal segment almost as long as the combined length of second and third. Abdomen punctate, fairly dilated, lateral tubercles on 3rd tergite slightly and 4th well-developed. Penultimate sternite with posterior margin broadly rounded (Fig. 5). Ultimate tergite punctate, about twice as broad as long, faintly tumid above the roots of forceps, posterior margin trisinate. Pygidium distinct, elongated, posterior margin rounded. Forceps large, slightly concave externally, dilated internally in basal about one fifth with margin crenulate, branches gradually bowed distally, tapering with apices bluntly pointed (Fig. 7). Genitalia as in Fig. 6.

Length : Body 7.2-9 mm ; forceps 2-3.4 mm.

Female : Essentially similar to the male except that the forceps are contiguous and the posterior margin of the ultimate tergite is broadly rounded.

Length : Body 8-8.6 mm ; forceps 1.4-1.6 mm.

Material examined : INDIA : HIMACHAL PRADESH : Sirmour district, Habban, 2334 m, 6 ♂♂, 7 ♀♀, 24.v.1980, J. M. Julka & G. L. Purohit.

This species, so far known from China, is recorded for the first time from India.

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