

**PODAGRION SCYLLA FERNANDO (HYMENOPTERA :
CHALCIDOIDEA : TORYMIDAE) PARASITIC ON OOTHECA OF
HIERODULA SP. (MANTODEA : INSECTA)
FIRST RECORD FROM INDIA**

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INTRODUCTION

Podagrion Spinola is represented in all warmer regions of the world (100 spp.). All the species of the genus are parasites in the oothecae of mantids and there are 36 species known from the Oriental Region (Grissell, 1995). Narendran (1994) recorded 24 species of *Podagrion* from the Indian subcontinent. *Podagrion scylla* was described from Sri Lanka based on 12 female and 8 male specimens reared from the ootheca of mantid *Hierodula membranacea* without designating the holotype (Fernando, 1957). Narendran (1994) and Grissell (1995) listed this species and mentioned the type depository as University of Ceylon, Colombo. They did not examine the type and Narendran mentioned the probable loss of syntypes of the species. Recently I could identify the species *P. scylla* from a collection of Chalcidoids provided by Dr. Ghate, Pune for identification. The specimens were reared from the ootheca of the mantid *Hierodula* sp. This is the first record of *Podagrion scylla* from India and the first time it is being reported after it was originally described from Sri Lanka in 1957.

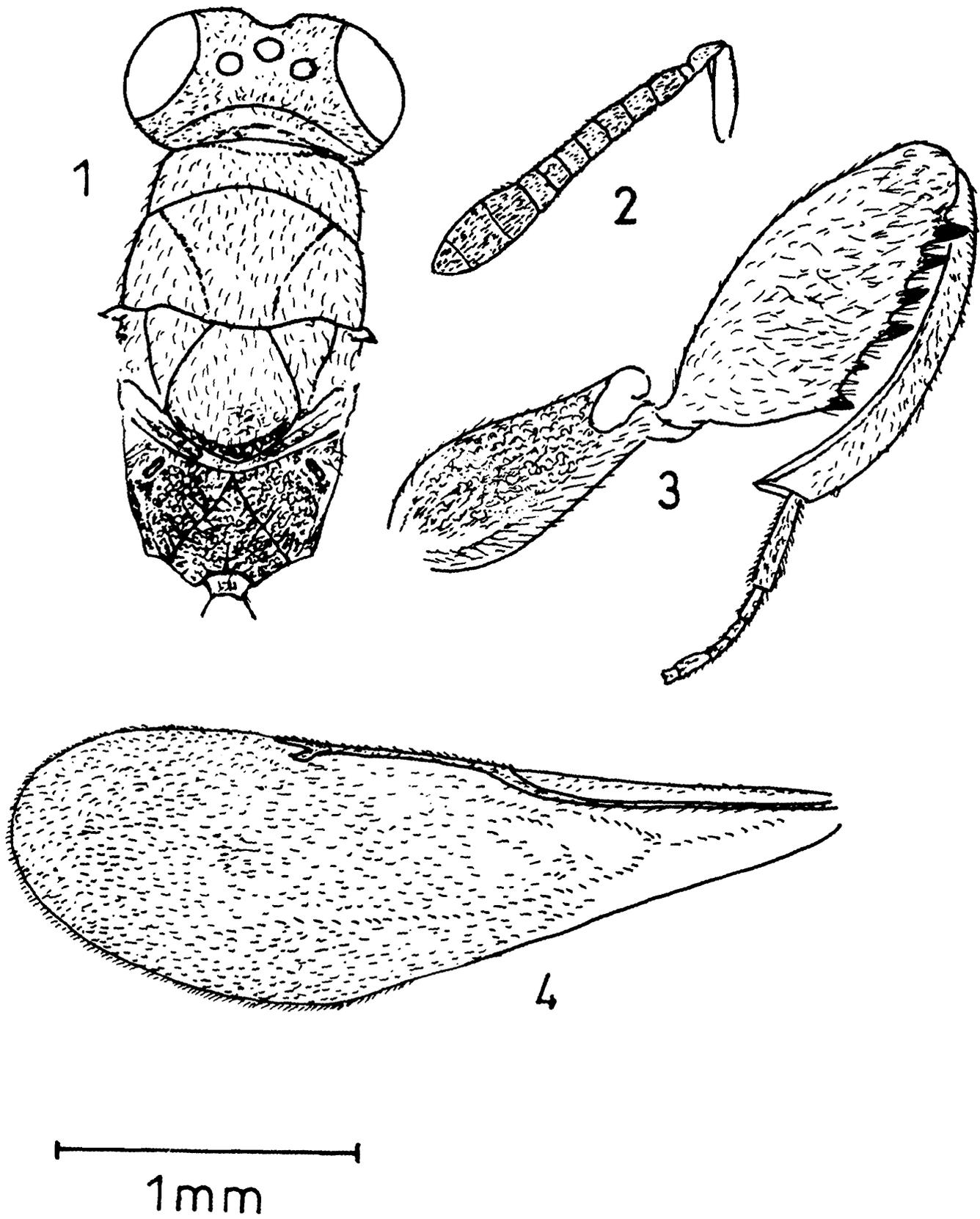
Since the original description of the species is inadequate, a redescription is provided here based on the female specimens examined.

