

**DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF *HAPLEGINELLA* DUDA  
(DIPTERA : CHLOROPIDAE) FROM INDIA**

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**INTRODUCTION**

The genus *Hapleginella* Duda is recorded for the first time from the Oriental Region and a new species, *H. orientalis* is described from India.

*Hapleginella* Duda is a relatively small genus hitherto reported only from the Holarctic Region. Though Andersson (1977) and Kanmiya (1983) placed the genus in the *Oscinella* genus group, Nartshuk (1987) considered it belonging to the tribe Botanobiini along with *Gaurax* Loew., *Pseudogaurax* Malloch and other congeneric forms. One new species, *H. orientalis* from Meghalaya in north-eastern Himalaya is described here. This is also the first record of the genus from the Oriental Region.

The type specimens are deposited in the collections of the Southern Regional Station, Zoological Survey of India, Chennai.

**Genus *Hapleginella* Duda**

1933. *Hapleginella* Duda, *Palaeark. Fliegen*, 68 : 77. *Type species* : *Hapleginella laevifrons* (Loew) (= *Oscinis laevifrons* Loew). By original designation and monobasic.

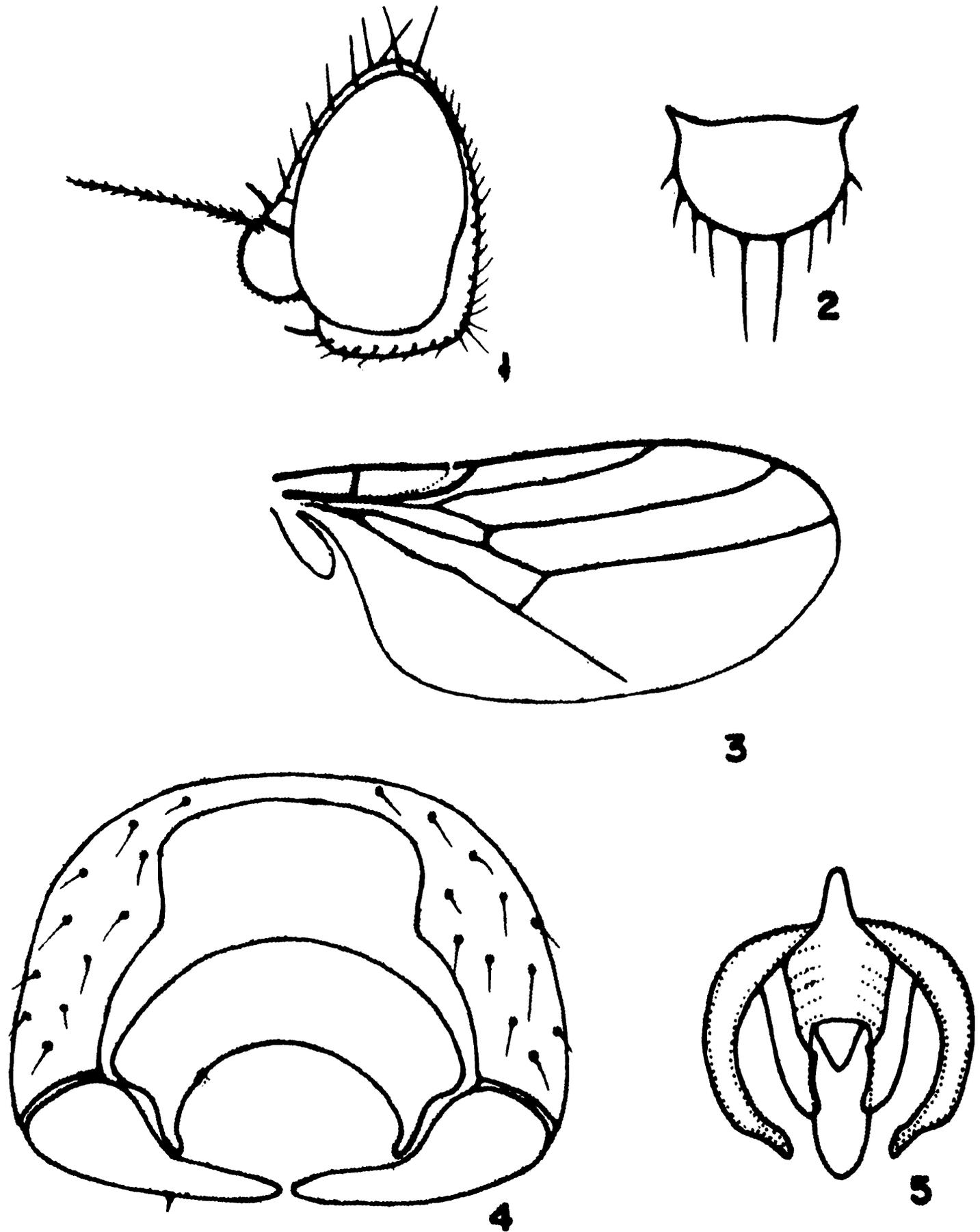
*Head* higher than long, mostly black; frons subshiny, with a few *fr*; frontal triangle large, glabrous, reaching anterior margin of frons; *if* in one row on the triangle; face concave, facial carina low, rarely reaching lower facial margin; antenna mostly yellow; arista slender with short hairs; eye large, suboval, with sparse, almost inconspicuous fine pubescence; gena partly tomentose; labella slightly elongated; head bristles moderately long with 6-7 *orb* and rather reclinate *oc*; scutum convex, shining with short dense hairs at times arising from punctae; scutellum wider than long, tomentose with slightly convex disc; pleura glabrous; *anepst* bare; thoracic bristles rather well developed with 1 *h*, 1+2 *npl*, 1+1 *pa*, 1 *dc*, 2-4 *ss* and not approximated *as*; tibial and femoral organs present, the latter with two indistinct rows of warts; m-m cross-vein oblique; anal angle well developed; haltere yellow; male genitalia with bowl-shaped phallopodemic sclerite and short, stout phallus.

