

XV ON A SUB-SPECIES OF *SCUTIGERELLA*
UNGUICULATA, HANSEN, FOUND
IN CALCUTTA.

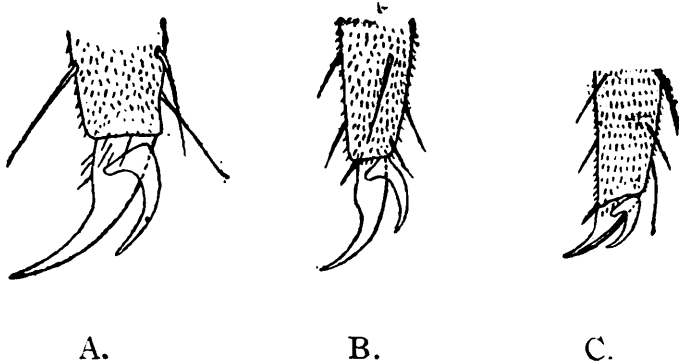
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When hunting for insects under pieces of brick round the Museum tank between March 10 and March 19 of this year (1910), I was fortunate enough to find, close to the water's edge, six specimens of a little white centipede which proved to belong to the interesting genus *ScutigereUa*, and to Hansen's Venezuela species *unguiculata* (Hansen, 1904, pp. 34—36, pl. ii, figs. 2a—2k).

The only previous record of any specimen of Symphyla from the Museum compound—or indeed from Bengal—was made by Wood-Mason (1876, p. 175), who “ exhibited specimens of a species of *Iapyx* which he had recently found amongst the decaying leaves and fungi at the foot of a bamboo-clump in his own garden at Calcutta,” and mentions as one of the creatures found in association with it “ a species of the very remarkable genus *Scolopendrella*.” This record appears to have been made in the month of August when the ground would be much wetter than in March, and as the few remaining bamboo-clumps in the garden are at present much too dry to harbour Symphyla at their base, it seems reasonable to suppose that this so-called “ *Scolopendrella* ” was in reality the species of *ScutigereUa*—this genus was not yet established when Wood-Mason wrote—which now occurs beside the tank. Its present distribution round the tank appears to be extremely limited, however, for it has only been found near the north-east corner, although I have carefully searched for it along all four banks. Since writing the above I have also found a few specimens in the drier neighbourhood of the rubbish-heap near the north-east corner of the tank.

The only named species of Symphyla previously known from India is *ScutigereUa subunguiculata*, Imms, which was found at a height of about 9,000 feet up in the Himalayas in the native state of Tehri Garhwal (Imms, 1908). This species, as its name suggests, is very closely allied to *S. unguiculata*, and it is curious to find that the Calcutta specimens depart from the typical form of the latter in the direction of this Himalayan species. Thus, though the two species may be most easily distinguished from each other by the form of the claws of the twelfth foot, in the Calcutta

specimens this foot bears a distinct front seta¹ (see text-figure); the size of the Calcutta specimens (up to 4 mm.) is rather greater than that of any of Hansen's numerous specimens; and the sinus on the posterior margin of the penultimate segment is perhaps hardly as great as in the type. On account of these differences between the Calcutta specimens and the type the former may be regarded as belonging to a local race for which I propose the subspecific name *indica*.



- A. Claws of twelfth foot of *S. unguiculata*, Hansen (after Hansen).
 B. Claws of twelfth foot of *S. unguiculata (indica)*.
 C. Claws of twelfth foot of *S. subunguiculata*, Imms (after Imms).
 All drawn to one scale (diam. $\times 330$ about).
 The shape of the claw of *S. unguiculata (indica)* may be almost identical with that of *S. unguiculata (s. str.)*; but the distinct front seta is always present.

The known geographical distribution of the two Indian species is—

Scutigereella unguiculata.

Venezuela: La Moka (type; Hansen, 1904).

India: Calcutta (sub-species *indica*; new record).²

Scutigereella subunguiculata.

India: near Dhanaulti in Tehri Garhwal (Imms, 1908).

LIST OF PAPERS REFERRED TO.

1876. Wood-Mason, J "Exhibition of forms of Arthropoda new to India," *Proc. Asiat. Soc. Bengal*, 1876, pp. 174-5.

¹ Hansen says of these claws in *S. unguiculata* (*loc. cit.*, p. 35), "the front seta is rather weak," and in his figure no seta can be clearly distinguished by its size as the front seta. In the Calcutta specimens this seta is quite as distinct as in Imms's figure of the same claws in *S. subunguiculata*.

² This Indian sub-species of *Scutigereella unguiculata* I have recently found in abundance in Ceylon, both in the Kandy district (1,500 ft. and upwards) and at Pattipola (6,000 ft.). Probably it is widely distributed throughout the island and Mr. Green tells me that he has seen a similar looking little centipede at Pundaloya (4,000—5,000 ft.) and on the top of Namunakuli Hill (6,600 ft.).

- 1910.] F. H. GRAVELY: *A Centipede from Calcutta.* 159
1904. Hansen, H. J. "The genera and species of Symphyla,"
Q. J. M. S. (N.S.), xlvii, 1904, pp. 1—101, pl. i—vii.
1908. Imms, A. D. "On a new species of Symphyla from the
Himalayas," *Journ. Linn. Soc., Zool.*, xxx, 1909, pp.
252—255, pl. xxxi.
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