

A NEW SPECIES OF *LOBUS* MARTIN (DIPTERA : ASILIDAE)
FROM S. INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Lobus martini n. sp. is described from South India and its affinities are discussed. A key to the Indian species are also included.

Genus *Lobus* Martin

Lobus Martin, 1972, *J. Kans. ent. Soc.*, 45 (1) : 8.
Type-species *Leptogaster pallipes* Janssens 1953.

Lobus Martin can be easily distinguished from the remaining genera under Leptogastrinae by the long horizontal pod-like ventral organ of male terminalia called lobos (Martin, 1972) and the almost wholly fused aedeagal sheath with the lobos. It is a small genus represented by two species in India, *Lobus keralae* Martin and *L. himalayae* Martin, and the third one is described here.

Key to the Indian species of *Lobus* Martin

1. Anterior legs uniformly yellowish ...
Anterior legs pale yellow with dark brown apex, antennae black, mystax with a row of dense white bristles *martini* n. sp.
2. Hind femur with a dark spot both medially and basally, hind tibia without band, scutellum bears 8 short dark bristles on posterior margin. *keralae* Martin

Hind femur with reddish-brown at apex, hind tibia with a brown band at apex, scutellum bears pale hairs on posterior margin *himalayae* Martin

Lobus martini n. sp.

A slender black fly with pale and dark brown legs and brownish tinged wings. Male : length 7-9 mm, wing 4-5 mm ; female : length 7-10 mm, wing 4-6 mm.

Male : Head black with greyish-yellow scales on frons below antennae ; gibbosity weakly developed with dense white bristles, occiput medially and laterally grey tomentose leaving a large black area in between them or more or less uniformly grey tomentose, hairs on occiput white but become shorter and paler towards the middle. Antenna black, segment 1 subequal to 2, segment 3 elongate, style shorter than or nearly as long as segment 3 and suddenly narrowed at apex. Proboscis and palpi black with pale hairs.

Thorax black with grey tomentum ; pronotum densely grey tomentose ; meso-

tum devoid of mediolongitudinal stripe, sides grey tomentose while the remaining black, covering hairs white or pale, posterolateral sides with a pair of pale or dark brown bristles; scutellum thickly grey tomentose, hind border with 2 or 3 rows of pale or dark brown short bristles; pleura for greater part covered with grey tomentum, mesopleuron and sternopleuron anteriorly bearing dense, long white hairs. Halteres pale yellowish-brown with their stalks comparatively lighter coloured.

Legs pale and dark brown, the extension of colouration variable but shows the

following pattern: in foreleg femur pale yellow with its apex dark brown, tibia pale with its apex and sides dark brown, tarsus dark brown except the base of basitarsus being pale; in midleg femur basally pale while the remaining dark brown, tibia basally and dorsally pale while the rest dark brown, tarsus similar to the preceding; in hindleg femur and tibia less than half pale and the remaining dark brown, basitarsus almost wholly pale or apically dark brown, remaining segments dark brown; clothing hairs white or pale, bristles black with some pale ones also.

