



Rec. zool. Surv. India : 105 (Part 1–2) : 161-164, 2005

ADDITIONS TO THE GRASSHOPPER (ORTHOPTERA : INSECTA) FAUNA OF KERALA, SOUTH INDIA

D. PRABAKAR AND C. RADHAKRISHNAN

*Western Ghats Field Research Station, Zoological Survey of India,
Calicut-673 002, India*

INTRODUCTION

Orthoptera is one of the largest orders of insects that also include the destructive locusts. Over 17,250 species are known to science globally. More than 1,750 species, (about 10% of the total world species) are recorded from India and nearly an equal number is expected to be awaiting discovery (Tandon and Hazra, 1998). Annandale, 1906; Bolivar, 1900, 1902 & 1918; Hebard, 1929; Henry, 1937 & 1940; Kesavaram, 1986; Prabakar and Radhakrishnan, 2004; Shishodia and Hazra, 1986; Shishodia and Kulkarni, 2001, 2002; Shishodia and Vasanth, 2001; Singh and Kevan, 1965; Uvarov, 1929 and Vasanth, 1991 have dealt with the taxonomy of the South Indian Orthoptera. While studying the Orthopteran specimens deposited in the faunal holdings of the Zoological Survey of India, Calicut, the authors came across 4 species of grasshoppers (Orthoptera : Insecta) in the collection that are apparently hitherto unreported from Kerala, the details of which are presented below.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

Order ORTHOPTERA

Superfamily ACRIDOIDEA

Family ACRIDIDAE

Subfamily ACRIDINAE

1. *Phlaeoba angustidorsis* Bolivar

Subfamily PYRGOMORPHINAE

2. *Aularches miliaris* (Fabricius)

3. *Pseudomorphacris (Tagasta) notata* (Brunner, 1893)

Subfamily EYPREPOCNEMIDINAE

4. *Choreodocus illustris* (Walker)

SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNT

1. *Phlaeoba angustidorsis* Bolivar

1902. *Phlaeoba angustidorsis* Bolivar, *Ann. Soc. Ent. France*. LXX, p. 590.

Diagnostic characters : Body brown in colour, male with a yellow band extending from head to the tip of tegmina; pronotum very narrow; tegmina barely reaching the tip of the abdomen or shorter; hind femora pale brown with brown knees.

Material examined : 4 exs., 22.vii.1993, Adivaram (Wynad), Coll. C. Radhakrishnan.

Distribution : INDIA : Tamil Nadu : Kodaikanal and Kerala (present record).

2. *Aularches miliaris* (Fabricius)

1793. *Gryllus scabiosae* Fabricius, *Ent. Syst.*, ii, p. 51.

1914. *Aularches scabiosae* Kirby, *Fauna Brit. India*, I, p. 170.

1963. *Aularches miliaris* : Kevan, *Ark. Zool.*, 16 : 75.

Diagnostic characters : Body shining black in colour with a broad yellow band across the head and sides of the pronotum; the pronotum with the front including the large rounded tubercles, yellow; upper and lower sides of abdomen with a red band; tegmina, brown or greenish coloured with numerous yellow callous spots.

Material examined : 2 exs., Silent Valley, 5.ii.1988, Coll. G. U. Kurup; 3 exs., Wynad, 9.xii.1994, Coll. P. M. Sureshan.

Distribution : INDIA : Karnataka and Kerala (present record).

3. *Pseudomorphacris (Tagasta) notata* (Brunner)

1893. *Mestra notata* Brunner, *Ann. Mus. Geneva*, xxxiii, p. 130, pl. v, fig. 50.

Diagnostic characters : Fastigium of the vertex rather pointed; pronotum uniformly impress-punctate; tegmina green in colour with a black spot marked with an orange one near the base; tegmina longer than the abdomen, obtusely rounded at the tip; wings narrow, hyaline, suffused with rosy violet at the base, the costal area being sub hyaline.

Material examined : 2 exs., Idukki district : Eravikulam National Park : Rajamalaj, 4.iv.1994, Coll. K. C. Gopi; 1 ex., Kozhikode district : Thusharagiri, 26.viii.2003, Coll. K. G. Emiliyamma.

Distribution : INDIA : West Bengal, Meghalaya and Kerala (present record : from hilly areas); MYANMAR.

4. *Choreodocus illustris* (Walker)

1870. *Heteracris illustris* Walker, *Cat. Derm. Salt. B.M.*, iv, pp. 663-664.

