

FIRST RECORD OF THE GENUS *BOCCHARIS* (HETEROPTERA : LYGAEIDAE)
AND A NEW SPECIES FROM INDIA

INTRODUCTION

Distant (1904) erected the genus *Boccharis* as the monotype with the type species *Boccharis significatus* Dist. from Burma. Slater (1964) in his catalogue also mentioned the species only from Burma. Later some specimens of the same genus were collected from Calcutta and other parts of India. Careful examination of these specimens show some distinctive features from *B. significatus* which necessitates to describe a new species *Boccharis indicus* Mukhopadhyay 1979.

Boccharis indicus sp. nov.

MORPHOLOGICAL FEATURES

Head, anterior lobe of the pronotum and anterior part of the scutellum blackish-brown with silvery-grey pubescence. Antennae ochraceous, with distal part of the first, fourth and both ends of the second joint usually infuscated. Eyes infuscated. A pair of black hairless depression (obscure) in front of ocelli. Head, anterior pronotal lobe finely and obscurely punctate. Posterior pronotal lobe, apex of scutellum, clavus and corium with dark deep punctures. Anterior hemelytra translucent, membrane completely hyaline. Posterior abdominal region, connexivum ochraceous with dorsolateral joint of the tergites dark infuscated.

Pro—, meso—, metasterna piceous black ; ventromedian area of the abdomen ochraceous ;

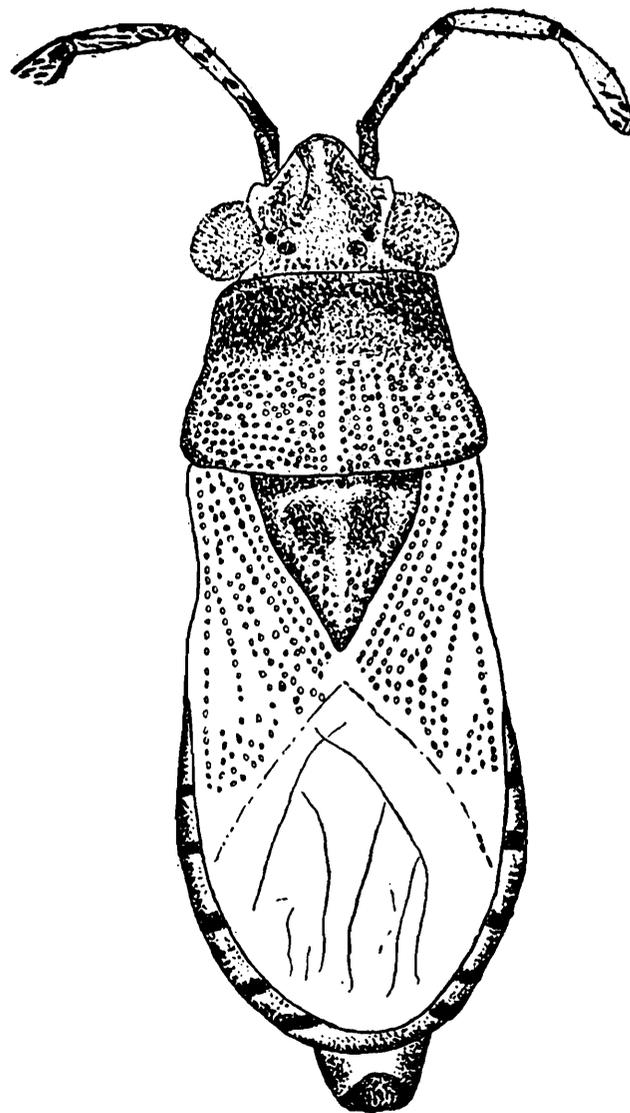


Fig. 1. *Boccharis indicus* Mukhopadhyay 1979.
Dorsal view.

coxae, femora, tibiae and tarsi luteous. Anterior femora with minute spines on the ventral side (Fig. 2D) ; femur of the hind leg with a single dorsal infuscate spot (Fig. 2C). The pro—, meso—, and metapleura black to infuscate at

regions, marked with small punctures. A pair of orange lobular structures on the metapleura ventrolaterally (Fig. 2C).

Length : ♂♂ 4 mm. : ♀♀ 4.5—5.5 mm.

Holotype ♂ (No. 729/H15, Zoological Survey of India), Calcutta, India, Date 17.5.1979. Ananda Mukhopadhyay.

Paratype : 2 ♂♂ : 2 ♀♀ (No. 730/H15, Zoological Survey of India), 1 ♂ Orissa, 17.11.1913 : 1 ♂ Madras, 18.2.1923. 1 ♀ W. Bengal, Calcutta, 25.11.1912. : 1 ♀ W. Bengal, Calcutta, 17.5.1979.

Remarks :

The new species differs from that of the monotypic one, *B. significatus* Dist., in the following characters :

No central spot formation by the punctures of the posterior pronotal lobe ; body beneath not entirely piceous ; femur of the hind leg with single dark spot near apex (Fig. 2C) ; no significant infuscation on third and fourth joints of antennae.

Note :

Some morphological characters observed at genus level differ from the description of *Boccharis* by Distant, 1904.

Basal joint of the antennae exceeding the apex (tylus) of head (Fig. 2a). Scutellum not prominently centrally carinate but with a whitish dividing line.

With the availability of few more specimens these characters may be taken into account in

future for consideration of another distinct genus.