Abbreviations used : F1-F7 — Funicular segments 1 to 7; OOL — Oculo-Ocellar length; POL — Postero-Ocellar length; SMV — Submarginal vein; MV — Marginal vein; PMV — Postmarginal vein; STV — Stigmal vein.

***Podagrion scylla* Fernando**
(Figs. 1-4)

Podagrion scylla Fernando, 1957 : 215-216, 12 Females, 8 Male syntypes, Rampur, Sri Lanka (Syntypes probably lost).

Female : Length, Body 3 mm, ovipositor 4mm. Head and thorax dark metallic green with brassy reflection; gaster blackish brown, paler ventrally, dorsally with metallic blue reflection; ovipositor sheaths blackish brown; ovipositor reddish brown. Antennae with scape dark testaceous, remainder brown with club black. Fore and mid coxae and femora and hind tibiae dark brown;



Figs. 1-4. *Podagrion scylla* Fernando. 1. Head and thorax in dorsal view; 2. Antenna; 3. Hind leg; 4. Forewing.

hind coxae and femora blackish brown, metallic blue reflection on fore and hind coxae and hind femora; fore and mid tibiae and all tarsi dark testaceous. Tegulae dark brown; wing membrane hyaline; veins pale brown; pubescence of wing dark brown and of body silvery white.

Head : (Fig.1) 1.1x as broad as thorax, in dorsal view 1.7x as broad as long and 1.2x as broad as height in front view; sculpture finely reticulate punctate, more finer on lower face and gena; pubescence short, denser on lower face; occiput margined posteriorly, carina weak, but distinct; temple length about 0.3x eye length; POL 3x OOL; inter ocellar area slightly raised; anterior margin of clypeus straight; scrobal cavity deep, ending vaguely less than one ocellar diameter below median ocellus; parascrobal area slightly raised; malar space length 0.36x eye height; eyes separated by little less than their individual height, which is 1.3x the maximum diameter. Antennae inserted below middle of face (Fig. 2); scape reaching almost level of vertex, length 0.6x eye height; pedicel plus flagellum length 1.4x head width; F1 little shorter than pedicel; anelli transverse; F2 as long as F1; F3 slightly shorter than F2 and as long as F4; F5 shorter than F4; F6 and F7 equal but shorter than F5; club almost as long as 5 preceding segments combined, sutures visible.

Mesosoma : (Fig. 1) Length 1.9x width; uniformly and finely reticulate; pronotal collar not margined anteriorly. Mesoscutum width 1.6x length. Scutellum less convex, posterior margin angulate, median length slightly shorter than mesoscutum, sub apical margin with a row of small punctures, reticulation finer on sides. Dorsellum almost smooth. Propodeum with median length little shorter than scutellum, uniformly and moderately reticulate with an inverted 'V' shaped carina; spiracles elongate, oval. Metapleuron almost shiny, with long white hairs on the margins. Upper mesepimeron shiny, separated by a small deep fovea from the lower mesepimeron, which is finely reticulate. Mesepisternum moderately reticulate with long white hairs anteriorly. Prepectus finely reticulate. Hind coxa uniformly and finely reticulate, hind femora almost shiny, very finely reticulate with 6 teeth, the second tooth smallest (Fig. 3). Forewing (Fig. 4) length 2.8x width, pubescence dense, speculum and basal cell closed below; basal vein setate; costal cell with 3 complete row or hairs on the upper part; MV 5x PMV. Relative lengths of SMV, MV, PMV and STV as 42, 25.5, 5.5 and 2.

Gaster : Petiole very short, gaster including petiole little longer than thorax (40 : 38); ovipositor 2.7x as long as gaster and 1.3x rest of the body.

Material examined : 4 females : INDIA : Maharashtra; Pune, i. 2000, Coll. H. V. Ghate (ex. ootheca of Mantis *Hierodula* sp.).

SUMMARY

Podagrion scylla Fernando is redescribed and reported for the first time from India.

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