

TACHINID COLLECTIONS FROM SIKKIM AND
DARJEELING DIST. (WEST BENGAL)

By

B. C. DAS

*Zoological Survey of India,
Calcutta*

INTRODUCTION

Tachinids are one of the important groups of Diptera because of its importance as biological control. They do parasitise other groups of insects most of which are injurious or pests. So far no consolidated work on the Tachinids of this region was done. So this work was undertaken to find out the existence of Tachinid species in this region. Specimens were collected by various survey parties of Z. S. I. previously and also by the author (1980). Though the material were not very exhaustive yet it reflects the pattern of species existing in this region. Their state wise distribution in India has also been given here.

SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNT

Family TACHINIDAE

Subfamily PHASIINAE

Genus *Hermya* Robineau-De svoidy

Hermya beelzebul (Wiedemann)

1830. *Tachina beelzebul* Wiedemann, *Ausser-europäische Zweiflügelige Insekten*, 2. 301.

1976. *Hermya beelzebul* (Wiedemann); Crosskey, *Bull. Br. Mus. nat. Hist. (Ent.)* Suppl. 26, 171.

Material : 1 ♀, Kurseong, Darjeeling dist., 4.viii.08, N. A., 1 ♂, Sukna, Darjeeling dist., 2.vii.08 N. A.

Remark : This species is a new record for the area. Previously reported from Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Madras.

Subfamily PROSENIINAE

Genus *Dexia* Meigen

Dexia extendens Walker

1856. *Dexia extendens* Walker, *J. Proc. Linn. Soc. Lond.* 1 (1857) : 126.

1976. *Dexia extendens* Walker : Crosskey, *Bull. Br. Mus. nat. Hist. (Ent.)* Suppl. 26 ; 178.

Material : 1 ♀ & 1 ♂, Pashok, Darjeeling dist., 26.v.-14. vi.16, F. H. Gravely.

Remark : This species is a new record for the area. Previously reported from Assam.

Dexia flavida (Townsend)

1925. *Phasiodesia flavida* Townsend, *Ent. Mitt.* 14. 251.

1976. *Dexia flavida* (Townsend) : Crosskey, *Bull. Br. Mus. nat. Hist. (Ent.) Suppl.* 26 : 178.

Material : 1 ♀, Darjeeling, 12.vi.14, F. H. Gravely.

Remark : This species is a new record for India.

Genus Prosenia Le Peletier & Serville

Prosenia siberita (Fabricius)

1775. *Stomoxys siberita* Fabricius, *Systema entomologiae*, 798.

1976. *Prosenia siberita* (Fabricius) : Crosskey, *Bull. Br. Mus. nat. Hist. (Ent.) Suppl.* 26 : 181.

Material : 1 ♀, Siliguri, 3-4.vi.11, N. A. & S. K. 1 ♂ & 3 ♀, Kalimpong, 24.ix.80, B. C. Das.

Distribution : Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Madras, West Bengal.

Subfamily TACHININAE

Genus Thelaira Robineau-Desvoidy

Thelaira macropus (Wiedemann)

1830. *Dexia macropus* Wiedemann, *Aussereuropaische Zweifflugelige Insekten*, 2 : 375.

1976. *Thelaira macropus* (Wiedemann) : Crosskey, *Bull. Br. Mus. nat. Hist. (Ent.)* 26 : 192.

Material : 1 ♂, Lava, 11.ix.78, A.N.T. Joseph ; 1 ♀, Darjeeling, 25.ix.78, A. N. T. Joseph ; 1 ♀, Darjeeling, 27.ix.80, B. C. Das ; 1 ♀, Lebong, Darjeeling dist., 25.ix.78, A. N. T. Joseph.

Distribution : Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Kashmir, West Bengal.

Genus Atylostoma Brauer and Bergenstamm

Atylostoma tricolor (Mik)

1883. *Leskia tricolor* Mik, *Verh. Zool. Bot. Ges. Wien.* 33 : 181-192.

1968. *Atylostoma tricolor* (Mik) : Mesnil & Pschora-Walcher, *Musi*, 41 (12) : 164.

Material : 1 ♀, Sikkim, ?, A. V. Knyvett.

Remark : This species is a new record for India.

Genus **Dolichocoxy**s Townsend**Dolichocoxy**s *femoralis* Townsend

1929. *Dolichocoxy*s *femoralis* Townsend, *Supplta ent.* 16 : 57.

1976. *Dolichocoxy*s *femoralis* Townsend : Crosskey, *Bull. Br. Mus. nat. Hist. (Ent.) Suppl.* 26 : 195.

Material : 1 ♂, Darjeeling, 29.v.10, Brunetti ; 1 ♂, Darjeeling, 1.v.17, Brunetti ; 1 ♂, Darjeeling, 2.vi.17, Brunetti ; 1 ♂, Darjeeling, 6.vi.17, Brunetti.

Remark : This species is a new record for India.

Genus **Janthinomyia** Brauer and Bergenstamm**Janthinomyia** *felderi* B & B

1893. *Janthinomyia felderi* Brayer & Bergenstamm, *Denkschr. Akad. Wiss., Wien.* 60.

1976. *Janthinomyia felderi* B & B ; Crosskey, *Bull. Br. Mus. nat. Hist. (Ent.) Suppl.* 26. 203.

