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FURTHER RECORD OF OCCURRENCE OF *RANATRA TITILAENSIS* HAFIZ & PRADHAN (RANATRINAE : NEPIDAE : HEMIPTERA)

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INTRODUCTION

The genus *Ranatra* Fabricius, distributed throughout the world except in New Zealand, has 120 species globally (Mahner, 1993), of which 12 species are known from India (Thirumalai, 1999; 2007). The present note deals with the record of occurrence of *Ranatra titilaensis* Hafiz & Pradhan from Jabalpur District of Madhya Pradesh, which has been described from Titilagarh, Patna, Bihar in 1947. While reviewing the Oriental species of the genus *Ranatra*, Lansbury (1972) could not examine *R. titilaensis*. While studying the unidentified aquatic hemipterans at Zoological Survey of India, Jabalpur, the authors have come across *R. titilaensis* from 9 localities in Jabalpur district, Madhya Pradesh and recording the occurrence of the species half a century later. The present record constitutes the report of *R. titilaensis* first time from the state of Madhya Pradesh. There are twenty-three males, forty-two females and forty-six immature stages which have been examined by the authors. It is inferred that *R. titilaensis* is commonly available in this part of the state. *R. titilaensis* is the smallest known oriental species of the genus so far described.

Male (Plate 1a) body length 20.5 mm; respiratory siphon 13 mm; female body length 25 mm; respiratory siphon 19 mm. The male genital capsule is as in Plate 1b and the distally hooked paramere (Plate 1c) is quite distinct unlike any other known species of *Ranatra*.

Material examined : 6♂, 5♀ & 5 immature stages from Heron river at Katangi village, Jabalpur, 15 June, 1966, Coll : H.S. Sharma; 3♂ from a River at Gwarighat, Jabalpur, 19 July, 1966, Coll : H.P. Agrwal; 1♂, 1♀ from A tank in Gandhigram village, Jabalpur, 5 August, 1966, Coll : V.V. Rao; 1♀ from Baleha tank, Panagar village, Katni Road, 17 Feb., 1968, Coll : V.V. Rao; 1♂, 4♀ from Surjla tank on Nagpur Road, 12 Feb., 1970 Jabalpur, Coll : H.P. Agrwal; 2♂ & 7 immature stages from Baria vill. on Sagar Road, Jabalpur, 20 April, 1970, Coll : H. Khajuria; 1♂, 2♀ from

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Bhedaghat, Jabalpur, 23 April, 1970 Coll : H.P. Agrwal; 4♂, 6♀ & 3 immature stages from Balasagar Tank near Medical College, Nagpur Road, Jabalpur, 23 June, 1970, Coll : H.S. Sharma; 4♂, 8♀ from Amkhas, Nagpur Road, 25 June, 1970, Coll : H.S. Sharma; 1♂, 6♀ & 15 immature stages from Baleha tank, Panagar village, Katni Road, 8 July, 1970, Coll : H.P. Agrwal; 2♂, 7♀ & 16 immature stages from Amkhas, Nagpur Road, 7 August, 1970, Coll : H.S. Sharma.

CHECKLIST OF RANATRINAE KNOWN FROM INDIA

Tribe RANATRINI Douglas & Scott, 1865

Genus *Cercotmetus* Amyot & Serville, 1843

1. *Cercotmetus asiaticus* Amyot & Serville, 1843
2. *Cercotmetus brevipes* Montandon, 1909
3. *Cercotmetus fumosus* Distant, 1904
4. *Cercotmetus pilipes* (Dallas), 1850

Genus *Ranatra* Fabricius, 1790

Subgenus *Ranatra* Fabricius, 1790

5. *Ranatra chinensis* Mayr, 1865
6. *Ranatra digitata* Hafiz & Pradhan, 1947
7. *Ranatra distanti* Montandon, 1910
8. *Ranatra elongata* Fabricius, 1790
9. *Ranatra feana* Montandon, 1903
10. *Ranatra filiformis* Fabricius, 1790
11. *Ranatra gracilis* Dallas, 1850
12. *Ranatra longipes thai* Lansbury, 1972
13. *Ranatra parmata* Mayr, 1865
14. *Ranatra titilaensis* Hafiz & Pradhan, 1947
15. *Ranatra varipes atropha* Montandon, 1903
16. *Ranatra varipes varipes* Stål, 1861

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