

A REPORT ON SOME SPECIES OF THE GENERA *DIGITIPES* AND
ETHMOSTIGMUS (CHILOPODA : SCOLOPENDROMORPHA :
SCOLOPENDRIDAE, OTOSTIGMINAE) FROM
MAHARASHTRA

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INTRODUCTION

During the course of general faunistic survey of Kolhapur, Sindhudurg and Pune districts, some interesting specimens of centipedes of the genera *Digitipes* and *Ethmostigmus* belonging to tribe Otostigmini were collected under stones, which constitute their first record from Maharashtra.

I. Genus ; *Digitipes* Attems, 1930

The Old World genus of Congo origin, was first recorded in Deccan by Jangi and Dass (1984).

Diagnosis : The claw of 2nd maxilla without spur, nine pairs of oval undivided spiracles present above alternate legs from 3rd onwards except 7th ; anal legs possess postero-medial femoral process in males.

Species and distribution : Out of six species known from Deccan Plateau, *Digitipes barnabasi* Jangi and Dass is fairly well known from Maharashtra while *D. chhotanii* Jangi and Dass, *D. indicus* Jangi and Dass and *D. coonoorensis* Jangi and Dass form the first record, the details of which are given below—

1. *Digitipes chhotanii* Jangi and Dass, 1984

Material examined : INDIA : MAHARASHTRA, Pune District, Khandala Ghat, 68 kms NW of Pune, 1-X-1988, 2 ♂♂, 1 ♀, Dr. G. M. Yazdani.

Remarks : The 21st sternite longer than broad, (*vs* broader than long). Anal leg tarsi smooth (*vs* pilose).

2. *Digitipes indicus* Jangi and Dass, 1984

Material examined : INDIA, MAHARASHTRA, Sindhudurg Dist, Phonda Ghat, 10-IX-1987, 1 ex, Dr. D. B. Bastawade ; Pune District, Khandala Ghat, 1-X-1988, 1 ♀, Dr. G. M. Yazdani.

Remarks : The specimen from Sindhudurg exhibited variation : 2nd—5th and 13th—20th tergal segments slightly overlapping the preceding ones ; 6-12 normal ; 10th—20th broader than long.

3. *Digitipes coonoorensis* Jangi and Dass, 1984

Material examined : INDIA : MAHARASHTRA, Sindhudurg Dist., 30 kms. W. of Amboli Ghat, 19-IX-1987, 1 ♀, Dr. D. B. Bastawade.

Remarks : Lateral tergal emargination starts on 6th instead of 8th, and 15th—20th tergal segments broader than long.

II. Genus *Ethmostigmus* Pocock, 1898

The genus *Ethmostigmus*, having worldwide distribution, is represented by five species in India.

Diagnosis : Maxillipedes in the genus lack median dental process but possess 10 pairs of spiracle, including one above the 7th pair of walking legs, the 1st pair of spiracle is large, elliptical and sieve like.

Species and distribution : *Ethmostigmus pygomegas* (Kohlraush) is known to occur in Himalaya (Gravely, 1912) *E. coonooranus* Chamberlin from Nilgiri Hills (Tamil Nadu), *E. platycephalus spinosus* (Newport) from Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, *E. P. cribrifer* (Gervais) from Mysore (Karnataka) while *E. p. platycephalus* (Newport), the only record from Malabar coast (Kerala).

1. *Ethmostigmus p. platycephalus* (Newport) 1845

Diagnosis : Four basal antennal segments glabrous, median dental plate having 3 teeth, posteriomedial spiny process of anal leg prefemur is of normal size, anal leg prefemur with 3 ventrolateral spines and coxopleural process tipped with 2-4 spines ; bearing dorsally 0-1 spine.

Material examined : INDIA : MAHARASHTRA, Kolhapur District, 60 km. N. of Pundra on Ajra Road, 28-IX-1986, 1 ex, Dr. D. B. Bastawade.

Remarks : Coxopleural process tipped with 2 spines (vs 2-4) and 1 lateral (vs 0-1 dorsal). Body length—110 mm.

SUMMARY

Three species belonging to genus *Digitipes* viz. *D. chhotanii* Jangi and Dass, *D. coonoorensis* Jangi and Dass and one to the genus *Ethmostigmus*, *E. p. platycephalus* (Newport) collected from Western Ghats, Pune, Kolhapur, and Sindhudurg districts are reported for the first time from Maharashtra.

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