

ON A NEW SPECIES OF STYLIFERA (LEPISMATIDAE : THYSANURA  
INSECTA) FROM INDIA

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ABSTRACT

A new species of Thysanura, *Stylifera wygodzinskyi*, from India is described and illustrated.

INTRODUCTION

Wygodzinsky (1959) elevated Stylifera to generic rank, it was Stach (1932) who introduced the new subgenus *Acrotelsa* (*Stylifera*) for *Lepisma galapagoensis* Banks, 1901. Thereafter *Silvestri* (1934) probably not knowing the Stach's paper clearly subdivides *Acrotelsa*, erecting *Allacrotelsa* gen. n. for *Lepisma spinulata* Pack., 1872 and *Acrotelsella* gen. n. as the type of which he named *Acrotelsa producta* Esch., 1905. So far the genus is represented by 15 species and 2 subspecies from Europe, America, Australia, Seychelles, China and Madagascar. This new species is the first species of the genus *Stylifera* from India.

*Stylifera wygodzinskyi* sp. nov.

*Male and Female* : Maximum length of the body 12 mm. shape of the body more or less parallel-sided, thorax very slightly wider than abdomen. Dorsally scales are darker, ventrally light yellowish, hypodermal pigments distinct on the antennae, on the labial palp, apex of tibia, tarsus also on the caudal appendages and on the tip of the trochanter.

Chaetotaxy of head as in fig. 1A, mandibles normal, palp as usual. Labial palp as in fig. 1B, apical segment distinctly broader and bears 10 normal sized sensory papillae arranged in a single row. Antennae more or less as long as body, base of the antennae as in fig. 1C. Lateral borders of the nota with 8-9 bristle combs each composed of 1-2 macrochaete, hind border of the nota with 1+1 bristle combs, each composed of 5-7 setae (fig. 1D).

Prosternum triangular posteriorly not narrow (fig. 1E) lateral borders with 3+3 bristle combs each composed of setae ; mesosternum (fig. 1F) somewhat more wider than prosternum lateral border with 2+2 bristle combs each comb consisting of 4-5 setae ; metasternum (fig. 1G) wider and apically rounded with 1+1 bristle combs each comb consisting of 7-9 setae.

Shape and chaetotaxy of hind leg as in fig. 2A, B, C, abdominal terga 2-7 each with 3+3 bristle combs consisting of 5-7 setae, tergum I with 1+1 bristle combs, tergum VIII with 2+2 bristle combs, tergum IX devoid of any bristle combs ; terga VIII, IX with

