

ON THE NEW RECORD OF THE GENUS
TARTAROGRYLLUS TARBINSKII AND THE
DESCRIPTION OF VELARIFICTORUS
ANDAMANENSIS (B. H.) FROM INDIA

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(With 1 Text-figure)

INTRODUCTION

While working on an unnamed collection of gryllids from Mysore (South India), the author came across two species of the genus *Tartarogryllus* Tarbinskii 1940 which are new to Indian fauna and are recorded herewithunder for the first time. The paper further comprises of the fuller description of the species *Valarifictorus andamanensis* (Bh.), recorded from South Andaman Island (Bay of Bengal).

All material studied in this paper are deposited in the National Collections of the Zoological Survey of India.

All measurements are given in mm.

SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNT

Order ORTHOPTERA

Family GRYLLIDAE

Subfamily GRYLLINAE

Genus *Tartarogryllus* Tarbinskii 1940

1. *Tartarogryllus bucharicus* (Bey-Bienko)

(Text-fig. 1A)

1933. *Gryllus bucharicus* Bey-Bienko, *Bol. Soc. Esp. Hist. Nat.*, 33:323-325; Bey-Bienko, *Acad. Sci. URSS.*, 259.

1936. *Gryllulus bucharicus* Chopard, *Spol. Zeyl.*, 20: 25.

1961. *Tartarogryllus bucharicus* Chopard, *Eos*, 37: 272.

Measurements.—Length of body ♂♂ 11—13, ♀♀ 8—10.5; length of pronotum ♂♂ 1.8—1.95, ♀♀ 2—2.25; maximum width of pronotum

♂♂ 2.75—3, ♀♀ 3—3.25; posterior femora ♂♂ 5.95—6, ♀♀ 6—6.25; posterior tibiae ♂♂ 3.25—3.6. ♀♀ 3.25—3.7; ovipositor 4.5-6.

Material examined.—4 ♂♂, 1 ♀, Mysore city (University Campus); 3 ♂♂, 1 ♀ Hissar (Haryana).

Remarks.—The occurrence of the species in India is reported for the first time. Its distribution over widely separated parts in India such as Mysore and Haryana indicates its probable abundance all over India.

The male genitalia when viewed dorsally does not agree with the figure given by Chopard (1967). So the same is refigured here.

2. *Tartarogryllus depressiceps* (Ebner)

1935. *Gryllus depressiceps* Ebner, *Anz. Akad. Wiss. Wien*, 15: 51.

1961. *Tartarogryllus depressiceps* Chopard, *Eos*, 37: 272.

Measurements.—♂: Length of body 9; elytra 6; wing 11; posterior femora 5.25; posterior tibiae 3.5.

Material examined.—1 ♂, Mysore city (University campus). S. Vasantha, dt. 1964.

Remarks.—This species is reported for the first time from India.

Genus *Velarifictorus* Randell, 1964

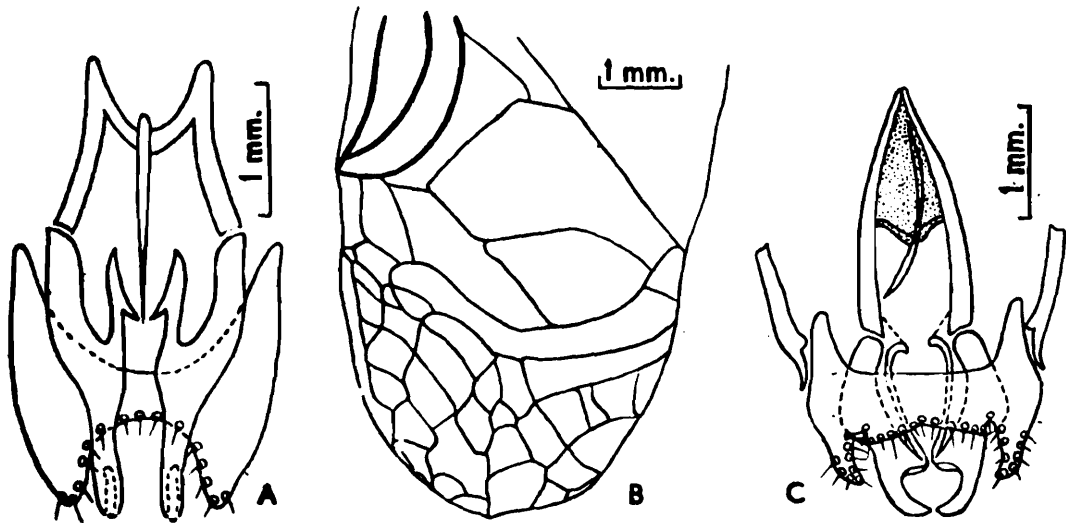
3. *Velarifictorus andamanensis* (Bhowmik)

(Text-figs. 1 B & C)

1967. *Scapsipedus andamanensis* Bhowmik, *Proc. Indian. Sci. Cong. Assoc. Benaras*, Part B: Abst. 492.

