NOTES ON COLLECTION OF HISPINAE AND CASSIDINAE
(COLEOPTERA: CHRYSomELIDAE) FROM N. E. INDIA

By

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(With 1 Text-figure and 1 Table)

I—INTRODUCTION

This report is based on the collection of Chrysomelidae, sub-families Hispinae and Cassidinae, (also considered of family rank by various authors) which have been collected by the various survey parties from the Zoological Survey of India in the Sikkim and NEFA regions.

These surveys were conducted by my colleagues as under:—

Dr. A. G. K. Menon (Sikkim, 1959) A. G. K. M.
Dr. K. C. Jayaramakrishnan (NEFA, 1961) K. C. J.
Shri S. Biswas (NEFA, 1961) S. B.
Shri G. Ramakrishna (Sikkim, 1962) G. R.
Dr. S. K. Bhattacharyya and Dr. A. N. T. Joseph (NEFA, 1965) S.K.B. & A.N.T.J.

This collection comprises 18 species of which one species, is new and is described below. One species viz. *Hispellinus minor* (Maulik), which was earlier known from Sumatra and Ceylon, is now being recorded from India for the first time. Besides, there are seven species which form new records from Sikkim.

II—LIST OF SPECIES

Subfamily *Hispinae*

1. *Anisodera guerini* Baly
2. *Dactylispa peregrina* Maulik
3. *D. atkinsoni* (Gestro) (Boheman)
4. *D. manii* sp. n.
5. *Gonophora pulchella* Gestro
6. *Anisoderopsis excavata* (Baly)
7. *Hispellinus minor* (Maulik)

Subfamily *Cassidinae*

8. *Aspidomorpha miliaris* (Fabricius)
9. *A. sanctae-crucis* (Fabricius)
10. *A. indica* Boheman
11. *Cassida icterica* Boheman
12. *C. occursans* Spaeth
13. *Sindia sedecimaculata* (Boheman)
14. *Basiprinota maculipennis* maculipennis (Boheman)
15. *B. (B.) decemmaculata* (Boheman)
16. *B. (B.) impustulata* (Boheman)
17. *Laccoptera quadrimaculata* (Thunberg)
18. *Epistictina viridimaculata* (Boheman)
III—SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNT

Order COLEOPTERA
Family CHRYSOMELIDAE
Subfamily HISPINAE

1. *Anisodera guerini* Baly


*Remarks.*—This species was reported by Maulik (*l.c.*) from S. India, Maharashtra, N. Bengal, Assam, Sikkim, Burma and Java. All the abdominal sternites are not thickly and coarsely punctate as implied by Maulik (*l. c.*). The 1st and 2nd (visible) abdominal sternites are very sparsely punctate, the 3rd and 4th sternites are moderately punctate while only the last abdominal sternite is thickly and coarsely punctate.

*Distribution.*—India, Sikkim, Burma, Indonesia (Java).

2. *Dactylispa peregrina* Maulik


*Remarks.*—As reported by Maulik (*l.c.*), this species occurs in the hills of N.E. India (Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, W. Bengal) and Burma. It comes close to *D. brevispinosa* Chapuis, which is also known from hills of Punjab and Assam. Sufficient number of examples belonging to the latter species are not available for detailed examination.

*Distribution.*—India and Burma.

3. *Dactylispa atkinsoni* (Gestro)


*Remarks.*—This species has been reported from Punjab, Uttar Pradesh : Kumaon : Bhimtal, W. Bengal : Darjeeling. It is now being reported from Sikkim for the first time.

*Distribution.*—India,
4. *Dactylispa manii* sp.n.

(Text-fig. 1)

Body elongate. Antennae, head, elytra, legs and most of the ventral side yellowish-brown; disc of pronotum and elytral spines black.

*Head.*—Yellowish-brown, interocular space and antennae of the same colour; antennae moderate-sized, hairy, apical five segments gradually thickened; interocular space slightly depressed somewhat rough; collar and vertex smooth and shining; a row of white hairs along the inner margin of the eyes.

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**Text-Fig. 1.—Dorsal view of *Dactylispa manii* sp. n.**
Pronotum.—Black colour reduced to two patches on the disc, reddish brown anteriorly and posteriorly; the surface coarsely punctate and moderately pubescent, with a narrow median longitudinal glabrous line; anterior border with two pairs of spines not very close to each other, each pair with a small stalk, front spine a little longer than posterior one; the three lateral spines having a common stalk, the first two being almost equal and parting at a higher level than the third, the latter being much smaller and emanating almost from base of the stalk; all spines reddish brown.