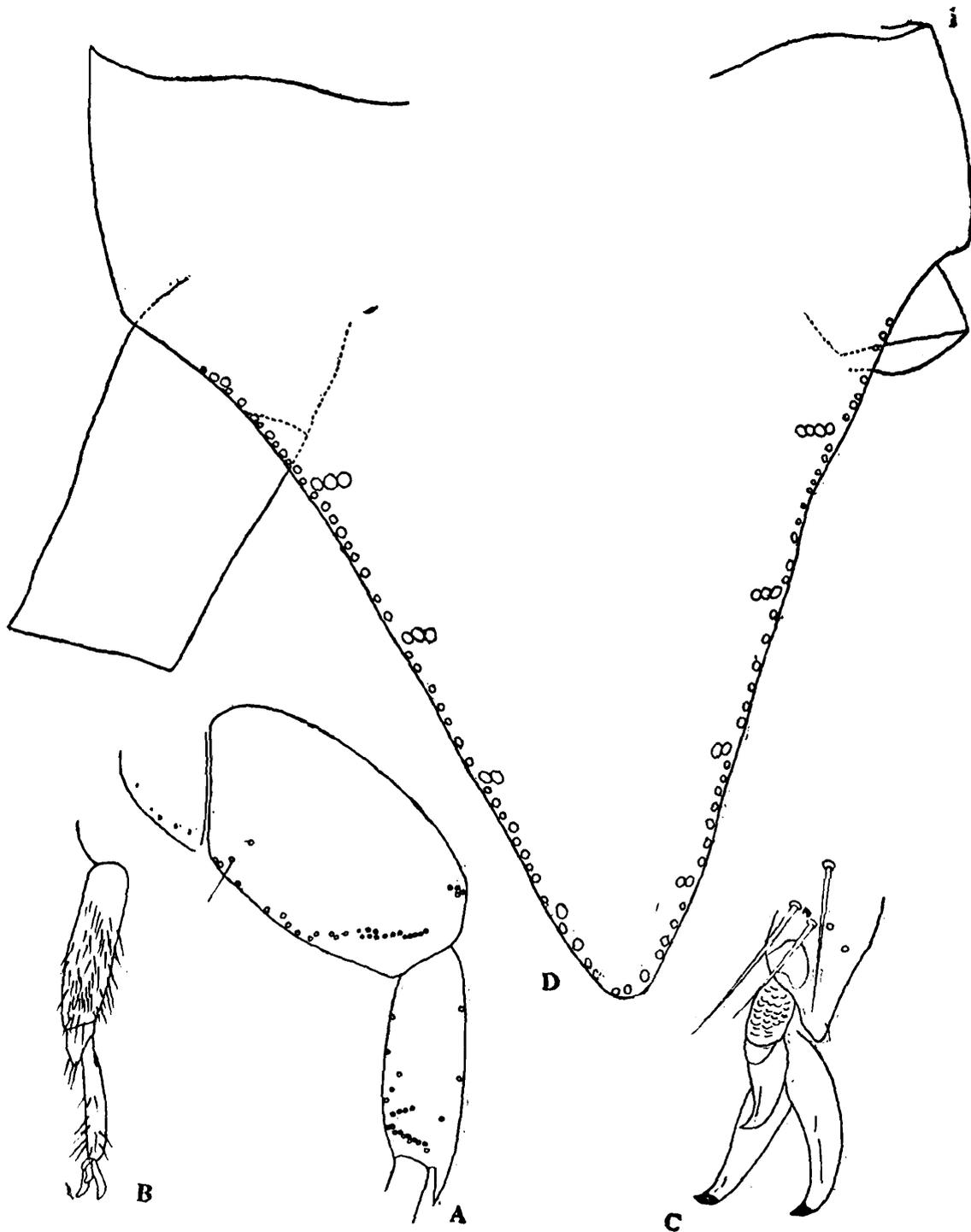


Fig. 1. *Stylistera wygodzinskyi* sp. n. ♀, A—head dorsally with insertion of macrochaetae ; B—labial palp ; C—basal segments of antenna ; D—part of pronotum ; E—Prosternum ; F—mesosternum ; G—metasternum.

stylets, Xth tergum long, triangular. Pointed with 4+4 bristle combs of which consists of 1-4 setae (fig. 2D). Urosternum 3-8 with 1+1 sublateral bristle combs consisting of 7-11 setae.

Ovipositor of female as long as the inner processes of coxite IX and covered by it, outer process outwardly curved (fig. 3A) Coxite VIII not long shape as in (fig. 3B). Anterior gonapophyses composed of 19-21 segments,