Description.—Male: Size medium, brown varied with yellow, pubescent. Head in front as wide as pronotum, rounded, with six clear but uneven yellow lines on the occiput and vertex, and a transverse yellow band connecting the lateral ocelli; anterior ocellus, mandibles and maxillary palpi yellow, rest of the head including face shiny brown; front slightly sloping; frontal rostrum almost twice as wide as the first antennal segment. Face distinctly concave and long with the mandibles less prominent and not excavated; clypeo frontal suture straight; clypeus partially divided, labrum convex with rounded apex; third and fourth segments of maxillary palpi subequal, fifth longest, slightly widened apicad. Pronotum brown with yellow spaces, transverse, slightly widened in front, anterior margin somewhat concave, posterior margin straight, both margins ciliated; disc convex and with a median longitudinal suture; lateral lobes with superior part black and inferior part yellow, inferior margin feebly ascending posteriorly. Abdominal dorsum brown, ventrum yellow. Male genitalia as in figure. Legs testa-

aceous with a few scattered brown spots. Anterior tibia with a long, oval tympanum only at the external face; posterior femora stout and with brown striations; posterior tibia with five spines on each margin, metatarsi longer than other two segments taken together and with denticles on



Text-fig. 1A. *Tartarogryllus bucharicus*, male genitalia, ventral view; $\times 30$.

B & C. *Velarifictorus andamanensis*, B. male elytron, apical portion; $\times 10$.

C. male genitalia, ventral view. $\times 25$.

each margin. Elytra extending up to the apex of abdomen, brown; mirror rectangular and divided by a curved vein in the middle, connected with the first chord by a small veinlet; three curved chords; diagonal a little sinuated and bifurcated at base; two oblique veins; apical field prominent and rounded, at apex with irregular areolae; lateral lobes transparent except a little portion near the mediastinal vein which is dark brown, the inner three of the five veins widely separated; each mediastinal vein with three branches.

Female: Differs from male in the following: the clypeo frontal suture moderately arquate, the colouration of facial shield not uniform, the shield bordering the clypeo frontal suture is shiny brown and with two other small brown lateral ocular bands; face and mandibles almost like a typical gryllus; pronotum a little convex at posterior margin; elytra about 1.5 mm shorter than abdomen, rounded at apex, dorsal neuration complex, only first three veins somewhat clear, other veins are distinguishable only apicad; ovipositor long and straight with both apical valves almost of equal size and acute.

Measurements.—Length of body ♂ 13.5, ♀♀ 13.5—14.25; length of pronotum ♂ 3, ♀♀ 2.75—3; width of pronotum ♂ 4.75, ♀♀ 4.5—4.85; elytra ♂ 8.5, ♀♀ 7.75—8.35; posterior femora ♂ 10, ♀♀ 10.25—10.6; posterior tibia ♂ 7, ♀♀ 8—8.25; ovipositor 10.75—11.25.

Distribution.—South Andaman Island.

Material examined.—1 ♂ (Holotype), 2 ♀♀ (paratypes) from Mannar, ghat, Wright Myo, B. S. Lamba, March, 1964; 1 ♀ (paratype), Cowriaght (South Andaman Island), coll. and dt. same as for the holotype.

Remarks.—In its general appearance, particularly in colouration, the species approaches *Modicogryllus confirmata* (Walker) but its bigger size, long and excavated face, elytral venations and especially its male genitalia justify the erection of a new species. Dr. Randell who confirmed the species as new suggested its inclusion in the genus *Velarifictorus* Rand. because of the nature of genitalia which is very similar to *V. aspersus*, but differs in the structure of ectoparamere and its association with mesal lobes.

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SUMMARY

The paper enlists the occurrence of the genus *Tartarogryllus* Tarbinskii with the two species, *T. bucharicus* and *T. depressiceps*, for the first time from India. It also provides the full description of the species, *V. andamanesis*, described from S. Andaman Isl.

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*Not seen in original.