NOTES ON A COLLECTION OF DYTISCIDAE (COLEOPTERA) FROM MAHARASHTRA, WITH DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES

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(With 4 Text-figures)

INTRODUCTION

The Dytiscidae of Maharashtra are fairly well known. The author (1968) published the results of his earlier collections from the area and recorded thirty-six species belonging to seventeen genera. Subsequently Tonapi & Ozarkar (1969), in an account of the aquatic Coleoptera of Poona, added the following five species: Laccophilus anticatus Sharp, Rhantaticus congestus (Klug), Sandracotus dejeani Illiger, Cybister confusus Sharp and C. rugulosus Redtenbacher. Hyphydrus indicus Sharp, mentioned by these authors, is a junior synonym of H. intermixtus Walker and Hydrocoptus subvittulus Motschulsky is a case of mislabelling for Hydaticus vittatus (Fabricius), as is evident from the figure and measurements given in the text.

A large number of specimens collected by my colleagues at Western Regional Station, Zoological Survey of India, Poona, have now been examined by me. The present lot comprises twenty-four species, including one new species, and first records of Laccophilus basalis Motschulsky and Hyphoporus severini Regimbart from the area, thus bringing the number of species known from the area to forty-four.

Except for the remarks on five species Laccophilus basalis Motschulsky, Hyphydrus (Apriophorus) renardi Severin, Hyphoporus severini Regimbart Peschetius toxophorus Guignot and Cybister cognatus Aube, the other species do not call for any comments. Only the specimens have been listed under each species. The names of the collectors have been abbreviated as below: A. P. Kapur (APK), B. K. Tikader (BKT), B. S. Lamba (BSL), R. N. Chopra (RNC), K. R. Rao (KRR), M. Babu Rao (MBR), G. M. Yazdani (GMY), D. N. Tiwari (DNT).
SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNT

Family DYTISCIDAE

Subfamily NOTERINAE

1. Canthydrus luctuosus Aube


Subfamily LACCOPHILINAE

2. Laccophilus anticatus Sharp

Maharashtra: Satara Dist., 1 ex. Fitzgerald, 5.x.1972, APK.

3. Laccophilus basalis Motschulsky

Maharashtra: Kolaba Dist., 1 ex. Mahad, 14. ii. 1966, BSL.

Remarks.—This species has been reported by the author (1969) from India: West Bengal, for the first time and is also known from Sri Lanka, Andaman Islands and Indonesia. It is now being reported from Maharashtra for the first time. This species is obviously quite rare. It is very close to L. inefficiens in the elytral markings but has rufus irrotations as against black. They have however very distinct shape of penis as shown in Text-fig. 1 A-B.

4. Laccophilus chinensis inefficiens Walker


5. Laccophilus flexuosus Aube


6. Laccophilus parvulus Aube

Text-fig. 1.—Lateral view of penis, A-in Laccophilus basalis; B. in L. inefficiens.

7. Laccophilus sharpi Regimbart

Maharashtra : Poona Dist., 1 ex. Moshi, 24.i.1974, BSL.

Subfamily HYDROPORINAE

8. Hyphydrus (Apriophorus) intermixtus Walker


9. Hyphydrus (Apriophorus) renardi Severin

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Remarks.—Vaziralli (1973) has discussed the variation in elytral pattern. Both the patterns A & B, as shown by Vazirani (l. c.) are present in this collection from the same locality, same pond and same date.

10. Hyphoporus severini Regimbart


Remarks.—Hitherto known from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Pakistan. It is now being reported from Maharashtra for the first time.

11. Peschetius quadricostatus Aube


12. Peschetius toxophorus Guignot


Remarks.—Omer-Cooper (1970) divided the African species into groups on the basis of the prosternal process being keeled or not. In both the species known from India the prosternal process is without keel and thus belong to the species group P. parvus Omer-Cooper and P. nigeriensis Omer-Cooper. Further two examples in the above collection have black labro-clypeus as against rufos ferruginous in other examples. This difference is coupled with the differences in elytral markings (Text-fig. 2 A-B) but both examples happen to be female. These specimens also differ in having the elytral carina more prominent and surface more shining. It is suspected that 2 species may be involved but additional specimens need to be collected besides study of the type specimens.
Text-fig. 2.— A & B Elytral markings in Peschetius toxophorus.

