

INSECTA : NEUROPTERA

By

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INTRODUCTION

The neuropteran material includes only two species (Fam. Ascalaphidae) which are little known. A larval specimen, collected during the survey, has, however, been excluded from the present account due to the non-confirmation upto the relevant taxal levels on the basis of a single specimen. All the measurements are given in millimeters for the material deposited with Z. S. I.

SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNT

1. *Protidricerus elwesi* (McL.)

1891. *Idricerus elwesi* MacLachlan, *Trans. ent. Soc. Lond.*, 1891 : 512.

1908. *Protidricerus elwesi*, van der Weele, *Coll. Zool. Edm. Selys Longc.*, 8 : 63.

*Diagnostic characters* : Head : with dense black hairs but vertex grey-haired posteriorly. Thorax : yellow to grey but the ridges grey brown. Legs : reddish brown ; spur of hind tibia almost equal to the length of first two tarsal segments taken together. Wings : hyaline with axillary angle blunt but not prominent ; pterostigma yellowish to brown with 3-4 crossveins in forewing and 4-5 in hindwing ; apical field with 3 rows of cells. Abdomen : dorsally black but ventrally yellow.

*Morphometric measurements* : Length of antenna, 27.5 ; forewing, 46 ; hindwing, 40 ; abdomen, 24.

*Material examined* : 1 ♀ : INDIA : Arunachal Pradesh, Tirap Dist., Namdapha, Gibbonland, 2.v.1981, S. Biswas and party coll.

*Distribution* : INDIA : Meghalaya (Khasi Hills) ; Arunachal Pradesh (Namdapha).

*Remarks* : The species, amongst a few others known from the Asiatic Continent, is hitherto represented only by females from the Khasi Hills of North-East India (*vide* van der-Weele, 1908). The

examined material exhibits rather little difference from those, as earlier known, in form, facies and morphometric measurements.

## 2. *Suhpalacsa orsedice* Banks

1914. *Suhpalacsa orsedice* Banks, *Proc. Acad. nat. sci. Philad.*, 66 : 617 [nec *Suhpalasca*, in Banks (1914)].

*Diagnostic characters* : Head : hairs grey below antenna but almost black above it. Antennae : short, reaching about 4 cells from pterostigma. Legs : black ; femur yellowish at least near base. Wings : apical field with two rows of cells ; forewing : pterostigma scarcely longer than high and with four veinlets ; 4 crossveins before Rs which arises much beyond cubital fork ; hindwing : only two crossveins before Rs. Abdomen : Black.

*Morphometric measurements* : Length of antenna, 22 ; forewing, 30 ; hindwing, 25 ; abdomen, 18.

*Material examined* : 1 ♀ : INDIA : Arunachal Pradesh, Tirap Dist., Namdapha, Gibbon land, 30.iv.1981, *S. Biswas and party* coll.

*Distribution* : INDIA : West Bengal (Darjeeling) ; Arunachal Pradesh (Namdapha).

*Remarks* : The species, amongst several others from the Ethiopian, Oriental and Australo-Papuan regions of the globe, is hitherto confined in Darjeeling, West Bengal (*Vide* Banks, 1914). The present record of this species from Arunachal Pradesh is interesting because of its further extension of the distributional range in the area concerned.

### SUMMARY

The article incorporates a brief taxonomical account coupled with new records of distribution of two species of Neuroptera belonging to the family Ascalaphidae from Arunachal Pradesh.

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