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### **Short Communication**

## **FIRST RECORD OF *MADASUMMA SOROR* CHOPARD, 1969 (GRYLLIDAE : ORTHOPTERA : INSECTA) FROM KAKKAYAM RESERVE FOREST, KOZHICODE DISTRICT, KERALA, INDIA**

### **INTRODUCTION**

While conducting a faunistic survey of Kakkayam reserve forest located in Kozhikode district, Kerala state, an interesting Orthopteran species was collected and identified as *Madasumma soror* Chopard, 1969 which turned out to be hitherto unreported from the state. Thus, this communication is intended to report the extended distribution of this taxon in the Kerala state.

Kakkayam reserve forest is located between 11°35' N latitude and 75°54' E longitude and about 60 Km. north east of Calicut city, Kerala. Thick evergreen forests and plantations of coffee and cardamom surround the area, at an altitude varying from 600 to 1500 m. above mean sea level. The proximity of Kakkayam reservoir and the forests provide the area with good shelter for many insects and other animals. The specimen of *Madasumma soror* was collected from this locality at night. The literature (Chopard, 1969; Vasanth, 1991) reveals that the species is reported so far in India from Maharashtra only. Chopard (1969) described this as a new species in his work. Details of the specimen presently studied are as follows.

**Material examined** : *Madasumma soror* Chopard, 1 adult male. Locality : Kakkayam reserve forest, Kozhikode district, Kerala state, India. Date : 22-ii-2003. Collector : M. Jafer Palot. Specimen deposited in Western Ghats Field research Station, Zoological Survey of India, Calicut. Reg. No. 12754.

**Diagnostic characters** : Head with 3 wide dark brown bands above. Pronotum feebly narrow in front, posterior margin sinuated. Abdomen light brown above, yellow below. Anterior tibiae with an oval tympanum. 5 spines on each margin of the posterior tibiae. Elytra with 2 white, callous spots – one on the external angle of the mirror, the other near its posterior margin and

several dark spots in the anal field; diagonal vein shorter; 3 short and 2 long oblique veins; sub costal vein with 11 branches. Genitalia intricate, presenting a median point and two denticulated lateral projections. Colour, testaceous brown.

**Measurements** : Length : Body, 18 mm.; body with wings, 28 mm.; pronotum, 2.5 mm.; posterior femora, 12.5 mm.; elytra, 18.5 mm.

**Distribution** : India : Mumbai, Matheran (Maharashtra); Kakkayam (Kerala) – present record.

**Remarks** : *Madasumma soror* Chopard belongs to the subfamily Podoscirtinae of the family Gryllidae (Grylloidea : Orthoptera : Insecta). This species comes close to *M. saussureana* (Chopard) and *M. keralensis* (Vasanth). However, the number of oblique veins on elytra in *M. soror* is 5 instead of 7 in *M. saussureana* and 6 in *M. keralensis*.

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D. PRABAKAR AND C. RADHAKRISHNAN  
*Western Ghats Field Research Station,  
Zoological Survey of India,  
Calicut-673 002, India*