

ON A SMALL COLLECTION OF CONIOPTERYGIDAE (*NEUROPTERA*)  
FROM WEST BENGAL, INDIA

S. K. GHOSH

AND

D. R. MAULIK

*Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta.*

Effort has been made to collect coniopterygids from West Bengal, as this group is so far unrecorded from the state, although only nine species are known from other states of India (*vide* Ghosh & Sen, 1977). In order to collect these pygmy insects, several host plants, namely, Citrus (*Citrus* sp.), Jack fruit (*Artocarpus* sp.) and Mango (*Mangifera indica*) in 24-Parganas and Nadia Districts were explored and as a result three species from several localities of the aforesaid districts were collected. Of these, hitherto unknown female of *Coniocompsa indica* Withycombe is for the first time recorded and described from India and this along with other two species dealt with here are new records for West Bengal.

1. *Coniocompsa indica* Withycombe

1925. *Coniocompsa indica* Withycombe, *Mem. Dep. Agric. India*, 9 : 18.

Female : Head : brown. Eyes : black. Palpi : pale brown. Antenna : 16-segmented ; scape and pedicel yellowish brown ; flagellum dark brown. Pronotum : pale. Meso and metanotum : dark brown. Wings :

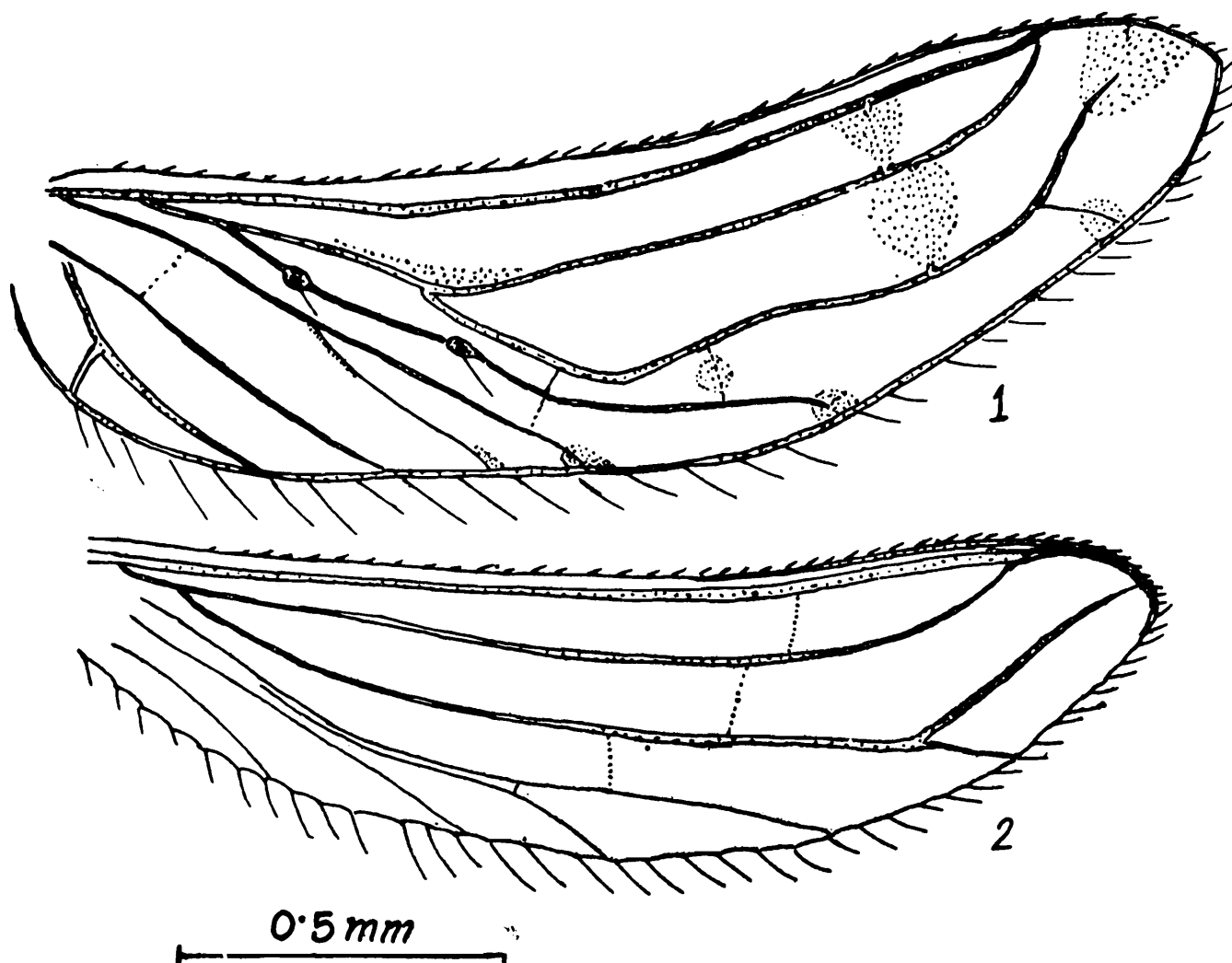
hyaline and fringed with long hairs at the inner margin specially in the hindwing. Forewing (fig. 1) : membrane hyaline with brown spots at the end of longitudinal veins from Sc<sub>1</sub> to Cu<sub>2</sub> and distal crossveins ; two large bristles on the dark brown prominences of M. Hindwing (fig. 2) : hyaline and slightly tinged with pale fuscous in the space between Sc to Rs. Legs : brown. Abdomen : pale ; setae on the gonapophyses lateralis curved abruptly downwards.