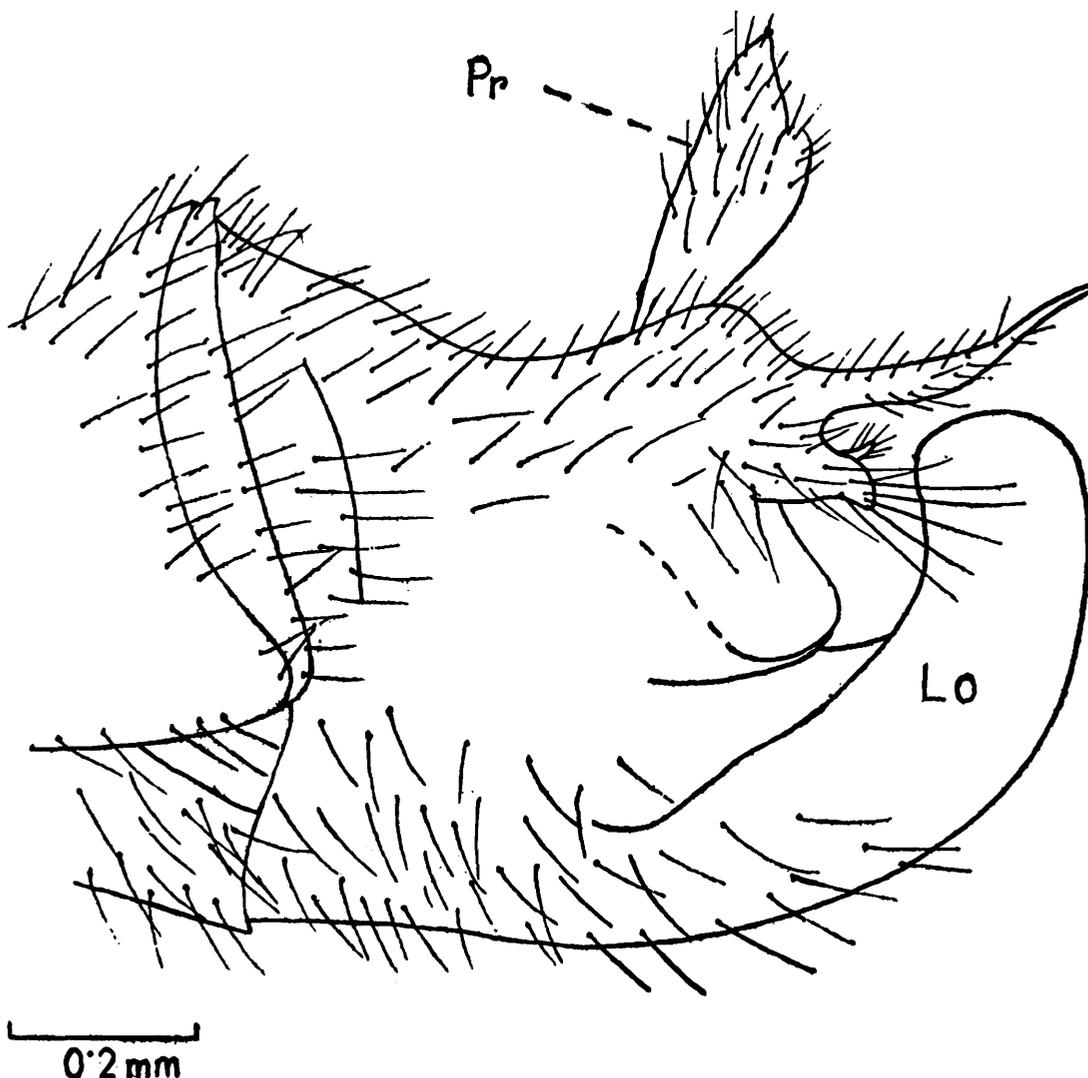


Fig. 1. Lateral view of male terminalia of *Lobus martini* n. sp. Lo, lobos; Pr, proctiger.

Wings brownish tinged, posterior half lighter than the anterior half.

Abdomen black with the tergites at the anterior and posterior borders marked grey, the area of grey marking gradually decreases in the posterior tergites, sides of tergites 1 and 2 with pale hairs. Male terminalia (Fig. 1) black with pale hairs.

Female : Similar to the males.

The only other known South Indian species is *Lobus keralae* Martin which is quite different. This species can be recognised at once from all the other species in the genus by the structural details of male terminalia, in which character the various species of the genus exhibit great variation. It is named in honour of late Dr. C. H. Martin, the author of the genus.

Holotype ♂, ZSI Reg. No. 6662/H6, INDIA : Kerala State : Trichur District : Chalakudy : Konnakuzhi, 22.xii. 1979, Coll. *Joseph and Parui*.

Paratypes. 1 ♂, 3 ♀♀, Reg. No. 6663/H6 to 6666/H6, details as in holotype. 1 ♂, Reg. No. 6667/H6, INDIA : Kerala State : Ernakulam District : Kannimangalam, 16.xii. 1979, Coll. *Joseph and Parui*. 1 ♀ Reg. No. 6668/H6, Malayattoor, rest of data as in preceding. 1 ♂, Reg. No. 6669/H6, Idamalaya, 18.xii. 1979, rest of details as in preceding.

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REFERENCE

- MARTIN, C. H. 1972. Genital morphology and species of the Eastern Hemisphere genus *Lobus*. *J. Kans. ent. Soc.*, **45** (1) : 7-17.

