

## STAPHYLINIDAE (COLEOPTERA) OF SILENT VALLEY, KERALA, INDIA.

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### INTRODUCTION

During April, 1979 to May, 1980 Zoological Survey of India conducted four faunistic surveys in Silent Valley of Kerala State. The present study based on a collection comprising 41 examples belonging to 21 species under 12 genera of the 5 subfamilies. Two species viz., *Stenus* (*Hypostenus*) *decanus* and *Cryptobium bhattacharyyai* are described as new to Science and *Paragonus birmanus* Fauvel is recorded for the first time from India.

Family STAPHYLINIDAE

Subfamily OXYTELINAE

Tribe Piestini

#### 1. *Holosus longipennis* Cameron

1925. *Holosus longipennis* Cameron, *E. M. M.* 61 : 235.

1930. *Holosus longipennis* Cameron, *Fauna of British India*, 1 : 49-50

*Material* : Silent Valley, Kerala, 4 exs., 16. i. 1980, S. K. Bhattacharyya Collection.

*Distribution* : Nilgiri Hills and Annamalai Hills (Tamil Nadu) and Kerala.

*Remarks* : This species is recorded for the first time from Kerala.

Tribe Osoriini

#### 2. *Paragonus birmanus* Fauvel

1895. *Paragonus birmanus* Fauvel, *R. d'Ent.* 14 : 197

1930. *Paragonus birmanus* : Cameron, *Fauna of British India*, 1 : 306.

*Material* : Silent Valley, Valiaparathadu, Kerala, 3 exs. 27. i. 1980 S. K. Bhattacharyya Collection.

*Distribution* : Burma ; India (Kerala)

*Remarks* : This species is recorded for the first time from India (Silent valley : Kerala)

#### Subfamily STENINAE

### 3. *Stenus (Hypostenus) pulcher* Motschulsky

1895. *Stenus pulcher* Motschulsky, *Et. Ent.* : 71

1930. *Stenus (H.) pulcher* : Cameron, *Fauna of British India* 1 : 350-351.

*Material* : India, Kerala, Silent Valley, 2 exs., 17. i. 1980, S. K. Bhattacharyya Collection ; Silent Valley, Project site, 24 km. N. of Munkali, 1 ex., 19. i. 1980, S. K. Bhattacharyya Collection.

*Distribution* : India (Tamil Nadu, Kerala) ; Sri Lanka and Java.

*Remarks* : This species is recorded for the first time from Kerala.

### 4. *Stenus (Hypostenus) angusticollis* Eppelsheim

1895. *Stenus angusticollis* Eppelsheim, *D. E. Z.* : 405

1930. *Stenus (H.) angusticollis* : Cameron, *Fauna of British India*, 1 : 371-372.

*Material* : India, Kerala, Silent Valley, Valiaparathadu, 1ex., 26. i. 1980, S. K. Bhattacharyya collection.

*Distribution* : India (Nagaland, U. P., Kerala) ; Burma.

*Remarks* : This species is recorded for the first time from Kerala.

### 5. *Stenus (Hypostenus) decanus*, sp. nov.

This new species is closely related to *Stenus (Hypostenus) monomerus* Fauvel but can be easily separated from the latter species by the posterior margin of sixth sternite of male slightly emarginate at the middle ; posterior margin of fifth sternite of male slightly emarginate, in front of emargination deeply and broadly impressed about the half length of the segment ; fourth sternite

of male slightly flattened behind the middle ; antennal segments 9 and 10 slightly transverse ; elytra at the base of suture slightly longer than thorax.

General appearance rather short and narrow, black and shining, palpi yellowish, legs testaceous and apex of femora broadly infusate.

Head small and transverse, dorsum of head broadly excavated, coarsely and closely punctured, behind the base of antennae with a smooth space. Antennae short and testaceous, segment 1 pitchy, segment 2 slightly broader and longer than segment 1, segments 3-6 slender and distinctly longer than broad, segment 8 as long as broad, segments 9-10 slightly transverse. Thorax longer than broad and shorter than elytra, widest at the middle, sides rather rounded, puncturation same as on the head. Elytra broader than long, puncturation coarser than that of head and thorax. Abdomen little narrowed behind, puncturations on segments 1-4 same as on head and elevated at the base, segments 5-6 finely and closely punctured, segment 7 impunctate, apex distinctly emarginate and its angles prominent.