Scutellum.—Reddish brown, surface with very fine tubercles giving it a rough appearance, five minute spines on each side of scutellar ridge.

Elytra.—Reddish brown; sides not broadly expanded anteriorly or posteriorly; surface more or less punctate-striate, punctures large and quite close to each other, with fine hairs arising out of punctures; each elytron with ten black spines disposed as under.—(i) 4 small spines arranged in an irregular sub-sutural row (ii) 3 spines arranged in an irregular sublateral row, the anterior most spine being much longer than other two (iii) 3 spines arranged in a sub-apical transverse row; besides discal spines, the lateral margin, from the humeral to the sutural angle having 15 spines (4-5 on apical margin, being yellowish brown and others black.

Length—4.5 mm; Breadth 3.5 mm.


Remarks.—In Maulik's (1919), key to species known from India, it comes close to D.tissa Maulik, from which it differs in (i) the sculpture of pronotum (ii) ventral side reddish brown vs. black (iii) colouration of antennal segments (iv) scutellum reddish brown pitch-black (v) in number of spines from humeral angle to sutural angle. In Gressitt and Kimoto's key (1963), this species also comes close to D. mauliki Gressitt in the elytra having fine hairs arising from punctures and each elytron having 10 black spines but differs from it in having the 10 spines on each elytron not so large and pronotum not entirely black. It also differs from D. filiola Weise, in which the lateral spine 3 (i.e. most posterior) of pronotum arises from base of the trunk of anterior two spines but this spine in the present species is shorter than other two spines as against as long as spine 1.

5. **Gonophora pulchella** Gestro


Material.—Sikkim: 1 ex. Rhenock, 3.v.1962 (G. R.)

Remarks.—The above example is slightly longer (6.0 mm) than the measurements given by Maulik (l.c.) viz. 5.5 mm. It is previously reported in India from W. Bengal, Assam, Manipur. It is now being recorded from Sikkim for the first time.
**Distribution.**—India, Burma, Indo-China, Hainan Island.

**6. Anisoderopsis excavata** (Baly)


*Remarks.*—This species is earlier reported from India: W. Bengal: Darjeeling, Assam, Cachar, Burma and Tonkin. It is now being recorded from Sikkim for the first time.

While the longitudinal rows of punctures on elytra are ten, their relative disposition and confluence appear to be variable. In addition there are a few scattered punctures present particularly on the sides.

**Distribution.**—India, Burma, Vietnam (Tonkin).

**7. Hispellinus minor** (Maulik)


*Remarks.*—This species is known from Sumatra and Ceylon. The present record from N. E. India fills the gap in its distribution and is of zoogeographical importance. It is being recorded from India for the first time.

**Distribution.**—India, Ceylon and Sumatra.

*Subfamily Cassidinae*

**8. Aspidomorpha miliaris** (Fabricius)


*Remarks.*—This species is very widely distributed in the Oriental region. In India also it is very common. Colour variation etc. have been adequately discussed by Maulik (l.c.) and Gressitt et Kimoto (l.c.).

**Distribution.**—India, Burma, S. China (Yunnan, Hong Kong), Hainan I., Vietnam, Malaya, Indonesia, Celebes, Philippines, New Guinea.
9. Aspidomorpha sanctae-crucis (Fabricius)

1794. Cassida St. crucis Fabricius, Ent. Syst., Hafniae, 4: 446.

Remarks.—This species is widely distributed in India from south to the base of Himalaya in the north. It generally occurs in abundance and shows considerable variation in size.
Distribution.—India, Ceylon, Burma, S. China, Hainan, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaya, Sunda-Islands.

10. Aspidomorpha indica Boheman


Remarks.—Maulik (l.c.) recorded this species from India: Madras: Samalkot, Godavari Dist. and Sikkim: Darjeeling (now in W. Bengal). There is no other record of this species from India since then and it is now being recorded from Sikkim and NEFA for the first time.
Distribution.—India.

11. Cassida icterica Boheman


Remarks.—So far this species is known only from its type-locality viz., Uttar Pradesh: Almora. It is now being recorded from Sikkim for the first time.
Distribution.—India.

