

XL NOTES ON SOME CHRYSOMELID
BEETLES IN THE COLLECTION OF
THE INDIAN MUSEUM

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The greater number of the specimens of this family in the collection are still unnamed, but those that have been identified have, with a few exceptions, been examined either by M. Baly or by the late Mr. Jacoby. The latter does not, however, appear to have made use of his notes on the collection in compiling the volume in the *Fauna of British India, Burma and Ceylon*, Coleoptera, ii, 1908, published shortly after his death, which has probably deprived coleopterists in India of a full account of the family.

As many of the new specimens are "types" and as all reference to several fully described Indian species has been omitted from the "Fauna," although they belong to the sections of the family dealt with, I have been asked by the Superintendent to prepare the following notes on some specimens in the Museum collection.

I have merely compiled the information to be obtained from Jacoby's, Baly's and Clavareau's labels, adding certain quotations and references to published literature.

Lema mandarensis, Jac.

Jacoby, *Fauna of British India*, Coleoptera, Chrysomelidæ, vol. i, 1908, p. 69.

A "type" specimen of this species is in the collection of the Indian Museum, and it is the only named representative of the species in the collection. Jacoby when describing this species mentioned in the *Ann. Soc. Entom. Belgique*, xli, 1897, p. 421, that several specimens of this small species were obtained at Mandar in Bengal by Mr. P. Cardon.

Crioceris quadripustulata, Fabr.

Jacoby, *Fauna of British India*, Coleoptera, Chrysomelidæ, vol. i, 1908, p. 78.

This species is worthy of note as Jacoby records it only from Tenasserim, Siam and Java, whereas there are specimens in the Indian Museum collection determined by him from Sikhim, Calcutta, and Sibsagar, Assam.

Pseudolema suturalis, Jac.

Jacoby, Fauna of British India, Coleoptera, Chrysomelidæ, vol. i, 1908, p. 83.

One specimen from Mandar, Bengal, named by Jacoby as *Clythra suturalis*, Jac., and labelled "Type." This specimen agrees with the description of the above species and has probably been forgotten by Jacoby.

Pseudoclytra plagiata, Duviv.

Jacoby, Fauna of British India, Coleoptera, Chrysomelidæ, vol. i, 1908, p. 102.

The type of this species was originally described by Duvivier from Konbir-Nowatoli. In the Museum collection there are specimens from Mandar, Bengal, which were returned named by Jacoby, having been compared with the "type" by Clavareau.

These two localities are not mentioned by Jacoby who only gives Southern India, Madras, as the distribution of the species.

Gynandrophthalma crassipes (Duviv.).

Jacoby, Fauna of British India, Coleoptera, Chrysomelidæ, vol. i, 1908, p. 112.

A "type" of Duvivier's species from Konbir, Eastern Bengal, is in the Indian Museum collection, but no mention of the fact is made either by Jacoby in his new book or by Duvivier in the *Ann. Soc. Entom. Belgique*, 1891, p. 31, where he describes this species.

Ætheomorpha nigropicta (Lefèv.).

Jacoby, Fauna of British India, Coleoptera, Chrysomelidæ, vol. i, 1908, p. 124.

One specimen from Calcutta in the Museum collection was doubtfully determined by Jacoby as a variety of the above species. There is no doubt that it is a varietal form, having the black lateral stripe on the elytra very much abbreviated and the anterior spot on the elytra entirely absent.

Labidostomis humeralis, Schneider.

C. O. Waterhouse, Trans. Linn. Soc. (Ser. 2.), Zool., vol. v, 1887, p. 131.

Five specimens, two males and three females from Badghis, Afghanistan, were named by C. O. Waterhouse. These specimens were collected by Dr. J. E. I. Aitchinson, attached to the Afghan Delimitation Commission, and are in the Museum collection. They agree very closely with Jacoby's description of *Labidostomis cummingi*, Jac. The only difference I can find is in respect to the size of the males, which (Waterhouse's specimens) are 9.5 mm. to 10 mm. in length, the females being 7 to 8 mm. in length.

Labidostomis cummingi, Jac., was obtained at Ormarah in Baluchistan by Cummings.

Clytra succincta, Lacord.

Jacoby, Fauna of British India, Coleoptera, Chrysomelidæ, vol. i, 1908, p. 152.

This species is recorded by Jacoby only from Bengal, China, and Java. It is, as he says, an abundant species and there are several specimens in the Museum collection from Bangalore (Mysore) and Karachi (Sind).

