

DISCOVERY OF THE GENUS *TENTYRINA* REITTER (COLEOPTERA :
TENEBRIONIDAE) FROM INDIA WITH DESCRIPTION
OF A NEW SPECIES

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ABSTRACT

The genus *Tentyrina* Reitter (1900) of the subfamily Tentyriinae Solier (1937) is recorded for the first time from India and a new species, *Tentyrina rajasthanica* is described from Rajasthan.

INTRODUCTION

The insects belonging to the subfamily Tentyriinae, usually apterous considered as an archaic group of the family Tenebrionidae is characterised by the very large mentum, concealing both the ligula and the maxilla, frons usually trilobed, the mesocoxae enclosed by the meso- and metasternum without exposing the mesotrochantin, and the abdomen without intersegmental membranes between distal sternites. Doyen (1972) elevated it to a family rank as Tentyriidae. All Tentyriinae are eremophilous, exhibiting in their extreme desertic forms the highest of adaptation in overcoming the difficulties of existence in the wastes of the barren desert. The most specialised of these forms are to be found in the South African Namib desert (Koch, 1955).

While I was studying the collection of the family collected from desert and semi-desert parts of Rajasthan, I came across this interesting new species of *Tentyrina* which is a small genus of restricted distribution in Egypt and Palestine and this forms the first record of this genus from India.

Genus *Tentyrina* Reitter

Tentyrina Reitter, 1900, Best-Tab. XLII, p. 92, 166.

Body hard, shiny black, finely punctate; head convex posteriorly and gradually flat in front; pronotum and elytra fairly convex; apterous; eyes small and finely granular; antennae 11-segmented, slender, somewhat clavate; mandibles strong, pointed apically; mentum very large; maxillary palpi moderately elongate; pro- and mesocoxal semi-rounded; abdomen narrowed and pointed apically; legs elongate, with sharp tibial spines, tarsi spinous, claws simple.

Tentyrina rajasthanica sp. n.

(Fig. 1)

Female: Body convex, oblong, shiny black, glabrous, length 15-17 mm.

Head: Smooth, semi-rounded, very finely punctate, smaller than pronotum, convex posteriorly and gradually flat in front; labrum small, distinct, brownish, rounded apically and with small setae; mandibles strong, usually bidentate, upper one small, lower one fairly elongate, curved inwardly and acute apically; clypeus roundly protruded