12. Cassida occursans Spaeth


Remarks.—Maulik (l.c.) p. 395, has stated “Body more or less oblong, twice as long as broad........” This cannot be true since the measurements given by him on p.396 are “Length 7.5 mm; breadth 5.4 mm.” The present examples measure 7.0-7.2 mm in length and 5.4-5.5 mm. in breadth. In the collections of the Zoological Survey of India there are examples from Abor expedition and Burma; these examples are a little dark reddish brown, slightly larger in size and with deeper punctures on the elytra, than in the above examples.

Distribution.—India and Burma.

13. Sindia sedecimmaculata (Boheman)


Remarks.—In India this species is known only from its type-locality viz. Sikkim : Mungphu. It is now being recorded from NEFA region for the first time. Since its description in 1856 by Boheman, it has been reported from S.W. China (Kweichow) by Chen, 1935.

Distribution.—India and China.

14. Basiprionota (s. str.) *maculipennis* (Boheman)


Remarks.—In India this species is reported by Maulik (l.c.) from Nepal : Dekhut, Assam : Mangaldai Dist. and Bhutan frontier. This species is widely distributed from India to Hainan. Gressitt (1938) considers Hainan’s specimens to belong to the subspecies *reducta* Gressitt. Thus the specimens from India belong to the nominotypical subspecies.

Distribution.—Nepal and India.

15. Basiprionota (s. str.) *dекemmaculata* (Boheman)


Remarks.—This species is recorded by Maulik (l.c.) from Sikkim : Mungphu ; Assam and Burma.

Distribution.—India and Burma.

16. Basipriionota (s. str.) impustulata (Boheman)

1850. Prioptera impustulata Boheman, Monograph Cassidinae, 1 : 46.
1919. Prioptera impustulata : Maulik, Fauna British India, Chrysomelidae (Hispinæ & Cassidinae) : 316.


Remarks.—Maulik (l.c.) records this species from Assam only. In the collection of the Zoological Survey of India, there is one example labelled : Calcutta, November 1918 and has been identified by Maulik. In the example under report, the head is black and not yellowish brown as per description given by Maulik. This factor, however, I believe to be within the range of individual variation. This is the first record of this species from Sikkim. It is also slightly larger in size (11.0 X 9.5 mm) as against 10.5 X 9.0 mm, the measurements given by Maulik (l.c).

17. Laccoptera quadrimaculata (Thunberg)

1919. Laccoptera quadrimaculata : Maulik, Fauna British India, Chrysomelidae (Hispinæ : Cassidinae) : 347.


Remarks.—This species is very widely distributed both in India and the Oriental region.

Distribution.—India, Burma, Andaman Islands, S. China, Taiwan, Indo-China, East Indies.

18. Epistictina viridimaculata (Boheman)

1850. Epistictia viridimaculata Boheman, Monograph Cassidinae, 1 : 15 (Nepal).


Remarks.—This species is known in India from Punjab and Assam. It is now being recorded from Sikkim for the first time.

Distribution.—Nepal, India, Burma, S. W. China, Vietnam, Thailand, Malacca.
TABLE 1.—Showing distribution of species in the Oriental Region.

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<tr>
<th>Subfamily HISPINAEB</th>
<th>Ceylonese sub-region</th>
<th>Indian sub-region</th>
<th>Indo-Chinese sub-region</th>
<th>Indo-Malay sub-region</th>
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<td>Anisodera guerini</td>
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<td>Dactylispa peregrina</td>
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<td>D. atkinsoni</td>
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<td>D. manii</td>
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<td>Anisoderopsis excavata</td>
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<td>Hispellinus minor</td>
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Subfamily CASSIDINAE

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<th>Aspidomorpha miliaris</th>
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<th>Widely distributed.</th>
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<td>Epistictina virdimaculata</td>
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6 7 18 (4+3=7)

IV—Summary

This is a report on a collection of Hispinae and Cassidinae (Chrysomelidae) made during the faunistic survey of Sikkim and NEFA by the Zoological Survey of India between 1959-1965. Of the 18 species, one is described as new viz. Dactylispa manii and 7 species are being recorded from Sikkim for the first time.

Out of 18 species, 3 species are widely distributed and 11 species are endemic to N.E. India including Burma.

V—References


MAULIK, S. 1919. The Fauna of British India, including Ceylon and Burma. *Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae (Hispinae and Cassidinae).* xii+440 pp.—London (Taylor & Francis).