Material : 1 ♂, Kurseong, Darjeeling dist., 10-26.ix.09, Lynch.

Distribution : Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal.

Genus **Servillia** Robineau-Desvoidy**Servillia** *ursinoides* Tothill

1918. *Servillia ursinoides* Tothill, *Bull. ent. Res.* 9 : 50.

1976. *Servillia ursinoides* Tothill : Crosskey, *Bull. Br. Mus. nat. Hist. (Ent.) Suppl.* 26 : 209.

Material : 1 ♀, Ghoom, Darjeeling dist., 27.ix.78, A. N. T. Joseph ; 1 ♂, Sureil, Darjeeling Dist., 11-31.x.17, N. A. & F. G. ; 1 ♂, Senchal, Darjeeling dist., 26. vi. 18, S. Kemp.

Distribution : Assam, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal.

Subfamily GONINAE

Genus **Eophyllophila** Townsend**Eophyllophila** *elegans* Townsend

1926. *Eophyllophila elegans* Townsend, *Supplla ent.* 14 : 19.

1976. *Eophyllophila elegans* Townsend : Crosskey, *Bull. Br. Mus. nat. Hist. (Ent.) Suppl.* 26 : 215.

Material : 1 ♂, Darjeeling, 29.ix.08, Brunetti.

Remark : This species is a new record for India.

Genus *Meigenia* Robineau-Desvoidy*Meigenia velutina* Mesnil

1952. *Meigenia velutina* Mesnil, *Bull. Anns. Soc. ent. Belg.* 88 : 156.

1976. *Meigenia velutina* Mesnil: Crosskey, *Bull. Br. Mus. nat. Hist. (Ent.) Suppl.* 26 : 217.

Material : 1 ♂, Darjeeling, 28. v. 10, Brunetti.

Remark : This species is a new record for India.

Genus *Exorista* Meigen*Exorista japonica* (Townsend)

1909. *Tachina japonica* Townsend, *Ann. ent. Soc. Am.* 2. 247.

1976. *Exorista japonica* (Townsend): Crosskey, *Bull. Br. Mus. nat. Hist. Suppl.* 26. 223.

Material : 1 ♂, Rangiroom, 30.ix.76, A.N.T. Joseph ; 1 ♀, Topkhana, Kalimpong, 21.ix.80, B. C. Das.

Distribution : Mysore, West Bengal.

Genus *Blepharipa* Rondani*Blepharipa zebina* (Walker)

1849. *Tachina zebina* Walker, List. of specimens of dipterous insects in the collection of the British Museum. 4 : 772.

1976. *Blepharipa zebina* (Walker) ; : Crosskey, *Bull. Br. Mus. nat. Hist. (Ent.) Suppl.* 22 : 236.

Material : 2 ♀, Deonali, Sikkim, 23.ix.76, A. N. T. Joseph ; 1 ♂, Sukna, Darjeeling dist. 2.viii.08, N. A. ; 1 ♂, Sureil, 11-31.x.17, N. A. & F. G. ; 1 ♀, Tista Bazar, 23.ix.80, B. C. Das.

Remark : This species is a new record for this area. Previously recorded from Assam, Bihar, Kerala, Madras, Uttar Pradesh.

Genus *Isosturmia* Townsend*Isosturmia picta* (Baranov)

1932. *Sturmia picta* Baranov, *Neue Beitr. Syst. Insektenk* : 5. 77.

1968. *Isosturmia picta* (Baranov) : Mesnil & Pschorn-Walcher, *Musi*, 41 (12) : 153.

Material : 1 ♂, Kalimpong, Darjeeling Dist., 20.ix.80, B. C. Das.

Remark : This species is a new record for India.

Genus *Phryxe* Robineau-Desvoidy*Phryxe heraclei* (Meig.)

1824. *Phryxe heraclei* Meig. *Syst. Besch.* iv. 339.

1953. *Phryxe heraclei* Meig. Mesnil, *Fliegen palaearkt. Reg.* 64 g. 402.

Material : 1 ♂, Ghoom, Darjeeling dist., 27.ix.78, A. N. T. Joseph.

Remark : This species is a new record for India.

SUMMARY

In the present collections subfamily Tachinae and Goniinae are well represented in almost equal proportions and only Proseninae are represented slightly less in number. The total number of Tachinid species till now reported from this area stands at 36. From the present study it is revealed that 7 species are new record for India and 3 species are new record for the region. As this group is very important for biological control the findings of this species will enable us to know the natural complex of this group in relation to host species of different insect groups of this region in future.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author is grateful to Dr. B. K. Tikader, Director for facilities and encouragement given during the work. Thanks are also due to Dr. L. P. Mesnil, Commonwealth Institute of Biological Control, Delemont and Dr. H. Shima, Kyushu University, Fukuoka, for helping in identification.

REFERENCES

- CROSSKEY, R. W. 1976. A taxonomic conspectus of the Tachinidae (Diptera) of the oriental region. *Bull. Br. Mus. nat. Hist. (Ent.) Suppl.* 26. 357 pp.
- MESNIL, L. P. 1953. *Fliegen palaearkt Reg.* 64 g, 369-416.
- MESNIL, L. P. AND PSCHORN-WALCHER, H. 1968. *Musi*, 41 (12) : 149-174.