ASILIDAE (DIPTERA) FROM GUJARAT, INDIA

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INTRODUCTION

In August 1988 we, in collaboration with the Desert Regional Station, Zoological Survey of India, Jodhpur, surveyed Gujarat for asilids. Due to unprecedented rains during this period the robberflies were scarce. The paper reports the collection made during this period. The arrangement of genera followed is based on ‘A Review of the Asilidae (Diptera) from India’ by Joseph & Parui (1990).

The types are deposited in the National Zoological Collections, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta.

Genus Laxenecera Macquart

1838. Laxenecera Macquart, Dipt. exot. 1 (2) : 77.

Type species: Laxenecera albibarbis Macquart; designated by Hermann (1919: 340).

1. Laxenecera albibarbis Macquart

1838. Laxenecera albibarbis Macquart, Dipt. exot. 1 (2) : 195.


Distribution: It is already recorded from Andaman, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

2. Laxenecera flavibarbis Macquart

1838. Laxenecera flavibarbis Macquart, Dipt. exot. 1 (2) : 194.

Distribution: It is already reported from Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Genus Nusa Walker


Type species: Nusa aequalis Walker; designated by Hermann (1912 : 243).

3. Nusa bhargavai n. sp. (Fig)

A medium to rather large, black species with grey tomentum, black legs and dark brown wings. Male: length 14-17 mm, wing 8-9 mm; female: length 13 mm, wing 10 mm.

Nusa bhargavai n. sp.
A, lateral view of male genitalia; B, ventral view of female genitalia.

Male: Head broader than thorax, black with dense grey tomentum; mystax white with a few black bristles, fronto-orbital bristles and ocellar bristles black, postocular bristles with one or two pairs of pale yellow bristles or wholly black, postcranium with sparse, white setae, postgena with white setae. Antenna black with distal half of first flagellomere orange, scape and pedicel bear black and white bristles, pedicel from two-thirds to subequal to the length of scape, scape more than half to two-thirds length of 1st flagellomere, the latter short. Palpus and proboscis black with white setae.

Thorax black, grey tementose; pronotum with a median transverse row of black bristles, laterally with white setae; scutum devoid of mediolongitudinal stripe;
chaetotaxy: 2 notopleurals, 3 (+1 weak) postalars, 4 supra-alars, 1 additional bristle anterior to notopleurals; vestiture black with a few white setae on humeri, bristles black or black and pale yellow; scutellum with 10 black or black and pale yellow bristles on border, disc with black setae; katatergite with elongate pale yellow and white bristly setae. Haltere yellowish-brown to dark brown.

*Legs* black, fore tibia anteroventrally and tarsus ventrally with mat of golden yellow setae, bristles black and white, vestiture black.

*Wing* dark brown; R₅ and M₁ united well before the border.

*Abdomen* black, terga laterally and posteriorly with light grey tomentum which gradually decrease from anterior to posterior terga, terga 1-5 with 1 to 5 white bristles, vestiture black and white. Male genitalia (Fig. A) black, epandrium distinctive.

*Female*: Similar to males but with the following differences: mystax wholly white, fronto-orbital bristles white, postocular bristles white with 2 black bristles, antennal scape and pedicel with bristles wholly white; chaetotaxy: about 10 setae in place of supra-alars; scutellar bristles and setae white, haltere pale yellow; abdominal terga posteriorly and laterally yellowish-brown. Genitalia (Fig. B) figured.


It is similar to *Nusa formio* Walker differing from which in the following: black species including wholly black legs, dark brown wings and differences in the shape of male genitalia, especially epandrium and gonocoxite. It is named in honour of Sri R. N. Bhargava, our colleague who helped us to complete the survey of robberflies from Gujarat successfully.

**4. Nusa elva** (Walker)


*Distribution*: It is recorded for the first time from Gujarat. The other recorded localities are “Bengal” and Assam.

**Genus Michotamia** Macquart


*Type species*: *Michotamia analis* Macquart, 1838: 72; monotypic.
5. **Michotamia aurata** (Fabricius)

1794. *Asilus aurata* Fabricius, Ent. Syst. 4 : 387.


**Material examined**: 1♂, 1♀, Gujarat : Baroda Dist. : Baroda, 29.viii.1988, all Col. A. N. T. Joseph.

**Distribution**: Although it is widely distributed in India, it is recorded here for the first time from Gujarat.

Genus **Ommatius** Wiedemann


**Type species**: *Asilus marginellus* Fabricius ; designated by Coquillett (1910 : 579).

6. **Ommatius indicus** Joseph & Parui


**Distribution**: It is recorded for the first time from Gujarat. The other already recorded localities are Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

7. **Ommatius ponti** Joseph & Parui


**Distribution**: This is the first record of the species from Gujarat. It was earlier recorded from Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Its type locality is Pakistan.

Genus **Stichopogon** Loew


**Type species**: *Dasypogon elegantulus* Wiedemann, 1820 ; original designation.

8. **Stichopogon inaequalis** (Loew)


Distribution: In India the species has been reported from Andaman, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu. It is the first record from Gujarat.

9. Stichopogon tomentosus Oldroyd

1948. Stichopogon tomentosus Oldroyd, Entomologist’s mon. Mag. 84: 263.


Distribution: The species is recorded here for the first time from Gujarat. The earlier recorded localities are Andaman, Bihar, Karnataka and Rajasthan.

Genus Astochia Becker


Type species: Astochia metatarsata Becker; monotypic.

10. Astochia pseudoguptai Joseph & Parui


Distribution: This species is recorded earlier from Rajasthan and Sikkim. It is the first report from Gujarat.

Genus Clephydroneura Becker


Type species: Asilus xanthopus Wiedemann; designated by Oldroyd (1938: 450).

11. Clephydroneura pulla Oldroyd


Distribution: The species is known to occur in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. It is recorded for the first time from Gujarat.

Genus Philodicus Loew

1848. Philodicus Loew, Linn. Ent. 3: 391.

Type species: Asilus javanus Wiedemann, 1819: 4; original designation.
12. Philodicus ceylanicus Schiner


*Distribution*: Earlier recorded localities are Andaman, Kerala, Pondicherry, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. It is recorded for the first time from Gujarat.

13. Philodicus femoralis Ricardo


*Distribution*: It is the first report of the species from Gujarat. Earlier recorded localities are Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Kerala, Meghalaya, Orissa, Rajasthan and West Bengal.

Genus Promachus Loew


*Type species*: *Asilus maculatus* Fabricius; designated by Coquillett (1910: 595).

14. Promachus duvaucelii (Macquart)


*Distribution*: It has already been recorded from Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.
JOSEPH & PARUI: Asilidae from Gujarat

SUMMARY


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Abbreviations: Ep, epandrium; Gc, gonocoxite.

REFERENCES