Evidently a very widely distributed species.

Clytra lefevrei, Jac.

Jacoby, Fauna of British India, Coleoptera, Chrysomelidæ, vol. i, 1908, p. 154.

There are two specimens in the Museum collection from Mandar, Bengal, labelled "*Clytra occipitalis* Jac. type." This latter species has now been sunk by Jacoby as being a variety of *C. lefevrei*, Jac. The above locality has not been mentioned in the "Fauna" by Jacoby.

Clytra orientalis, Lefèv.

Jacoby, Fauna of British India, Coleoptera, Chrysomelidæ, vol. i, 1908, p. 157.

A single specimen, from Bangalore, of this species is in the collection, and was returned named by the Paris Museum, among a number of other named members of this family. The ticket on the specimen is in Lefèvre's handwriting.

It is the only species mentioned in the new work by Jacoby as being represented in the "Calcutta Museum" collection.

Clytra insularis, Lefèv.

Jacoby, Fauna of British India, Coleoptera, Chrysomelidæ, vol. i, 1908, p. 155.

There is a specimen in the collection, from the Andamans, named by Baly as *Diapromorpha dejeani*, Lac. It clearly resembles specimens in the Museum collection which have been returned named by the Paris Museum, bearing a label in Lefèvre's handwriting, as *Clytra insularis*, Lefèv. These specimens are also from the Andamans.

The markings on the thorax and elytra are totally different in the two species, apart from their belonging to two different genera.

Diapromorpha turca (Fab.).

Jacoby, Fauna of British India, Coleoptera, Chrysomelidæ, vol. i, 1908, p. 169.

Although Jacoby states that this is rather a common and

widely distributed species in India, he gives no definite localities whence he had seen specimens. In the Museum collection there are a few specimens from Bangalore (Mysore) and Sahibgunge (Bengal). The specimen from the latter locality is totally different in appearance from the typical form. It was returned named by the Paris Museum and seems to belong to var. D. of the species.

There are five specimens identified by Baly as *Diapromorpha pallens*, Oliv. These do not resemble the specimens in the collection named *D. melanopus*, Lacord., of which species Jacoby makes *D. pallens*, Oliv., a synonym, but agree with a single specimen named by Jacoby as *Gynandrophthalma pallida*, Jac., which appears to be a *nomen nudum*.

Cryptocephalus analis, Oliv.

Jacoby, Fauna of British India, Coleoptera, Chrysomelidæ, vol. i, 1908, p. 247.

Recorded by Jacoby from Bengal, the Nilgiris, Coromandel and Tranquebar.

There is one specimen from Kulu named by Baly in the Museum collection.

Cryptocephalus colon, Suffr.

Jacoby, Fauna of British India, Coleoptera, Chrysomelidæ, vol. i, 1908, p. 247.

This species is evidently distributed through Assam and Burma to Siam. Jacoby records it from Assam and Siam and there is one specimen from Pegu (Burma) in the Museum collection.

Pagria kanaraensis (Jac.).

Jacoby, Fauna of British India, Coleoptera, Chrysomelidæ, vol. i, 1908, p. 360.

There are two specimens from Calcutta determined by Jacoby as belonging to this species. He has omitted this locality and records it only from Southern India : Belgaum ; S. Kanara.

Scelodonta vittata (Oliv.).

Jacoby, Fauna of British India, Coleoptera, Chrysomelidæ, vol. i, 1908, p. 382.

As Jacoby has given Pusa and Bombay as the only Indian localities whence this species has been recorded, and as the species is not uncommon, it would be as well to give the localities of the specimens representing it in the collection of the Indian Museum, some of which were named by Jacoby. Those from Murshidabad (Bengal) and Tavoy (Burma) were named by Jacoby. The others from Berhampore, Maldah (Bengal) and the Andamans were returned named by the Paris Museum.

Scelodonta indica, Duviv.

Jacoby, Fauna of British India, Coleoptera, Chrysomelidæ, vol. i, 1908, p. 383.

Recorded by Jacoby only from Konbir, E. Bengal. Undoubtedly a very common species in Calcutta, from which locality a rather large series of specimens were named for the Museum by Jacoby.

There are two specimens which were returned named by the Paris Museum. One is *Colasposoma cæruleatum*, Baly, and the other *Colasposoma ornatum*, Jac. Both are from Maldah (Bengal).