Subfamily COLYMNETINAE

13. Lacconectus (S. Str.) lambai sp. nov.


Length 5.0-5.6 mm.

Head testaceous anteriorly blending into ferruginous posteriorly, impunctate with reticulation indistinct. Pronotum ferruginous on the disc, testaceous at the sides and along the anterior border; anterior transverse row of black punctures fine and irregular, not exceeding beyond the outer margin of eyes; sides not rebordered, feebly arched, posterior angles pointed. Elytra (Text-fig. 3C) testaceous to ferruginous, rather iridescent, with a pale yellow undefined basal band not reaching the lateral margin, sutural row of fine black punctures, a row of
few irregularly arranged punctures between the sutural row and inner striae of punctures, a similar row of irregular punctures between the inner and outer normal striae also present, sublaterally a row of black punctures, finer than the sutural row, commencing from the one third to the apex; reticulation imperceptible. Ventral side ferruginous with legs (except metatibiae and tarsi), abdomen and epipleurae rather testaceous; prosternal process depressed in between meso and meta
coxae, rounded at apex, sides of the apical portion rebordered. Penis (Text-fig. 3A) strongly curved, broad at base and narrowed towards apex; twisted in the apical portion, apex bluntly pointed; basal three segments of protarsi and mesotarsi feebly dilated to provide minute suckers underneath, 2+2+1 from basal segment.

Remarks.—In the key to the species of *Lacconectus* by Gueorguiev (1968) this species runs to *L. fulvescens* Motschulsky, but differs from it in the its much larger (5.0-5.6 mm as against 4.0-4.3 mm). Vazirani (1970) has split the genus into two subgenera on the basis of presence of metacoxal lines coupled with the normal striae on elytra consisting of stronger punctures. In this key to the species, this species runs near to *L. tonkinensis* Guignot, but differs from it (i) elytra testaceous as against brown-black and without any spots except the undefined basal band (ii) supplementary punctures on elytra are few in this species as against dense in anterior half and larger and coalescent in posterior half. The two species also differ in the shape of penis (Text-fig. 3 D, E).

14. *Rhantus taprobanicus* Sharp

Maharashtra: Poona Dist., 1 ex. Wagholi, 17.i.1972, *MBR.*

Subfamily DYTISCINAE

15. *Eretes sticticus* (Linnaeus)

Maharashtra: Poona Dist., Moshi, 13 ex. 2.iii.1969, *BSL.*

16. *Hydaticus (Guignotites) incertus* Regimbart


17. *Hydaticus (Guignotites) luczoncius* Aube


18. *Hydaticus (Guignotites) vittatus* Fabricius


19. Sandracottus dejeani Aube

Maharashtra; Poona Dist., 1 ex. Moshi, 28.v.1971, BSL.

20. Cybister (Meganectes) cognatus Sharp


Text-fig. 4—A-C variation in striations on the elytron of Cybister cognatus.
Remarks.—There is considerable infra-specific variation in this species in the colouration of ventral surface as well as the striations on the elytra in females. The colouration of the ventral surface is either variegated between yellow and ferruginous or dark ferruginous to black. The specimens with black ventral surface may be easily confused with *C. confusus*, but can be separated only by genitalic characters. The striations on the elytra in female vary between their presence on the anterior on fourth or half or three-fourths (Text-fig. 4A-C). Among the twenty examples now studied 4 examples have the elytral striations on the anterior one fourth, 8 on the anterior half and 8 on the three fourth.

21. *Cybister (Meganectes) rugulosus* Redtenbacher


22. *Cybister (Meganectes) tripunctatus asiaticus* Sharp


Gujarat : Broach Dist., 1 ex. Ankleshwar, 23.xi.1972, GMY

23. *Cybister (Meganectes) posticus* Aube

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24. Cybister (Meganectes) confusus Sharp


Karnataka : Mysore Dist., 1 ex. Kudgiri Village, 1.ii.1972, BSL.

REFERENCES