*Measurements of holotype* : Total length 3.24 mm ; width of head across the eyes 0.60 mm ; length of thorax 0.60 mm. and width of thorax 0.50 mm ; length of elytra 0.70 mm. and width of elytra 0.75 mm.

*Holotype* : ♂ , India : Kerala, Silent Valley, 24. i. 1980, S. K. Bhattacharyya collection. Paratype ♀ , collection data same as on holotype (Materials are deposited in the collection of Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta).

*Distribution* : India (Kerala).

#### 6. *Stenus (Hypostenus) albidicornis* Bernhauer

1915. *Stenus albidicornis* Bernhauer, *Ent. Blatt.* : 252

1930. *Stenus (H.) albidicornis* : Cameron, *Fauna of British India*, 1 : 369.

*Material* : India, Kerala, Silent Valley, 2 exs., 19. i. 1980. S. K. Bhattacharyya Collection.

*Distribution* : India (Tamil Nadu, Kerala)

*Remarks* : This species is recorded for the first time from Kerala.

## Subfamily PAEDERINAE

## Tribe Pinophilini

7. *Palaminus* sp.

*Material* : India, Kerala, Silent Valley, 1 ex., S. K. Bhattacharyya Collection.

*Remarks* : This species is closely related to *Palaminus indicus* Kraatz but differs from the latter species by its head being brown, surface of head finely and less closely punctured, puncturations of thorax less strong and dense, posterior margin of sixth sternite of male slightly emarginate.

## Tribe Paederini

8. *Paederus Variicornis* Fauvel

1903. *Paederus variicornis* Fauvel, *Rev. d'Ent.* 22 : 154

1931. *Paederus variicornis* : Cameron, *Fauna of British India*, 2 : 49-50.

*Material* : India, Kerala, Silent Valley, Project site, 24 Km. N. W. of Munkali, 5 exs., 17. i. 1980, S. K. Bhattacharyya Collection ; Silent Valley, 6 Km. W. of Valiaparathadu, 6 exs., 27. i. 1980, S. K. Bhattacharyya collection ; 10 km. N. W. of Valiaparathadu, 1 ex., 24. i. 1980, S. K. Bhattacharyya collection.

*Distribution* : India (Tamil Nadu, Kerala).

*Remarks* : This species is recorded for the first time from Kerala.

9. *Paederus (Pseudopaederus) mussardi* Biswas & Sengupta

1982. *Paederus (P.) mussardi* Biswas & Sengupta, *Revue Suisse Zool.*, Tome 89, Fasc. 1 : 135-154.

*Material* : India, Kerala, Silent Valley, 1 ex., 26. i. 1980, S. K. Bhattacharyya collection.

*Distribution* : India (Kerala).

10. *Paederus sondaicus* Fauvel

1859. *Paederus javanus* Erichson, *Gen. Spec. Staph.* : 654

1859. *Paederus javanus* Kraatz, *Arch. Naturg.* 25(1) : 150

1895. *Paederus sondaicus* Fauvel, *Rev. d'Ent.* 14 : 232

1931. *Paederus sondaicus* : Cameron, *Fauna of British India*, 2 : 37-38.

*Material* : India, Kerala, Silent Valley, Valiaparathadu, 1 ex., 22. i. 1980, S. K. Bhattacharyya Collection.

*Distribution* : India (Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Kerala) ; Burma ; Sumatra ; Java and Tonkin.

*Remarks* : This species is recorded for the first time from Kerala.

### **11. Paederus Kuluensis Bernhauer**

1914. *Paederus kuluensis* Bernhauer, *W. Z. B.* 64 : 90

1931. *Paederus kuluensis* : Cameron, *Fauna of British India*, 2 : 55.