Five specimens from Bangalore were identified by Jacoby as *Colasposoma nitida*, Fabr., and four specimens from Ranchi (Bengal) were doubtfully identified by him as *Colasposoma affine*, Lefèv.¹ No mention of either of these species is made by him in the "Fauna."

Abirus angustatus, Lefèv.

Jacoby, Fauna of British India, Coleoptera, Chrysomelidæ, vol. i, 1908, p. 456.

Jacoby states he was unable to refer any Eastern form known to him to this species, as he knew no species of *Abirus* with a thorax nearly twice as long as broad. Among the specimens returned by the Paris Museum are two specimens named as belonging to this species, evidently a male and a female. The specimens bear a label in Lefèvre's handwriting. They are from Southern India. In neither of the specimens does the thorax appear to be twice as long as broad, as it is stated to be by Lefèvre in his description ("prothorace fere duplo longiore parum latiore").

Abirus andamansis, Lefèv.

Jacoby, Fauna of British India, Coleoptera, Chrysomelidæ vol. i, 1908, p. 457.

A "type" of this species is in the Indian Museum collection and was returned by the Paris Museum. It bears Lefèvre's label. Unfortunately the head and thorax are missing. There are no other examples of the species in the collection and it is apparently rare, as Jacoby did not see any specimens of it.

Corynodes andamanensis, Lefèv.

Jacoby, Fauna of British India, Coleoptera, Chrysomelidæ, vol. i, 1908, p. 503.

Lefèvre, in his original description (Bull. Soc. Ent. Belgique, xxxv, 1891, p. cclxxxvi) called this species "*andamansis*," but Jacoby has changed it into *andamanensis*. The type specimen,

¹ Recorded by Duvivier from Konbir, Bengal, Ann. Soc. Ent. Belg., xxxvi, 1892, p. 414.

which is in the Museum collection, is labelled *C. andamansis*, in Lefèvre's handwriting.

The following are a few species which have been recorded from within Indian limits and which have been omitted by Jacoby. The author's description of each species is quoted, so that it may be available to workers in the group in India.

Coptocephala dubia, Baly.

Baly, Scient. Results, Second Yarkand Mission, 1878-91, Coleoptera, p. 25.

"*Subelongata, subcylindrica, nitida, subtus nigra, argenteo sericea, prothorace pedibusque fulvis; supra fulva, capitis vertice nigro; thorace lævi; scutello piceo; elytris tenuiter punctatis, fasciâ communi baseos, extrorsum abbreviata, alterâque vix pone medium nigris.*"

"Long. $2\frac{1}{3}$ lin."

"Vertex black, impunctate, lower face fulvous, a ray of the same colour extending upwards on the vertex; front deeply excavated between the eyes, irregularly punctured; anterior margin of clypeus concave-emarginate. Thorax rather more than twice as broad as long; sides rounded, converging from behind the middle to the apex; the anterior angles obtuse, the hinder ones rounded; disc transversely convex, shining, impunctate, excavated on either side near the lateral margin. Scutellum trigonate, piceous. Elytra scarcely broader than the thorax, parallel, very finely punctured; the black markings on their surface extend from the base nearly to the middle of the disc, and again from the middle itself nearly to the apex, leaving only an irregular flavous transverse band across the middle, which sends a narrow ramus along the suture nearly to the base."

"*Hab.*—Murree." (*Baly.*)

One specimen from Murree, W. Himalayas, is in the Indian Museum collection; it was named by Baly and is a "type" or "co-type."

Cryptocephalus interjectus, Baly.

Baly, Scientific Results, Second Yarkand Mission, 1878-91, Coleoptera, p. 26.

"*Elongato-oblongus* ♂, *oblongus* ♀, *convexus, nitidus, subtus niger, pedibus nigro-piceis; supra flavus, capite hic illic parce fortiter punctato, fronte sulco longitudinali impresso; vertice, maculis duabus inter oculos, labro, antennisque nigris, his basi, sulco longitudinali, mandibulisque piceis; thorace lævi, limbo angusto et utrinque maculâ subrotundatâ nigris; scutello subcordato, nigro; elytris fortiter punctato-striatis, punctis piceis, apicem versus minus fortiter impressis; interspatiis convexis, transversim rugulosis; utrisque limbo angusto, externo ante medium excepto, maculisque quinque 2, 2, 1, dispositis nigris.*"

“ Long. $2\frac{1}{2}$ lin.”