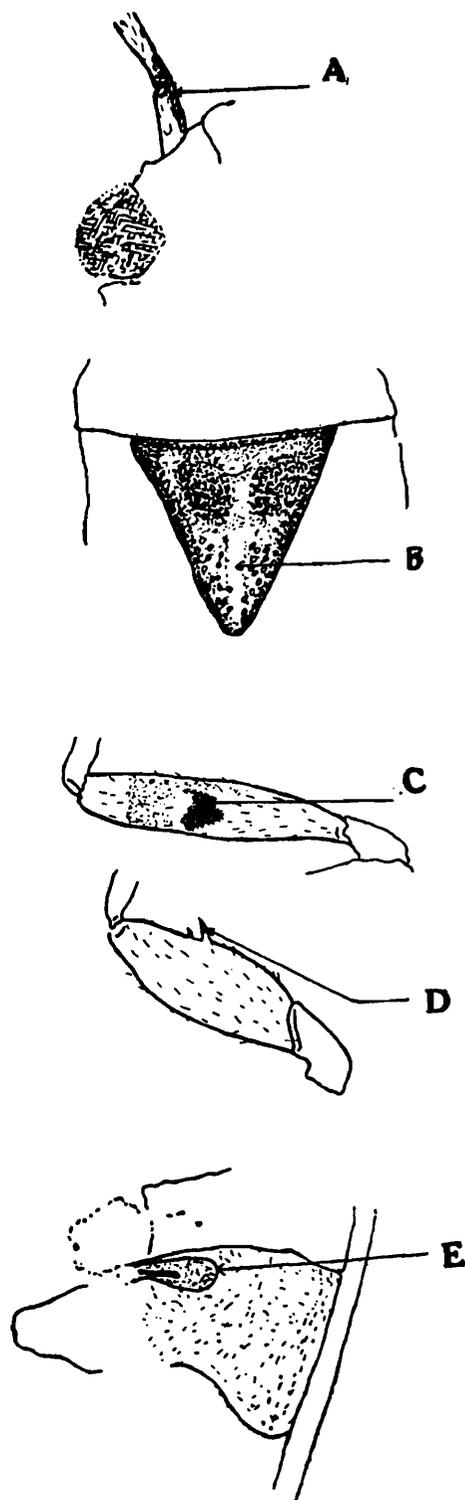


Fig. 2 A. First segment of the antenna exceeding the tylos. B. Scutellum : centrally dividing pale line. C. Femur of third leg : single dark spot. D. Femur of first leg : minute spine on ventral side. E. Ventrolateral side of the metapleuron with lobular structure.

ECOLOGICAL NOTE

Boccharis indicus sp. nov. has been found by the author from the leaf litters of peepul tree (*Ficus religiosa*). Some late instars of the same were also obtained from the same habitat. Its population was observed poor in Calcutta. The adults emerged from these nymphs when kept on a diet of Fig fruits (*Ficus cunius*).

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REFERENCES

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SLATER, J. A. 1964. *A Catalogue of the Lygaeidae of the World*, 1 : 742.

ANANDA MUKHOPADHYAY

DISCOVERY OF A LUMINOUS GECKONID LIZARD FROM INDIA

INTRODUCTION

While surveying the Madar foot hills near Ajmer (Rajasthan) in August 1973 during middle of night I came across this peculiar new Geckonid species on the uneven, barren, stony terrain. I was astonished to see that the lizard was shedding bright light in darkness from its body while moving slowly towards a bush. The mode of progression of the Gecko was so slow that it was easily captured and made a feeble attempt to escape. I at first took it for something else and it was only on carefully examining it subsequently that I found it to be a luminous Gecko. It was slowly moving like a chamaeleon on its four limbs, keeping its body sufficiently raised from the ground. The white bands and spots on the dorsum of the lizard were glowing constantly like a series of candles in darkness.

Cyrtodactylus madarensis n. sp.

Rajasthan Luminous Gecko (pl. VII A & B)

Material examined (R. C. Sharma Coll.) : Adult ♂, near Madar T. B. Sanitorium C. 5 km. N.W. of Ajmer (Rajasthan, India), Alt. 263. m. ; lat. 26°28'N, long. 74°42'E, 11. viii. 1973 (11.30 P.M.).

DESCRIPTION

Brownish-black above, with narrow white transverse bars upon the back and tail which meet each other laterally, thus enclosing

rectangular black spots or bars ; a curved white mark upon the nape extending upto the top of snout, below eyes ; a white irregular spot about the shoulders ; white oblique streaks above the eyes ; white irregular spots on the head ; whitish below.

Head moderate ; snout equal to the distance between the eye and the ear opening, which is small as its greatest diameter being about one quarter that of eye ; 9 upper and 10 lower labials. Head covered above with minute rounded scales intermixed with rounded tubercles ; snout with pentagonal or hexagonal scales, intermixed with small rounded scales and are biggest on the anteriormost portion. Body above with small granular scales intermixed with large subtriangular tubercles ; a feebly developed, but distinct lateral fold. Belly with rounded imbricate scales, 30 across the middle. The hind limb extends to the axilla ; subdigital lamellae well developed, as broad as the digit. Tail shorter than the head and body, cylindrical, segmented, not swollen at the base, tapering to a point, covered above with small scales, which are smaller than the ventral scales. No enlarged femoral scales. No femoral or preanal pores.

Measurements : Snout to vent length 50 mm. ; tail length 36 mm.

Type-specimens : Holotype : ♂ adult, vide material above D.R.S., Z.S.I. Reg. No. V/1215, deposited in National Zoological collections, Zoological Survey of India, Jodhpur.