



## Short Communication

### NEW RECORD OF THE SPECIES *MELAENUS PIGER* (FABRICIUS) (MELAENINI: MELAENINAE : CARABIDAE : COLEOPTERA) FROM UTTAR PRADESH

*Melaenus piger* (Fab.) is commonly distributed in southern part of Indian peninsula. During study of the specimens recently collected from Uttar Pradesh, strikingly a single specimen from Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh has been noticed. There are only two species of the genus *Melaenus* Dejean, in the world; one species *M. elegans* Dejean in Afrotropical region and the other *M. piger* (Fab.) in Oriental region.

#### SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNT

Order COLEOPTERA

Sub order ADEPHAGA

Family CARABIDAE Latreille, 1802

Subfamily MELAENINAE Allaud, 1934

Tribe *Melaenini* Dejean, 1831

Genera *Melaenus* Dejean, 1831

*Melaenus piger* (Fabricius), 1801 (Figure 1)

1801. *Brachinus piger* Fabricius, *Syst. Eleuth.* I: 219. (Type Locality: Eastern India; Type Deposited in Zoological Museum, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark)

1847. *Melaenus piger* Schaum, *Stett. Ent. Zeit.* : 49.

1935a. *Melaenus piger*, Andrewes, *Fauna of British India including Ceylon and Burma (Coleoptera: Carabidae)* 2, *Harpalinae-1*: 28

2005. *Melaenus piger*, Ball & Shpeley, *Zootaxa*, 1099: 38-39

**Diagnosis** : Elytra slightly more dull in colour than head and thorax. Clypeus, labrum and anterior margin of head shiny; labrum, mandible, labial palpi, maxillary palpi reddish brown. Sides of the head slightly projected in front of eye; a groove runs along lateral margin of the head upto posterior

margin of the eye; one supra orbital seta on each side; head and thorax with rugose microsculpture. First four segments of antennae glabrous, round surface and dark reddish brown. Second segment nearly half of the third segment. Fourth segment slightly smaller than 3<sup>rd</sup> segment. Clypeus convex with one prominent seta on either lateral side. Anteriorly emarginate. Surface moderately punctate with very fine punctures and transverse microsculptures. Labrum anteriorly emarginate with 6 setae, some small setae on lateral underside. Transverse microsculpture. Lateral margin slightly reflexed. Mandible with seta in scrobe. Upper basal region obliquely striate. Hooked at apex; 2<sup>nd</sup> segment of maxillary palpi glabrous and longer than other segments. Apical segment of labial palpi moderately pubescent. Mentum short, emarginated anteriorly with one tooth. Lobes and epilobes well developed. One circular foveae with one seta on either side of base of mentum tooth. One seta on either side of base of submentum. One deep puncture on either side of anterior margin of gula. Submentum and gula fused and with transverse striations. Gena deeply punctate. A straight longitudinal sulcus or groove runs below eye upto its posterior margin. Prothorax cordate. Single seta on anterior half of either lateral side. Anterior angle obtuse and pointed. Posterior angle slightly diverge outwardly. Abdominal sternite rugose punctate. Apical segment with two small setae suggest female sex. Prosternum longitudinally depressed. Tarsal segments pubescent. On terminal region of elytra an oblique raised area present and interval 1<sup>st</sup> and 3-8<sup>th</sup> merge with it. Lateral margin slightly reflexed.

**Length** : 10.5 mm. (Female)



Figure 1

*Material examined* : 1 ex. ♀ INDIA: Uttar Pradesh, Ghazipur, Social Forest Nursery, 24. ix.2010, Coll. V. D. Hegde & Party, Ex. Under Leaf Litter.

*Distribution* : INDIA: Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal (Bengal), Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Goa, Puducherry, North India (Capt. Boys) and Uttar Pradesh.

*Elsewhere* : SRI LANKA.

*Habitat* : Andrewes (1935) found this species common in refuse bordering the rice fields and attracted to lights in the evening. The present specimen was collected under refuse and leaf litter accumulated near the base of a tree trunk.

*Variation* : Exceptionally one fine and small seta present just beneath the anterior angle of only right side of clypeus (Figure 2).

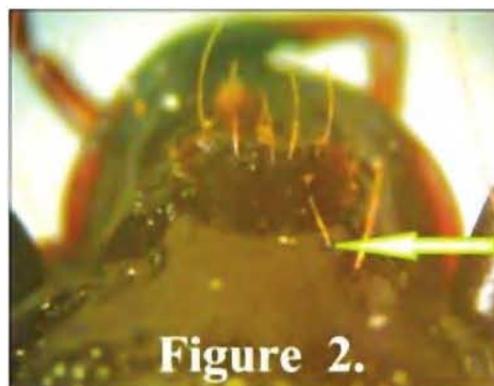


Figure 2.

*Remarks* : One locality "North India" of Collection of Captain Boys in "HOPE ENTOMOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS, UNIVERSITY MUSEUM, PARKS ROAD, OXFORD OXI 3PW, UNITED KINGDOM" as mentioned by Dr. Ball (2005) is not certain and he mentioned it on Outline map of Southwestern Asia. As the literature shows all collections of Capt. Boys were made in North India and many of them certainly in the neighborhood of Simla (Andrewes, 1935b), the specimen studied here is a first record of the species from Uttar Pradesh.

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#### REFERENCES

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