

**A NEW SPECIES OF *BACTROCERA* MACQUART (DIPTERA :  
TEPHRITIDAE : DACINAE) FROM SOUTHERN INDIA.**

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**INTRODUCTION**

Drew (1989) has revised the generic and subgeneric classification of the tribe Dacini of the subfamily Dacinae. All the species of Dacini with free abdominal terga are placed under the genus *Bactrocera* Macquart. The genus is divided into 4 groups of subgenera viz., *Bactrocera*, *Melanodacus*, *Queenslandacus* and *Zeugodacus* each of which in turn accommodates various subgenera. The new species presently described here is an aberrant one belonging to the subgenus *Bactrocera* Macquart of the *Bactrocera* group of subgenera (previously called the *Strumeta* group). The species does not possess anterior supraalar and prescutellar bristles though the subgenus is usually characterised by the presence of these bristles.

Drew (1989) while dealing with the tropical fruit flies of the Australasian and Oceanic Regions stated that some of the species placed in the subgenus *Bactrocera* show variation in the presence of prescutellar bristles and that the South Pacific species *B. decurtans* (May) and *B. murrayi* (Perkins) are possibly aberrant *Bactrocera* species in which prescutellar and supraalar bristles are absent. Absence of anterior supraalar and prescutellar bristles is also reported in *Bactrocera* (*Bactrocera*) *cocciniae* (Premlata & Singh) described from Chandigarh, India (Premlata & Singh, 1987).

***Bactrocera* (*Bactrocera*) *digressa* sp. nov.**

(Figs. 1-5)

**Diagnosis :** This species can be readily differentiated from all known *Bactrocera* by the bifid apex of its ovipositor and the absence of anterior supraalar and prescutellar bristles.

**Female : Head :** (Fig. 1) Yellow, tinged with rufous ; compound eyes brown ; ocellar triangle black ; frons with indistinct brown spots at bases of bristles and brown discolouration medially ; 2 inferior fronto-orbital bristles (frontal setae), 1 superior fronto-orbital bristle (orbital seta) ; facial spots oval, polished black ; antennal segments (scape, pedicel, first flagellomere) yellow, tinged with brown, arista brown.

**Thorax :** (Fig. 2) Mesonotum (Scutum) rufous, pale pubescent and with two straight sided lateral post sutural yellow vittae which extend to inner postalar bristles (intraalar setae) ; anterior supraalar bristles (anterior supraalar setae) and prescutellar bristles (prescutellar acrostichal setae) absent ; mesopleural yellow stripe narrow and yellow mark on upper sternopleuron small.

Scutellum pale pubescent, entirely yellow except for a narrow band of brown at base. Legs rufous to yellow ; coxae and trochanters rufous ; femora rufous but yellow more or less along basal one third of fore and mid and basal half of hind ones ; tibiae rufous, tarsi pale yellow tinged with rufous. Wings (Fig. 3) largely hyaline with narrow yellow-fumose costal band extending from subcostal cell through apex of cell  $R_3$  to upper apical 1/3 of cell  $R_5$  ; the costal band not extending into cell  $R_4$  except at its apex ; cubital streak narrow. Halteres pale yellow.

*Abdomen* : (Fig. 4) Predominantly rufous and covered with pale pubescence ; second tergum pale yellow along posterior margin and with narrow black vitta confined to basal half medially ; third tergum with narrow black basal band and narrow black median vitta which extends posteriorly over apex of fifth tergum ; tergal glands dark brown ; basal segment of ovipositor rufous ; piercer (Fig. 5) bifid at apex.

*Length* : Body excluding ovipositor 7.3mm., basal segment of ovipositor 1.15mm., inversion membrane 0.5mm., piercer 1.1mm., wing 7mm.

*Male* : Unknown

*Holotype* : Female, India : Tamil Nadu, Salem District, Shevroy Hills, Semmanatham, 28-xii-1989, Coll : C. Radhakrishnan ; *Paratype* : 1 Female, India : Tamil Nadu, North Arcot District, Jawadi Hills, Yelagiri, 7-xii-1992, Coll : K. R. Rao.

The type specimens are in the collections of the Zoological Survey of India, Calicut.

*Etymology* : The specific epithet is from the Latin *digressus* meaning "Departure" or "deviation" and it refers to this species being aberrant from other *Bactrocera*.