*Distribution* : Holarctic and Oriental Regions.

***Hapleginella orientalis*, sp. nov.**

(Figs. 1-5)

*Male and Female* : *Head* (Fig. 1) higher than long, length, height and width in ratio 11 : 13 : 18. Frons sloping, slightly projecting above eye in front, subshiny, brownish black with straight



**Figs. 1-5.** *Hapleginella orientalis*, Sp. nov. 1, Head, lateral view ; 2, Scutellum ; 3, Wing ; 4, Epandrium ; 5, Hypandrium and Phallic complex.

anterior margin and a few *fr* ; frontal triangle large, glabrous, shiny, reaching anterior margin of frons and ending with obtuse apex. Face concave, brownish black ; facial carina low, linear, reaching lower facial margin. ant 2 short, yellowish brown ; ant 3 yellow with darkish tinge at apex above, width 1.33x the length; arista dorsal, slender, dark brown with distinct, concolourous pubescence. Eye large, with very fine scattered pubescence, long axis vertical. Gena brownish, width one fourth that of ant 3; vibrissal angle developed, a right angle; vibrissae distinct. Labella prolonged, very slender, brownish black; palpi short, yellow. Face and upper half of gena silvery grey tomentose. All head bristles and frontal hairs fairly stout, black; *ovt* and *pvf* subequal, the latter erect and cruciate; *ivt* shorter than *ovt* ; *orb* 6, reclinate, anterior ones progressively becoming shorter, longest half the *ovt* ; *oc* reclinate, convergent, equal to *orb* ; *if* in a row of 7-8 on the triangle on each side.

*Thorax* wholly black. Scutum as long as wide, shiny, with dense piliferous punctae bearing short black hairs. Scutellum (Fig. 2) wider than long, width and length in the ratio 7 : 6, nearly rounded in outline with slightly convex, dull, tomentose disk bearing punctate hairs. Pleura glabrous, shiny ; *anepst* without and *kepst* with a few hairs. All thoracic bristles fairly stout ; *h* 1, short ; *npl* 1+2, subequal, a little longer than *ovt* ; *pa* 1 and 1 *dc* equal to *npl* ; *pa* 2 slightly shorter than *pa* 1 ; *as* somewhat approximated at base, nearly as long as scutellum ; *ss* 1 two-fifths the *as*, *ss* 2 two-thirds the *ss* 1, *ss* 3 two-thirds the *ss* 2 and *ss* 4 half the *ss* 3. All scutellar bristles rather spine-like, borne on small warts.

*Legs* short, not thickened ; femora broadly brownish black in the middle, with yellow basal and distal ends ; coxae partly dark brown ; rest of the areas of all the legs yellow ; tibial organ present ; femoral organ with two rows of warts.

*Wing* (Fig. 3) hyaline with pale brown veins ; length to width 12 : 5 ; proportions of costal sectors 2 to 4 in ratio 16 : 9 : 6; r-m cross-vein beyond middle of discal cell, opposite 0.67 of its length ; m-m cross-vein strongly oblique ; terminal sectors of veins r 4+5 and m 1+2 nearly parallel, both a trifle bent towards costa at tip ; anal area developed. Knob of haltere pale yellow with a brown spot, stalk dark brown.

*Abdomen* oval, black but the two basal segments broadly in the middle yellow. Female cerci slender. Male genitalia (Figs. 4 & 5) : Very much similar to that of the type species *laevifrons* but surstyli are a little more pointed as also the cerci ; postgonites short, blunt at apex.

*Length* : Male, 1.7 mm, Wing 1.7 mm. Female, 1.9 mm., Wing 1.89 mm.

*Holotype* : Male : India : Meghalaya : Shillong, Elephant Falls, 1650 m, 28.vii.1979, Coll. P.T. Cherian. Paratypes, 1 female, collection data same as of holotype ; 1 male, Meghalaya Shillong, 1650 m, 22.viii.1979, Coll. P.T. Cherian.

*H. orientalis* is closely related to *laevifrons* (Loew) but it is easily distinguished by the densely punctate thoracic hairs. Besides, in *orientalis* facial carina is complete and reaches lower facial margin and scutellar bristles are borne on small but distinct warts.

*Remarks* : Two of the specimens were collected from the leaves of a shrub overhanging a small waterfall and the other by sweeping bushes.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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*Abbreviations* : *anepst*, anepisternum ; *as*, apical scutellar bristle ; *dc*, dorsocentral bristle ; *fr*, frontal hairs ; *h*, humeral bristle ; *if*, interfrontal bristle ; *ivt*, inner vertical bristle ; *kepst*, katepisternum ; *npl*, notopleural bristle ; *oc*, ocellar bristle ; *orb*, fronto-orbital bristle ; *ovt*, outer vertical bristle ; *pa*, postalar bristle ; *pvt*, postvertical bristle ; *ss*, subapical scutellar bristle.

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