*Material* : India, Kerala, Silent Valley, 1 ex., S. Biswas Collection.

*Distribution* : India, (Himachal Pradesh, Kerala)

*Remarks* : This species is recorded for the first time from Kerala.

### **12. Scopaeus andrewesi Cameron**

1931. *Scopaeus andrewesi* Cameron, *Fauna of British India*, 2 : 172.

*Material* : India, Kerala, Silent Valley, Base Camp, Project site, 24 km. from North of Munkali, 1 ex., 17. i. 1980, S. K. Bhattacharyya Collection.

*Distribution* : India (Tamil Nadu, Kerala).

*Remarks* : This species is recorded for the first time from Kerala.

### **13. Cryptobium elephas Fauvel**

1904. *Cryptobium elephas* Fauvel, *Rev. d'Ent.* 23 : 54.

1931. *Cryptobium elephas* : Cameron. *Fauna of British India*, 2 : 230.

*Material* : India, Kerala, Silent Valley, 1 ex., 19. i. 1980, S. K. Bhattacharyya Collection.

*Distribution* : India (Tamil Nadu, Kerala).

*Remarks* : This species is recorded for the first time from Kerala.

### **14. Cryptobium bhattacharyyai sp. nov.**

This new species is closely related to *Cryptobium elephas* Fauvel but can be easily separated from the latter species by its punc-

turations of head coarser, finely and less closely on thorax, posterior angles of head briefly rounded, anterior angles of thorax distinctly angulate, along the middle thorax broadly smooth, elytra distinctly longer than thorax, antennal segments 8-10 slightly longer than broad.

General appearance rather broad, robust, reddish brown, palpi and antennae reddish brown (except antennal segments 8-11 reddish yellow), legs testaceous.

Head rather oval, widden behind, longer and broader than thorax, posterior angles briefly rounded, front margin smooth, dorsum of head densely and more coarsely umblicate punctures. Eyes small. Antennae short and stout, segment 1 moderately long, segment 2 slightly shorter than segment 3, segments 4-7 equal, segments 8-10 slightly longer than broad. Thorax slightly longer than broad, parallel-sided, posterior margin slightly retracted, along the middle with a distinct broad smooth space, less closely and finely umblicate punctures. Elytra one and half times longer than thorax, densely, coarsely and subrugosely punctured. Abdominal segments finely and closely punctured. Posterior margin of sixth sternite of male rather broad and with a deep triangular excision and its sides finely bevelled and apex rounded ; posterior margin of fifth sternite of male slightly emarginate at the middle, in front of emargination slightly impressed along the half length of the segment and covered with thickly setiferous punctures.

*Measurements of holotype* : Total length 11.50 mm, width of head across the eyes 2.00 mm ; length of thorax 2.00 mm and width of thorax 1.70 mm ; length of elytra 2.65 mm and width of elytra 2.00 mm.

*Holotype* : ♂, India : Kerala, Silent Valley, 19.i.1980, S. K. Bhattacharyya Collection (Materials are deposited in the collection of Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta).

*Distribution* : India (Kerala).

#### Subfamily STAPHYLININAE

##### Tribe Xantholinini

##### 15. *Leptacinus* sp.

*Material* : India, Kerala, Silent Valley, 1 ex., 16.i.1980, S. K. Bhattacharyya Collection.

*Distribution* : India (Kerala)

*Remarks* ; This species is closely related to *Leptacinus parumpunctatus* (Gyll.) but differs from the latter species by the following characters : head parallel and not widened behind, lateral sulci indistinct, median sulci parallel and distinct, the sides of head finely punctured which are not elongate umblicate punctures, antennae testaceous with segments 1-3 reddish, elytra broader than thorax, abdomen distinctly punctured.