Male : *Vide* description after Meinander (1972).

*Measurement* : Length of antenna, 0.52 mm ; forewing, 2.2 mm, hindwing, 2 mm.

*Material examined* : 3 ♀♀, 1 ♂ : India, Nadia, Ranaghat, Purnanagar, 26.iv.1982. Coll. D. R. Maulik.

*Biological notes* : The species was collected in the early hours of the morning at about 6 a. m. from the leaves of mango and jack fruit trees infested with aphids. It may also be mentioned that a few larvae of the family Hemerobiidae were found to be associated with coniopterygids.



Figs. 1-2. *Coniocompsa indica* Withycombe, female. 1. forewing, 2. hindwing.

**Distribution :** India : Tamil Nadu, Bihar and West Bengal.

**Remarks :** The female is described for the first time from India.

## 2. *Coniopteryx (Coniopteryx) exigua*

Withycombe

1925. *Coniopteryx exigua* Withycombe, *Mem. Dep. Agric. India*, 9 : 22.

1972. *Coniopteryx (Coniopteryx) exigua*, Meinander, *Acta zool. fenn.*, 136 : 242.

**Material examined :** 1 ♂, 1 ♀ : India : 24-Parganas, Habra, Kumra, 22.ix.1982, Coll. D. R. Maulik.

**Distribution :** India (Bihar, West Bengal, Jammu & Kashmir), Nepal and Pakistan.

**Remarks :** The species was collected from mango (*Mangifera indica*) in the early hours of the morning at about 5-30 a. m. The measurement of fore-and hindwing falls within the range given by Meinander (1972). However, the species constitutes a new locality record for West Bengal.

## 3. *Semidalis aleyrodiformis* (Stephens)

1836. *Coniopteryx aleyrodiformis* Stephens, *Illustrations of British Entomology, Mandibulata*, 6 : 116.

1937. *Semidalis aleyrodiformis*, Killington, *The generic names for British Insects*, 4 : 73.

*Material examined* : 8 ♀ ♀ , 1 ♂ : India : West Bengal, 24-Parganas, Habra, Kumra, 21.iv.1982, Coll. D. R. Maulik. 10 ♂ ♂ , 10 ♀ ♀ , Nadia, Bagula, 8.iv.1983, Coll. D. R. Maulik.

*Distribution* : Palaearctic region : Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, England, Scotland, Netherland, Luxembourg, France, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Jugoslavia, Rumania, Italy, Greece, Bulgaria, Turkey, Cyprus, USSR, Japan, China, Oriental region : Formosa, Nepal, India (Kashmir, Bihar and West Bengal), Thailand and Malaya.

*Remarks* : The measurements of the fore-and hindwings fall within the same range as indicated by Meinander (1972).

The species, collected from Mango and citrus, is a new locality record for West Bengal.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The authors are grateful to Dr. B. K. Tikader, Director, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta, for the laboratory facilities provided to them.

#### REFERENCES

- GHOSH, S. K. & SEN, S. 1977. Check-list of Indian Planipennia (Order Neuroptera) *Rec. zool. Surv. India*, **73** : 277-326.
- MEINANDER, M. 1972. A revision of the family Coniopterygidae (Planipennia). *Acta zool. fenn.*, **136** : 1-357.

