



Short Communication

NEW RECORD OF *GONOCEPHALUM STRANGULATUM* (FAIRMAIRE, 1888) (OPATRINI : TENEBRIONINI : TENEBRIONIDAE : COLEOPTERA) FROM INDIA

INTRODUCTION

The family Tenebrionidae is the fifth largest family of the order Coleoptera. All *Gonocephalum* species are characteristic elements of open land in different altitudes, but lacking in closed mature forests. They can be found quite often in cultivated land along roads, in bushlands. *Gonocephalum* species are mostly collected under stones but also under bark of rotten trunks or under cattle excrements where they usually aggregate during daytime (Schawaller, 1997). Except (Hegde, 2012), there is no report on the Tenebrionidae fauna of Karnataka state. The collection of *Gonocephalum strangulatum* (Fairmaire, 1888) in the arecanut plantation, under the stone from Kadatoka village (North Kanara), Karnataka state constitutes the new record of that species not only from Karnataka state, but also from India.

SYSTEMATIC POSITION

Subfamily TENEBRIONINAE Latreille, 1802

Tribe OPATRINI BRULLE, 1832

Genus *Gonocephalum* Solier, 1834

Gonocephalum strangulatum (Fairmaire, 1888)

1888. *Opatrum strangulatum* Fairmaire, : 128 – Champion 1895: 117.

Gonocephalum strangulatum (Fairmaire, 1888) – Gebien 1910b: 327 1939: 446 (= *Gonocephalum curvicolle* Reitter, 1889); Schuster 1928: 990; Reichardt 1936: 107 (= *Gonocephalum curvicolle* Reitter, 1889); Kaszab 1952a: 684 (=

Gonocephalum sexual Marseul, 1876); Hua Li 2002 : 139; Iwan and Lobl 2008 : 266.

Material examined: 1 ex. (under the stone in Arecanut plantation,) Kadatoka (North Kanara), Karnataka, 14.xi 2011, V.D. Hegde Collection. Deposited in Zoological Survey of India, Reg. No. 19756/H4A.



Gonocephalum strangulatum (Fairmaire, 1888)

Diagnostic characters: Body elongated, ovate, subconvex, grayish and covered entirely by short spurs. Head with transverse interocular area, anteriorly scarcely emarginated, pronotum transverse, laterally broadly rounded, base constricted and narrower having posterior margin sinuate on both sides and acute angled, anterior margin broadly emarginated, dorsal surface rough with external margin depressed narrowly. Scutellum triangular, punctate with smooth margin. Elytra elongated, oval shaped posteriorly,

gradually more convex, finely striated with plain intervals, with dense fine coriaceous, sutures little elevated. *Length*: 14 mm.

Distribution: INDIA: Karnataka -North Kanara. Elsewhere: China ; Bangladesh; Japan; Korea and Siberia (Iwan *et al.*, 2010).

Remark: The collection of *Gonocephalum strangulatum* (Fairmaire, 1888) was made from Arecanut plantation, under the stone from Kadatoka village (North Kanara), Karnataka state, constitutes the new record of species not only from Karnataka state, but also from India.

Summary: The genus *Gonocephalum* Solier,

1834 is the most distributed species in India, may be due to its remarkable adaptability to adjust with any type of environment. The occurrence of the species *Gonocephalum strangulatum* (Fairmaire, 1888) from Karnataka constitutes the new record of species to India.

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