

A NEW SPECIES OF *GERENIA* STAL, 1878 (ORTHOPTERA :
ACRIDIDAE) FROM THE FOOTHILL OF THE EASTERN
HIMALAYA, WEST BENGAL, INDIA

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(With 5 Text-figures)

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Gerenia* Stal, 1878, is represented in oriental region by four species : *G. intermedia* Brunner, 1893, from Burma ; *G. abbreviata* Brunner, 1893 (now with 2 subspecies) from Burma and Indo-Malayan regions ; and last 2 species, *G. dorsalis* Walker, 1870 and *G. pustulipennis* Walker, 1871, from southern and western India respectively. Lately while studying a big lot of grasshoppers collected from the 'Tarai' and the 'Duars' of West Bengal, the authors have come across the present species which turns to be new to science and is described below. This new species thus represents the genus, for the first time, from the northern and eastern India.

***Gerenia bengalensis* sp. nov.**

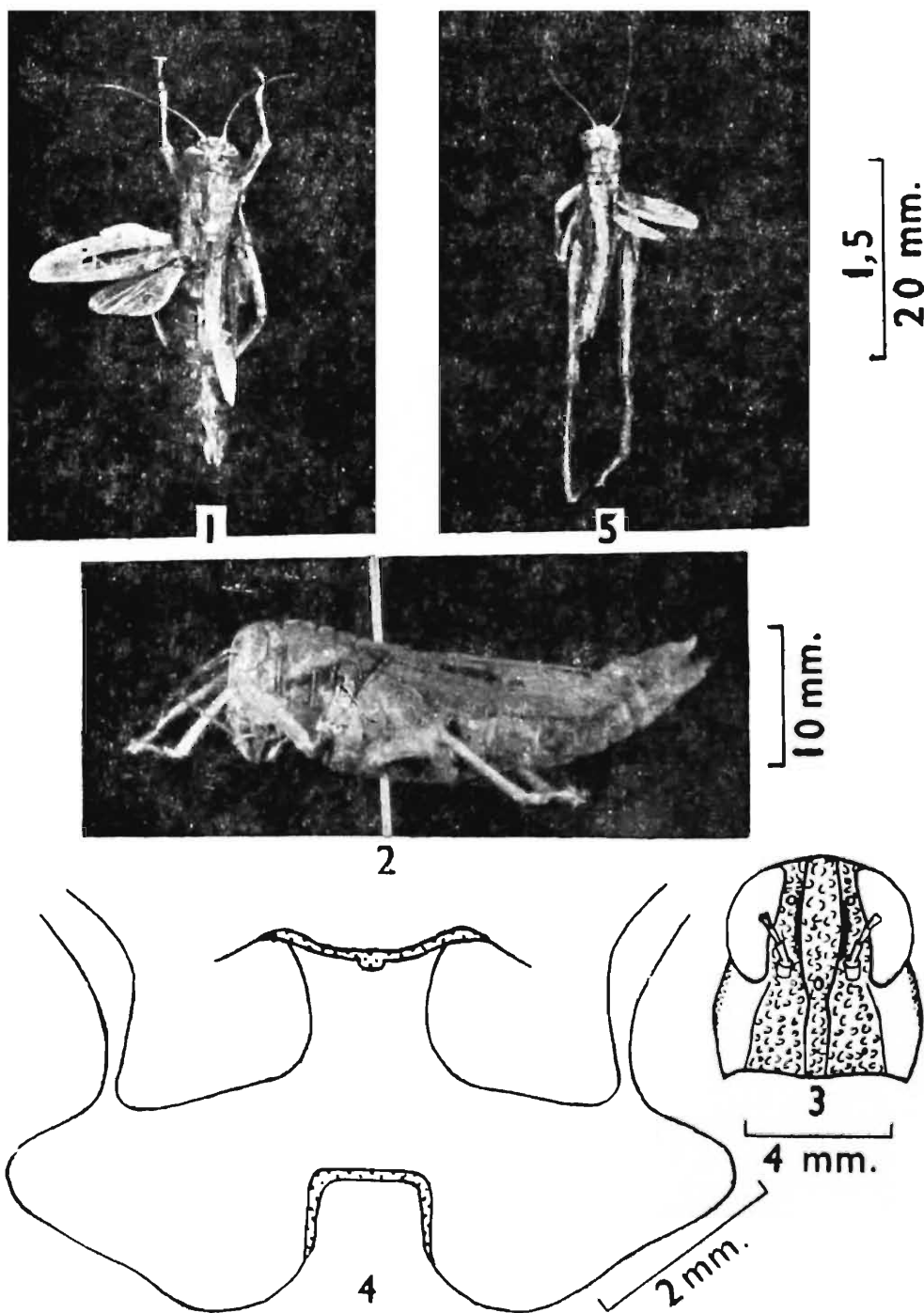
Holotype : 1 ♀ ; Bhutanghat, Jalpaiguri district (Duars), West Bengal ; 7.9.1975 ; H. K. Bhowmik coll.

