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NEW RECORD OF TWO SPECIES OF THE GENUS *ANISOPS* SPINOLAE
(HEMIPTERA : INSECTA) FROM THE LOWER WESTERN
GHATS, KERALA

The genus *Anisops* Spinolae, an old world genus of the family Notonectidae, enjoys its distribution from the Fiji Island in the Pacific across Australia to Africa and Canary Islands (Hungerford, 1958). It has 95 species in the old world of which only 18 species are represented in India. The present note deals with the occurrence of two species of *Anisops*, namely, *Anisops batillifrons* Lundbald and *Anisops debilis* Gerstaecker from the lower Western Ghats of Kerala.

Of the two, *Anisops batillifrons* was first reported from China (Lundbald, 1933) and subsequently recorded from Formosa, Hainan, Burma, Philippines, Okinawa, India (Brooks, 1951) and Sri Lanka (Fernando, 1959 ; Leong & Fernando, 1962). In India, *Anisops batillifrons* was reported above 4000'-4700' in Eastern Himalaya (Brooks, 1951). During a recent expedition by the Southern Regional Station, Madras to Mullaperiyar Wildlife sanctuary, Thekkady, Kerala (February, 1981), 2 males and a female of *Anisops batillifrons* were collected from a jungle stream near Mullayaru (980 m. s. 1.). Fernando (1959), however, recorded it in isolated habitats and stated that it inhabits the Paddy fields.

The second species, *Anisops debilis*, an ethiopian species, recorded from various places of Africa (Brooks, 1951) was also collected (16 males and 12 females) from a jungle pool from the Karadikavala, off Mullaperiyar Wildlife sanctuary, Thekkady, Kerala. A perusal of literature (Brooks, 1951 ; Leong and Fernando, 1962) on the distribution of the genus *Anisops* revealed that this species has not been reported so far from Oriental region so the present report is the first record of this species from Oriental region. The general colour of *Anisops debilis* reported in the present study is very similar to the ethiopian species as given by Brooks (1951), but lacks the two triangular hyaline areas on each side of the anterior half of scutellum. The size of the male varies from 6.5 mm. to 7.0 mm. in length and 2.0 mm. to 2.3 mm. in width (greatest body width), while the female varies from 7.2 mm. to 7.8 mm. in length and 2.1 mm. to 2.4 mm. in width (greatest body width). The stridulatory comb is exactly identical with that figured by Brooks (1951) wherein the comb decreases slightly in length from base to apex but the number of teeth being 23 instead of 21.

It is interesting to note that *Anisops batillifrons* an Indo-Chinese, and Indo-Malayan, and Palaearctic, and Pacific species, and *Anisops debilis*, an Ethiopian form, from lower Western Ghats which perhaps providing an ideal habitat to many other species in the like manner compared with the rest of the peninsular India. The study of Notonectidae is important, since water bugs in general among insects are less likely to be transported by the agencies of man (Hungerford, 1958) and hence valuable for the study of zoogeographic relationship.

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