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Short Communication

FIRST REPORT OF *CYCLOGOMPHUS HETEROSTYLUS* SELYS (ODONATA : INSECTA) FROM KERALA, SOUTH INDIA

Members of the genus *Cyclogomphus* Selys (Gomphidae : Anisoptera : Odonata : Insecta) are small gomphines characterized by having the basal antenodal nervure incomplete on all wings.

Within Indian limits, the genus is represented by three species viz : *C. heterostylus* Selys, *C. ypsilon* Selys and *C. wilkinsi* Fraser. The genus *Cyclogomphus* has never been reported from Kerala in south India. While studying the odonate collection from Thiruvananthapuram district, Kerala, we came across a specimen that belonged to *C. heterostylus* Selys, the details of which are presented below. Accordingly, the genus *Cyclogomphus* and the species *C. heterostylus* Selys are reported here for the first time from Kerala.

Material examined : *Cyclogomphus heterostylus* Selys, 1 male, India : Kerala : Thiruvananthapuram district : Thenmalai urukunnu, Coll. P.T. Cherian, 5 April, 1998.

Diagnostic characters : Thorax with two “Y”-shaped markings on each side; superior anal appendages pale yellow, short, straight, slightly separated, and directed straight backwards.

Distribution : India : Darjeeling (West Bengal), Poone (Maharashtra), Madras (Tamil Nadu), and Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala)—the present record.

Remarks : Fraser (1934) stated that *C. heterostylus* Selys is very similar to *C. ypsilon* Selys and the differences indicated by Selys are found inconstant on examination of a large number of specimens, so that no dependence can be placed on the colouration and nodal index to separate *C. heterostylus* from *C. ypsilon*, barring the characters found by Fraser (*Op. Cit*) such as, the distinctly thicker black band on the lower part of frons, entirely yellow labrum, two “Y”-shaped markings on each side of the thorax and the superior anal appendages short, straight, slightly separated, and directed straight backwards, possessed by *C. heterostylus*.

The taxonomic identity of the material studied by us has been fixed based on the reliable characters proposed by Fraser (*Op. Cit*). However, since *C. heterostylus* Selys is known to exhibit great variations in colour and nodal index, for a future comparison with material from elsewhere, we are recording below certain characters, apart from the diagnostic ones, observed on the specimen

studied by us. They are, occiput yellow with black cloudings on either side and with pointed small spines on the lower border; anterior lobe of prothorax yellow in front, black on the basal part; middle lobe of prothorax black with two small round yellow spots on the center and two large oval shaped yellow spots on each side; posterior lobe of prothorax black with a small yellow spot at the centre; thorax yellow with two broad black "U"-shaped markings dorsally on either side, confluent on the anterior part and narrowly separated by a fine yellow median ridge on the posterior part; mesothoracic collar yellow; pterostigma brown at the centre and dull white at either end, covering $2\frac{1}{2}$ -3 cells; anal appendages yellowish brown; nodal index— $\frac{8-11}{8-8} / \frac{11-8}{8-7}$

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REFERENCE

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