Paratype : 1 ♂ ; Bamanpookri, Darjeeling district (Tarai), West Bengal, 25.8.1975 ; H. K. Bhowmik coll.

Description

Holotype (♀) : Size medium but robust in appearance (Text-fig. 1, 2). Antennae filiform, longer than head and pronotum taken together, first 8 segments brownish, remaining segments dark. Head short, less than half of pronotum ; fastigium very shallowly concave, semi-lunar, transverse, separated from frontal ridge. Vertex of head with an ill-defined median carina. Face vertical, coarsely punctured. Frontal ridge (Text-fig. 3) widened between antennae, gradually tapers towards behind of middle ocellus where it becomes a little constricted and then the carinae get more or less parallel and runs up to clypeus ; coarsely and densely punctured ; lateral carinae almost straight. Eyes brownish,

lateral projected, pointed at apex and approximating; interocular distance wider than width of frontal ridge. Pronotum longer (8.9mm) than wider (6.5 mm); heavily and coarsely punctured all over; moderately tectiform; median carina distinct, linear but crossed by three usual



Text-figs. 1-5. *Gerania bengalensis* sp. nov.

1. Profile of holotype (♀), dorsal view.
2. Lateral view.
3. Front view of face (up to clypeus) showing frontal ridge.
4. Meso- and metasternal plate and their interspace.
5. Profile of male paratype, dorsal view.

transverse sulci; prozona distinctly longer than metazona; the latter with its posterior margin obtusely angulated; lateral pronotal lobe somewhat depressed, its lower margin straight, a little oblique at anterior

angle. Prosternal tubercle straight, conical. Mesosternal interspace (Text-fig. 4) shorter than width of one of its plates, inner margin of which rounded; metasternal plates clearly separated by a distinct interspace inbetween. Elytra coriaceous-like, shorter than abdomen and less than half of total body length; medial area adorned with an irregular longitudinal black band. Wings hyaline, shorter than elytra. Tympanum closed. Abdomen with a distinct median, dorsal carina. Supra-anal plate almost tongue-shaped, with a median longitudinal sulcation. Valves of ovipositor curved, margins of upper ones somewhat margined. Cerci small, conical. Posterior leg (broken); posterior tibia with 10 internal and 8 external spines.

Paratype (δ): Fairly identical (Text-fig. 5) with the holotype except that it is much smaller in size and differs in genital parts. Cerci longer than supra-anal plate, the latter similarly with a median longitudinal sulcation. Sub-genital-plate hairy, navicular. Both upper and lower basal lobes of posterior femora equal, their upper carinae denticulated. Upper lobe of posterior knee longer than lower one; both of them more or less rounded. Posterior femora with 2 ill-defined dark bands on external face, first one at base, small and incomplete, second one almost fills whole length and extends to inner face; posterior

Measurements (in mm) :

Body Parts	Holotype ♀	Paratype ♂
Length of body	33.0	22.5
Length of head	3.5	2.8
Maximum width of head	5.0	4.5
Interocular distance	2.25	1.5
Length of antennae	14.0	13.5
Length of pronotum	8.9	6.0
Maximum width of pronotum	6.5	4.0
Length of prozona	5.25	4.0
Length of metazona	3.75	2.5
Length of elytron	16.0	9.5
Length of wing	11.0	6.0
Length of posterior femur	23.0	15.0
Length of posterior tibia	21.0	13.5

tibiae smaller than femora and possess equal numbers of spines to that the holotype.

Colouration: General colouration of the types olivegreen. The most remarkable colouration is the black, shiny mark on the posterior, superior margin of pronotal lateral lobe, the mark gradually tapers