1914. *Heteracris illustris*, Kriby, *Fauna Brit. India*, I, p. 263.

1921. *Choreodocus illustris* : Uvarov, *Trans. ent. Soc. Lond.*, London : 109.

Diagnostic characters : Face with a moderately narrow blue-black stripe beneath each eye; pronotum punctured, with whitish depressions above; tegmina with small-scattered black spots on the disc; hind tibiae and tarsi puplish blue.

Material examined : 1 ex., 22.vii.1993, Adivaram (Wynad), Coll. C. Radhakrishnan.

Distribution : South India; however, reported from Kerala by the present record.

SUMMARY

The present account deals with 4 new records of grasshoppers (Orthoptera : Insecta) from the Kerala state.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The authors are grateful to Dr. J. R. B. Alfred, Director, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata for facilities and encouragement.

REFERENCE

- Annandale, A. 1906. Notes on the fauna of a desert track in southern India, Part II, Insects and Arachnida. *Mem. Asiat. Soc. Beng.*, **1** : 203-219.
- Bolivar, I. 1900. Les Orthopteres de St. Joseph's college, Trichinopoly (Sud de l' Inde); 2e Partie. *Annls Soc. ent. Fr.*, **68** : 761-810, pls. 11-12.
- Bolivar, I. 1902. Les Orthopteres de St. Joseph's college, Trichinopoly (Sud de l' Inde); 3 me Partie. *Annls. Soc. ent. Fr.*, **70** : 580-635, pls. 1-9.
- Bolivar, I. (1917) 1918. Contributinal concocimento de la fauna Indica. Orthoptera (Locustidae vel Acrididae). *Revta R. Acad. Cienc. exact. fis. Nat. Madr.*, **16** : 278-412.
- Hebard, M. 1929. Acrydiinae (Orthoptera, Acrididae) of Southern India. *Reveu siisse Zool.*, **36** : 565-592, figs. 1-10.
- Henry, G. M. 1937. A new genus and species of Acridian from South India and Ceylon (Orthoptera). *Proc. R. ent. Soc. Lond.*, (B)**6** : 197-200, figs. 1-7.
- Henry, G. M. 1940. New and little known South Indian Acrididae (Orthoptera). *Trans. R. ent. Soc. Lond.*, **90** : 497-540, figs. 1-18.

- Kesavaram, G. 1986. Grasshoppers in the collection of the Government Museum, Madras. *Bulletin of the Madras Government Museum*; New series – Natural History Section, **IX**(2). Pp. 1-53, figs. 118.
- Prabakar, D. and Radhakrishnan, C. 2004. First record of *Madasumma soror* Chopard, 1969 (Gryllidae : Orthoptera : Insecta) from Kakkayam reserve forest, Kozhikode district, Kerala, India. *Rec. Zool. Surv. India*, **103**(Part 1-2) : 185-186.
- Shishodia, M. S. and Hazra, A. K. 1986. Orthopteran fauna of Silent Valley, Kerala. *Rec. Zool. Surv. India*, **84**(1-4) : 191-228.
- Shishodia, M. S. and Kulkarni, P. P. 2001. Insecta : Orthoptera; in : *Fauna of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, Conservation Area Series*, **11** : 59-63; Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata.
- Shishodia, M. S. and Vasanth, M. 2001. Insecta : Grylloidea; in : *Fauna of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, Conservation Area Series*, **11** : 65-71; Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata.
- Shishodia, M. S. and Kulkarni, P. P. 2002. Insecta : Orthoptera; in : *Fauna of Eravikulam National Park, Conservation Area Series*, **13** : 11-15; Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata.
- Singh, A. and Kevan, D. K. McK. 1965. The genus *Orthacris* Bolivar, 1884, and its allies (Orthoptera : Pyrgomorphidae). *Trans. R. ent. Soc. Lond.*, **117**(13) : 367-411, pls. 1-8, figs. 1-18.
- Tandon, S. K. and Hazra, A. K. 1998. Orthoptera; in : *Faunal Diversity in India*, ENVIS Centre, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta. Pp. 184-188.
- Uvarov, B. P. 1929. Acrididen (Orthoptera) aus Sud-Indian. *Revue Suisse Zool.*, **36** : 533-563.
- Vasanth, M. 1991. Studies on crickets (Orthoptera : Gryllidae) from Kerala, India. *Rec. Zool. Surv. India*, **88**(1) : 123-133.