

A NEW SPECIES OF *HAEMATOPOTA* MEIGEN (DIPTERA : TABANIDAE)
FROM DARJEELING, INDIA

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ABSTRACT

A new species, viz. *Haematopota darjeelingensis* Datta is described and illustrated from Tiger Hill, Darjeeling.

Stone and Philip (1974), while revising the Oriental species of the tribe Haematopotini, have recorded two species of the genus *Haematopota* Meigen from Darjeeling. A small collection of Diptera received from the Department of Zoology, Darjeeling Government College, for identification, contains four unique specimens of a species of *Haematopota* Meigen described here as new. These have been taken on the body of the collector at Tiger Hill, Darjeeling.

The type-specimens are deposited in the National Zoological Collection of Zoological Survey of India at Calcutta.

Subfamily TABANINAE

Tribe HAEMATOPOTINI

Genus *Haematopota* Meigen

Haematopota Meigen, 1803, Illiger's Mag. f. Insenk. tenk. 2 : 267. Type-species : *Tabanus pluvialis* Linnaeus (Monotypy).

Haematopota darjeelingensis sp. n.

(Fig. 1—A, B, Pl. I).

A medium-sized greyish species having black, shiny and rugose frontal callus, with a small mid-dorsal projection ; upper parafacials with scattered speckling, somewhat

fused above and below ; a pair of triangular interantennal black spots ; moderately swollen scape and flattened plate ; striped thorax and abdomen ; wings with single slender apical spot ; and hind tibiae with double rings.

Female—Length 8.0-10.0 mm ; wing 9.0-11.0 mm ; antenna 1.6-2.0 mm. Head : Eyes bare. Frons (Fig. 1-A) brownish, pollinose, dark-haired, width at vertex subequal to height, slightly wider below ; vertex whitish pollinose ; midfrontal spot small, velvety black, vertical ; paired spots large, nearly subquadrate, velvety black, touching eyes but separated from callus ; callus black, shiny and rugose centrally, nearly 3 times as wide as high, upper margin biconvex, with a small middorsal projection, lower margin biconcave with a midventral concavity and a curve downward laterally touching eyes ; subcallar area mostly occupied by a pair of large triangular interantennal velvety black spots ; face whitish pollinose and pilose ; parafacials whitish pollinose and pilose, with scattered speckling above, with dark hairs, somewhat fused above and below ; beard white. Scape (Fig. 1-B) dark reddish, shiny, cylindrical, gradually swollen distally, little more than twice as long as thick ; pedicel short, stout and somewhat crescentic ; flagellum dark, much longer than scape, first flagel-

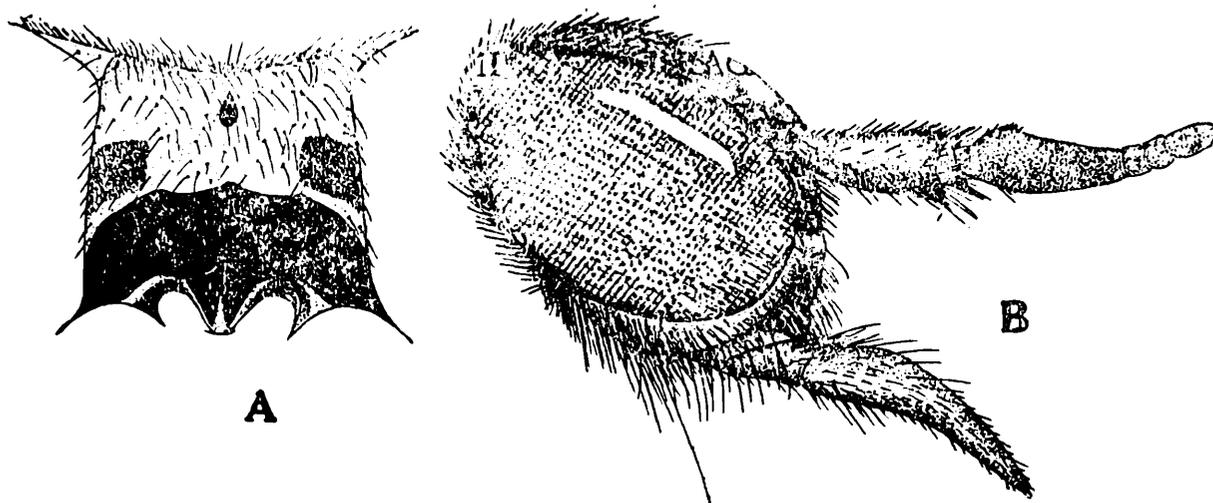


Fig. 1. *Haematopota darjeelingensis* sp. n.

A. Frons of holotype female (frontal view).

B. Head of holotype female (lateral view).

lomere somewhat flattened, more than twice as long as wide at greatest width at base ; last flagellomere nearly equal in length to second and third flagellomeres together. Palpus (Fig. 1-B) slender, reddish grey, mostly dark-haired. Thorax : Scutum grey with golden hairs and pattern as follows :

Middorsal stripe and two wider submedian stripes extended from anterior margin to scuto-scutellar suture ; two sublateral stripes extended from transverse suture to scuto-scutellar suture ; humeral calli and antealares brownish pollinose like that of scutal stripes. Scutellum greyish with pale brown hind margin. Pleuron whitish pollinose. Wings (Pl. 1) brownish with pattern of slender paler spots ; subapical band slender widely separated from anterior and posterior margins ; no spot on hind margin of wing, spur vein present. Haltere with dark knob. Fore coxa, trochanter and femur grey, former whitish pollinose ; tibia grey with nearly one-third pale base ; tarsus grey. Mid coxa grey ; trochanter, femur and tibia reddish brown, latter with two pale bands ; first tarsomere mostly pale, rest of tarsus greyish. Hind coxa grey ; trochanter and femur

reddish brown, latter with dark tip ; tibia also reddish brown, with two pale bands ; first tarsomere mostly brownish. Abdomen : Dorsum grey, dark-haired, with yellowish incisures, golden haired and with a yellow middorsal stripe. Venter grey, whitish pollinose and yellow pilose.

Holotype ♀, Z. S. I. Reg. No. 6530/H₆, INDIA : West Bengal : Darjeeling : Tiger Hill, 2500 m., 22.VII.1979, Coll. S. S. Saha. *Paratypes* : 3 ♀♀, Z. S. I. Reg. Nos. 6531/H₆, 6532/H₆ and 6533/H₆, same data as holotype.

Variations observed are in the frontal hue, degree of fusion of parafacial speckling, distance of paired spots from frontal callus, shape of midfrontal spot, intensity of stripes on thorax and abdomen, and dimension of spots and length of spur vein in wings.

This species runs to key-couplet 143 of Stone and Philip (1974) ; but having no pale spots on the hind margin of wing, it will not pass through the couplet. *Haematopota gregoryi* Stone and Philip, 1974, described from South China, has pale spots on the hind

margin of wing but spotting of upper parafacials is without any fusion and the frontal characteristics are quite different (cf. Stone and Philip, 1974). *H. albofasciatipennis* Brunetti, 1912, and *H. hardyi* Stone and Philip, 1974, recorded from Darjeeling, do not show close relationship. The former species is without any middorsal projection from upper margin of frontal callus and with a broad subapical band ; and the latter species has curved subapical band, extended nearly to margins and subcallar area with a strong interantennal spot among certain other differences.

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PLATE I



Wing of paratype female (dorsal view)