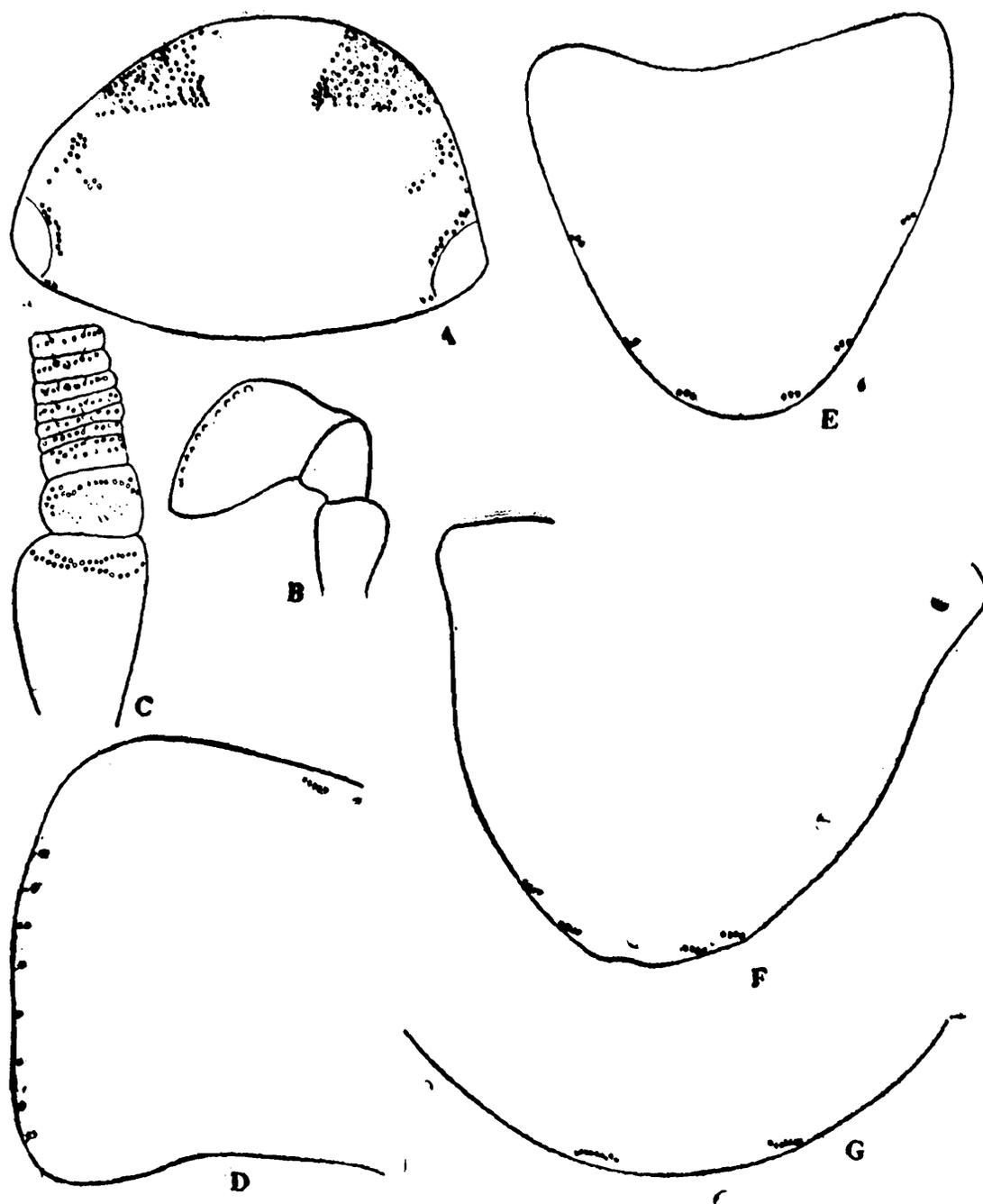


Fig. 2. *Stylifera wygodzinskyi* sp. n. ♀, (A—C) hind leg, with insertion of macrochaetae shown on femur and tibia ; C—tergite X.

apex of the anterior gonopophyses with 6-7 pointed fossorial spines and also 4-5 long setae 6-7 setae also present in the segment (fig. 3C). Posterior gonopophyses extended upto IX coxite and the apex bears 3 pointed fossorial spines, and also with two long setae and numerous short setae scattered in this segment (fig. 3D). Caudal appendages as long as body.

The species is named in honour of Dr. P. Wygodzinsky, of the American Museum of Natural History, New York, whose contribution in the field of Thysanura is well known.

*Distribution* : INDIA West Bengal.

*Type locality* : Holotype ♀ India : West Bengal, Bundwan Forest, Purulia Dist. 700 ft.

11.ii.1974, coll. A. K. Hazra, 59 examples, Holotype Regd. No. deposited to Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta.

*Comparison* : This species shows affinities with the species *annamita* Silv., 1948 but can be distinguished by the presence of sublateral bristle combs on urosterites 3-8.

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Fig. 3. *Stylifera wygodzinskyi* sp. n. ♀, A—coxite IX; B—coxite VIII with portion of anterior gonapophysis; C—apex of anterior gonapophysis; D—apex of Posterior gonapophysis.

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