## SUMMARY

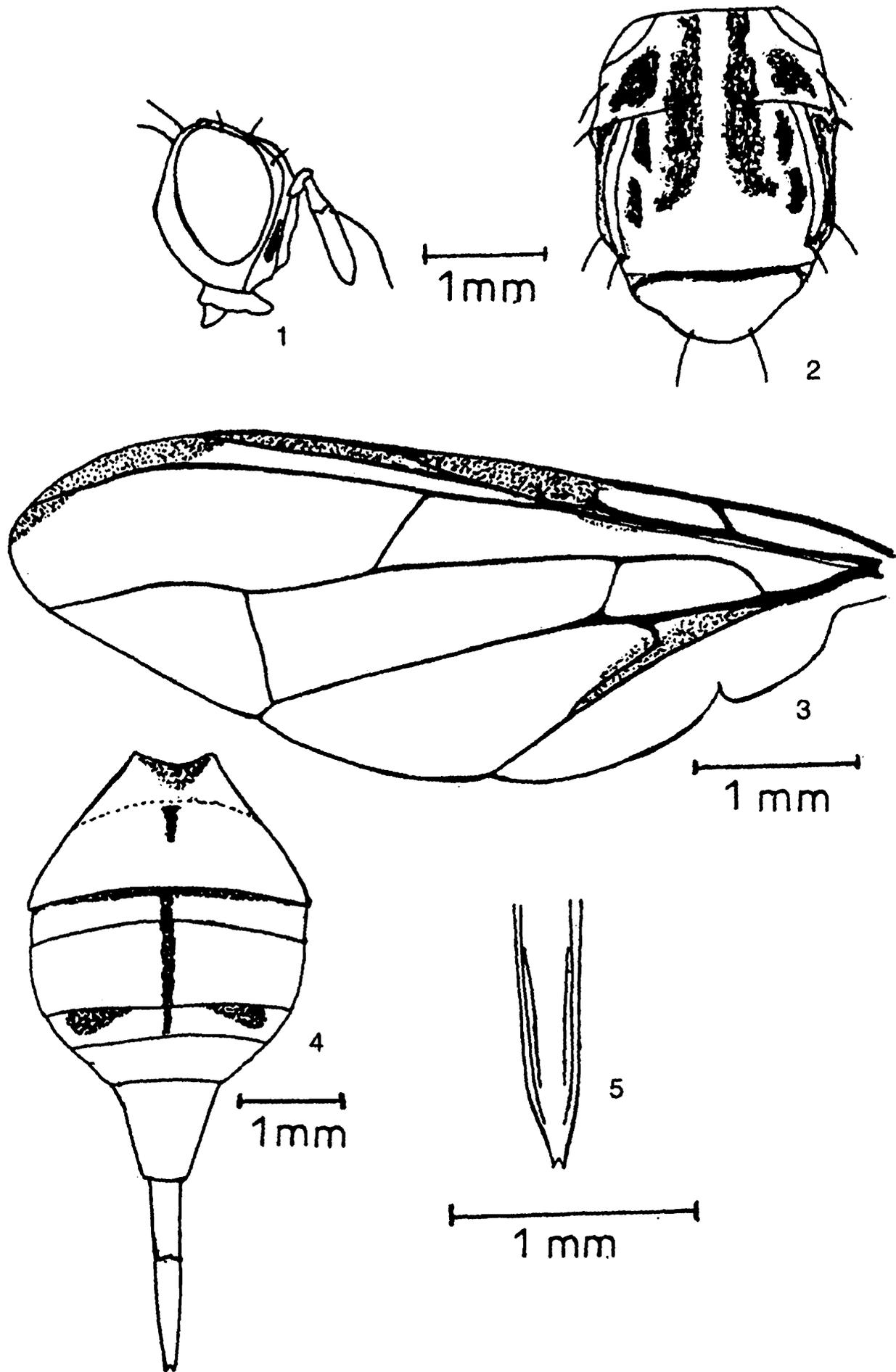
*Bactrocera (Bactrocera) digressa* sp. nov. keys near *B. (B.) andamanensis* (Kapoor) from Andamans, India (Kapoor, 1971) and *B. (B.) holtmanni* (Hardy) from the Philippines (Hardy, 1974) in possessing an apically bifid piercer ; it differs in the absence of anterior supraalar and prescutellar bristles which are however, present in *andamanensis* and *holtmanni*. Besides, in *digressa* the costal band is narrow and does not extend along the upper margin of cell  $R_3$  except at its apex unlike in *holtmanni* in which it extends along the upper margin of cell  $R_3$  throughout its length. In addition it is not expanded into an apical spot in the new species unlike in *andamnensis* in which it is expanded into an apical spot nearly covering the apical part of cell  $R_3$ .

## ABSTRACT

An aberrant new species, *Bactrocera (Bactrocera) digressa* is described.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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**Figs. 1-5.** *Bactrocera (Bactrocera) digressa* sp. nov., female : 1, head-lateral view ; 2, thorax-dorsal view ; 3, wing ; 4, abdomen-dorsal view ; 5, apex of piercer.

## REFERENCES

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