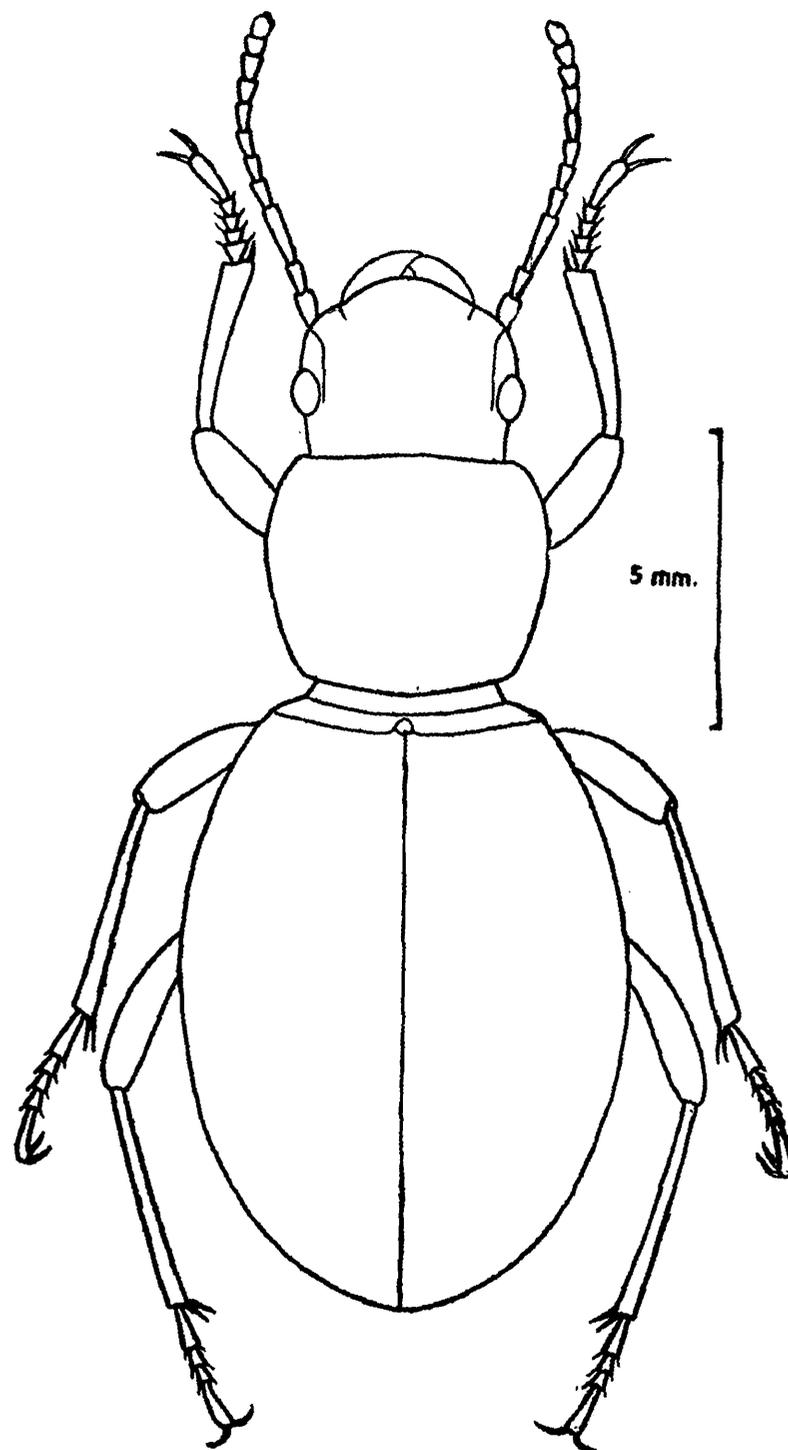


Fig. 1. *Tentyrina rajasthanica* sp. n., Holotype ♀ Dorsal view

in front ; frons produced and slightly elevated over the antennal sockets and extends slightly into the emargination of the eyes ; vertex and occiput moderately convex : eyes small, transverse, moderately convex, granular and slightly incised in front ; antennae

slender, somewhat clavate apically, segment I slightly longer and more swollen anteriorly than II, segment III longest, cylindrical and slightly longer than the total length of the segments IV and V, segments VI, & VII equal in length and slightly longer than VIII

& IX which are wider apically, segments X & XI wider and shorter in length than the preceding ones; mentum large, notched in front, moderately convex, bilobed; ligula not visible; apical segments of maxillary and labial palpi enlarged; sub-mentum triangular; enlarged gena region very sparsely hairy.

Pronotum: Fairly convex, broader than head, vary finely punctate, wider and truncate apically, all sides surrounded with a carina, moderately explanate laterally, faintly narrowed at base.

Scutellum: Small, finely elevated, semi-rounded posteriorly.

Elytra: Finely punctate, except posterior parts which finely tuberculate, carinate at base, with a fine sutural margin and distinct epipleura, apically rounded, embracing the sides.

Mesosternum anteriorly rugose; metasternum small; fore tibia gradually broad towards apex and ventrally slightly concave, rugose, with spines; mid and hind; tibiae cylindrical, fairly elongate and the mid and hind tibial spines more closely situated and more acute than those of fore tibiae; tarsi spinous; segments 1-4 of fore tarsi nearly transverse and equal in length; segments 2-4 of mid tarsi nearly equal in length and segment 5 of mid tarsi nearly equal of the total length of the segment 1 and 2; hind tarsal segment 2 slightly longer than segment 3, segment 4 slightly longer than segment 1.

Holotype ♀, INDIA: RAJSTHAN: Gandra Road, 2.II.1958, (K. K. T. & S. B.). Paratypes 2, ♀♀, 11 ♀, 1 ♀ RAJSTHAN, Pachfatra, Saltdift, 14.II.1957; RAJSTHAN: Jaisalmer

1 ♀, 24.XII.1957 (K. K. T. & S. B.); RAJSTHAN: Sardarshahr 1 ♀, 31. 1. 1957.

Remarks: This species can be easily separated from other species of the genus by the protruded epistome, 3rd longest antennal segment and by the large, convex and bilobed mentum.

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