“ *Var. A. Pygidio corporeque subtus flavis, illo maculâ cuneiformi pectore, abdominisque disco nigris.*”

“ *Var. B. Corpore nigro, antennarum basi, clypeo, faciei signaturis, thoracisque lineâ longitudinali sordide flavis.*”

“ Head rather coarsely but not closely punctured, the puncturing varying in degree in different individuals; front impressed with a distinct longitudinal groove; clypeus broader than long, trigonate; antennæ three-fourths the length of the body in the ♀, rather longer in the ♂, the three lower joints pale piceous, the rest black. Thorax rather more than twice as broad as long at the base; sides moderately rounded and obliquely converging from base to apex; basal margin concave-emarginate on either side, the outer angles produced backwards, acute; above convex, minutely but not closely punctured. Elytra slightly broader than the thorax, oblong quadrate, convex, rather strongly punctate-striate, the punctures piceous, finer, and less strongly impressed towards the apex; interspaces faintly but distinctly convex, transversely wrinkled; each elytron with the extreme outer limb (interrupted on the lateral margin before its middle) and five large patches black; these spots are arranged as follows: two transversely below the base, the outer one oblong, covering the humeral callus and attached to the basal margin, the inner one subrotundate, placed on the inner disc; two just below the middle also placed transversely, both subrotundate, the outer one usually attached to the lateral margin; and lastly, one apical, transversely oblong, either free or attached to the apical border; these patches are often more or less confluent, and occasionally, as in var. B, cover the entire surface of the elytron. Pygidium and body beneath clothed with griseous hairs. Apical margin of prosternum obliquely produced, deflexed, slightly emarginate, the hinder margin concave, armed on either side with a deflexed, obtuse tooth; mesosternum transverse, its apical border angulate-emarginate. Apical segment of abdomen in the ♂ impressed with a shallow fovea; the same segment in the ♀ deeply excavated, the fovea large, rotundate. Basal joint of the four anterior tarsi in the ♂ dilated, elongate-ovate, longer than the following two united.”

“ The form of the prosternum will separate this species from any nearly allied species.”

“ Hab.—Murree.” (*Baly.*)

There are three specimens in the Museum collection named by Baly. The “type” and var. B, from Murree, and var. A, from the Jhelum Valley, N.-W. Kashmir.

Paria cuprescens, Baly.

Baly, Scient. Results, Second Yarkand Mission, 1878-91, Coleoptera, p. 28.

“ *Anguste ovata, subtus cum capite picea, pedibus, antennarumque basi pallidus; supra cuprea, thorace sub-conico, vage punctato; elytris regulariter punctato-striatis, interspatiis planis, impunctatis.*”

“ Long. $1\frac{1}{4}$ lin.”

“ Vertex swollen, shining, impunctate; clypeus transverse, its anterior border emarginate; antennæ, rather more than half the length of the body, piceous, the two lower joints paler. Thorax broader than long at the base; sides straight and obliquely converging from base to apex, the hinder angles very acute; basal margin oblique on either side, the median lobe obtusely rounded; disc sub-cylindrical, impressed, but not closely, with very shallow punctures. Elytra ovate, attenuated at the apex, regularly punctate-striate, the interspaces plane, each impressed with an irregular row of minute punctures; humeral callus thickened.”

“ Hab.—Jhelam Valley.” (*Baly.*)

The collection contains a specimen of the above species, named by Baly, from the Jhelum Valley. It is not in very good condition, having one elytron missing.

Corynodes bengalensis, Duviv.

Duvivier, Bull. Soc. Entom. Belgique, xxxiv, 1890, p. cxliii.

The short diagnosis of this species is given below. A more detailed description in French, comprising about three-quarters of a page will be found in the above work, p. cxliv.

“ Oblong, convexe, entièrement d'un vert brillant mélangé de pourpre et de violet. Antenne noires à reflets violacés avec la base brune. Massue de cinq articles. Tête et elytres densément ponctuées ces dernières à ponctuation subsériale. Corcelet à ponctuation éparse. Crochets des tarsi appendiculés.”

“ Long. 10 mill.—Tetara (Mission du Bengale occidental).” (*Duvivier.*)

There are two specimens in the collection. One from Mandar, Bengal, was returned named by Jacoby, Clavareau having compared it with the “ type,” and the other without a locality was named by the Paris Museum.