INTRODUCTION

Orthoptera is one of the largest orders of insects that also include the destructive locusts. Over 17,250 species are known to science globally. More than 1,750 species, (about 10% of the total world species) are recorded from India and nearly an equal number is expected to be awaiting discovery (Tandon and Hazra, 1998). Annandale, 1906; Bolivar, 1900, 1902 & 1918; Hebard, 1929; Henry, 1937 & 1940; Kesavaram, 1986; Prabakar and Radhakrishnan, 2004; Shishodia and Hazra, 1986; Shishodia and Kulkarni, 2001, 2002; Shishodia and Vasanth, 2001; Singh and Kevan, 1965; Uvarov, 1929 and Vasanth, 1991 have dealt with the taxonomy of the South Indian Orthoptera. While studying the Orthopteran specimens deposited in the faunal holdings of the Zoological Survey of India, Calicut, the authors came across 4 species of grasshoppers (Orthoptera : Insecta) in the collection that are apparently hitherto unreported from Kerala, the details of which are presented below.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

Order ORTHOPTERA
Superfamily ACRIDOIDEA
Family ACRIDIDAE
Subfamily ACRIDINAE

1. Phlaeoba angustidorsis Bolivar
   Subfamily PYRGOMORPHINAE

2. Aularches miliaris (Fabricius)

3. Pseudomorphacris (Tagasta) notata (Brunner, 1893)
   Subfamily EYPREPOCNEMIDINAE

4. Choreodocus illustris (Walker)
1. *Phlaeoba anguistidorsis* Bolivar


*Diagnostic characters*: Body brown in colour, male with a yellow band extending from head to the tip of tegmina; pronotum very narrow; tegmina barely reaching the tip of the abdomen or shorter; hind femora pale brown with brown knees.


*Distribution*: INDIA: Tamil Nadu: Kodaikanal and Kerala (present record).

2. *Aularches miliaris* (Fabricius)


*Diagnostic characters*: Body shining black in colour with a broad yellow band across the head and sides of the pronotum; the pronotum with the front including the large rounded tubercles, yellow; upper and lower sides of abdomen with a red band; tegmina, brown or greenish coloured with numerous yellow callous spots.


*Distribution*: INDIA: Karnataka and Kerala (present record).

3. *Pseudomorphacris (Tagasta) notata* (Brunner)


*Diagnostic characters*: Fastigium of the vertex rather pointed; pronotum uniformly impress-punctate; tegmina green in colour with a black spot marked with an orange one near the base; tegmina longer than the abdomen, obtusely rounded at the tip; wings narrow, hyaline, suffused with rosy violet at the base, the costal area being sub hyaline.


*Distribution*: INDIA: West Bengal, Meghalaya and Kerala (present record: from hilly areas); MYANMAR.
4. *Choreodocus illustris* (Walker)


*Diagnostic characters*: Face with a moderately narrow blue-black stripe beneath each eye; pronotum punctured, with whitish depressions above; tegmina with small-scattered black spots on the disc; hind tibiae and tarsi purplish blue.


*Distribution*: South India; however, reported from Kerala by the present record.

**SUMMARY**

The present account deals with 4 new records of grasshoppers (Orthoptera: Insecta) from the Kerala state.

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**REFERENCE**


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