**16. Indoscitalinus anachoreta (Erichson)**

1840. *Xantholinus anachoreta* Erichson, *Gen. Spec. Staph.* : 316.  
1859. *Xantholinus anachoreta* Kraatz, *Arch. Naturg.* 25(1) : 102.  
1867. *Xantholinus hongkongensis* Redtb., *Reise Novara* 2 : 28  
1858. *Xantholinus morio* Motschulsky, *Bull. Mosc.* 31(3) : 207.  
1932. *Indoscitalinus anachoreta* : Cameron, *Fauna of British India*, 3 : 37

*Material* ; India, Kerala, Silent valley, 1 ex, S. Biswas collection

*Distribution* India (Kerala); Sri Lanka; S. China; Mauritius ; Reunion and Madagascar.

Tribe Staphylinini

**17. Philonthus castaneus Gemm.**

1868. *Philonthus castaneus* Gemm. et Har., *Cat. Col.* 2 : 586  
1858. *Philonthus badius* Motschulsky, *Bull. Mosc.* 31(1) : 661  
1932. *Philonthus castaneus* : Cameron, *Fauna of British of India* 3 : 99-100.

*Material* : India, Kerala, Silent Valley, 1 ex., S. Biswas collection.

*Distribution* : India (Kerala).

**18. Philonthus sp.**

*Material* : India, Kerala, Silent Valley, Project site, 24 Km. North west of Munkali, 1 ex., S. K. Bhattacharyya Collection.

*Remarks* ; This species is closely related to *Philonthus poepagus* Cameron but differs from the latter species by its antennal segments 1-3 being reddish brown and segment 10-11 reddish yellow, elytral suture and its posterior margin reddish, near post ocular region distinctly punctured, elytra slightly longer than thorax, more densely punctured but devoid of any traces of two rows of larger punctured, posterior margin of fifth sternite of male feeble emarginate.

*Distribution* ; India (Kerala).

Tribe Quediini

19. *Cyrtothorax vulneratus* Fauvel

1878. *Cyrtothorax vulneratus* Fauvel, *Bull. Soc. Linn. Norm.* 3(2) : 165.

1932. *Cyrtothorax vulneratus* : Cameron, *Fauna of British India* 3 : 277-278.

*Material* ; India, Kerala, Silent Valley, Valiaparathadu, 1 ex.,

18. i. 1980, S. K. Bhattacharyya collection.

*Distribution* ; India (Kerala); Burma; China.

*Remarks* ; This species is recorded for the first time from Kerala.

Subfamily ALEOCHARINAE

Tribe Myrmedoniini

20. *Zyras (Rhynchodonia) waageni* (Eppelsheim)

1895. *Myrmedonia waageni* Eppelsheim, *D. E. Z.* : 386.

1939. *Zyras (R.) waageni* : Cameron, *Fauna of British India* 4(2) : 511-512,

*Material* ; India, Kerala, Silent Valley, 6 Km. west of Valiaparathadu, 1 ex., 27. 1. 1980, S. K. Bhattacharyya collection.

*Distribution* ; India (West Bengal, Kerala); Burma.

*Remarks* : This species is recorded for the first time from Kerala.

21. *Zyras (Crateodonia) Sp.*

*Material* : India, Kerala, Silent Valley, Project site, 24 Km. North west of Munkali, 1 ex., 17.1.1980, S. K. Bhattacharyya Collection.

*Remarks* ; This species is closely related to *Zyras (Crateodonia) serraticornis* (Kraatz) but differs from the latter species by the following characters : head broader than thorax, head moderate densely and distinctly punctured but along middle line devoid of any punctures, antennal segment 11 shorter than segments 9 and 10 together, thorax with a distinct median impressed line, on either side of mid-line two large punctures present and rest of the surface moderately densely punctured, abdomen yellowish and posterior margin of last two



segments broadly infusate, impunctate, lateral margin of 3rd abdominal segment of male armed with a long incurved sharp spine.

*Distribution* : India (Kerala).

#### SUMMARY

The paper deals with 41 examples of Staphylinidae from Silent valley, Kerala State, India consists of 21 species under 12 genera of 5 subfamilies of which 2 species viz., *Stenus (Hypostenus) decanus* and *Cryptobium bhattacharyyai* are described as new to science and *Paragonus birmanus* Fauvel is recorded for the first time from India.

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