

**DESCRIPTION OF AN UNKNOWN FEMALE ALONG WITH TWO NEW
LOCALITY RECORDS OF THE FAMILY MYRMELEONTIDAE
(NEUROPTERA) FROM LAKSHADWEEP ISLANDS, INDIA**

S. K. GHOSH

Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta.

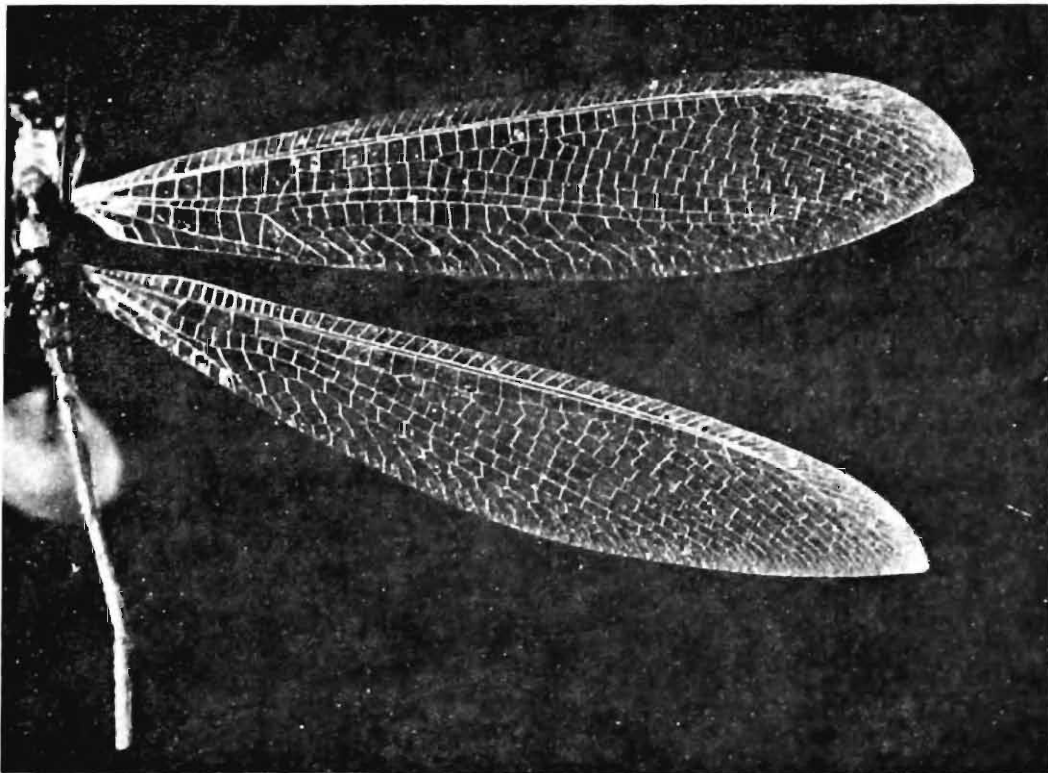
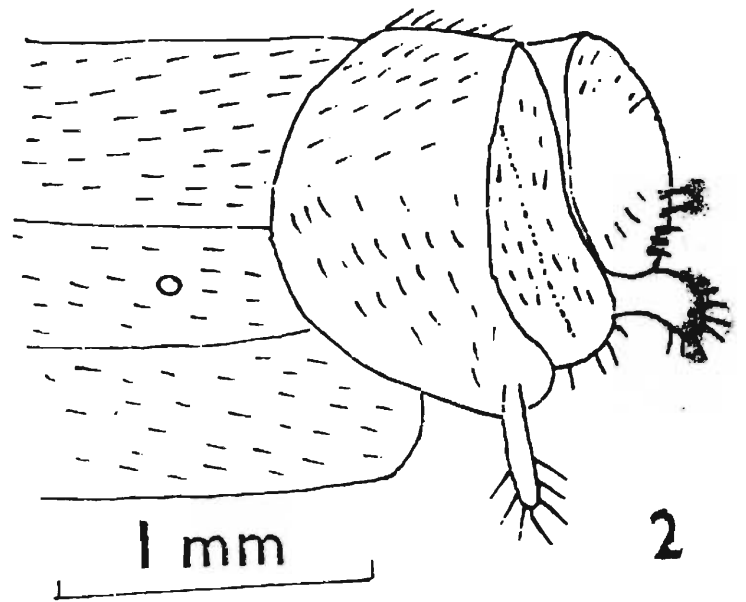
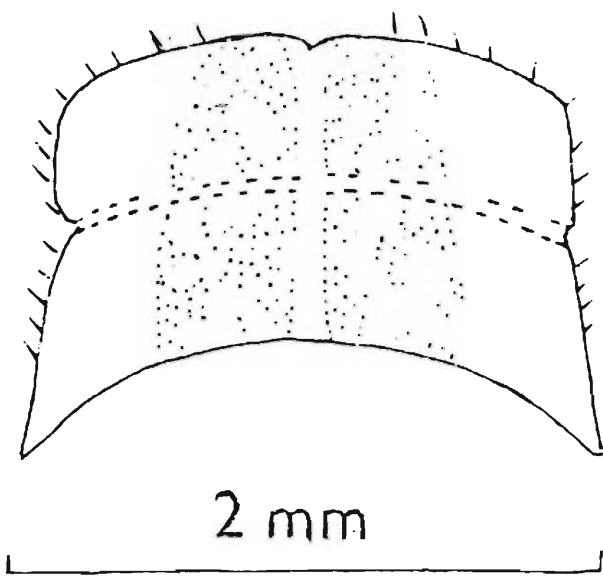
INTRODUCTION

The neuropteran fauna of Lakshadweep is not wellknown inspite of the great economic importance of the group as predators of various pests of crops. Prior to this report, the present author recorded (*vide* Ghosh, 1981) two species, viz., *Ankylopteryx octopunctata* (Fabricius) [Family Chrysopidae] and *Centroclisis eustalacta* (Gerstaecker) [Family Myrmeleontidae] from this Island. Recently, while examining a small collection collected during Lakshadweep Survey, 1984, the author has encountered two species, namely, *Myrmeleon assamensis* Ghosh (in press) and *Creoleon griseus* (Klug) belonging to the family Myrmeleontidae. Both the species have been recorded for the first time from the afore-said Island which is located in the Arabian sea within the jurisdiction of India. The unknown female of *M. assamensis* Ghosh has been described along with necessary illustrations. Geographical distribution of the species and the suitable references have been given.

Myrmeleon assamensis Ghosh

Female : Clypeus & labrum : pale brown; frons : shiny black; maxillary and labial palpi : brownish; vertex & antenna : black; pronotum (fig.1) : yellow with moderately long pale hairs and with two median longitudinal brownish stripes; lateral margins broadly and posterior margin narrowly yellow; meso - and metanotum : black but scutellum yellowish; wings : hyaline, without spot; pterostigma white; forewing (fig.3): venation yellow: Sc with brown bands at the junction of costal veinlets; 8 cross veins before Rs which is with 10 branches; hind wing (fig.3) : Venation yellow; Sc and R brown at the basal half; 4 cross veins before Rs; marginal fringes short and black, very dense; pillula present, yellowish with dense golden hair brush; leg: brown; tip of tarsal segments black; spurs of hind tibia about as long as first tarsal segment; claws red; hairs black; abdomen (fig.2) : black with rather dense, short and yellow hairs; tergite 8 broad in the upper part and tapering downwards; tergite 9 long and narrow with uniform thickness; ectoproct slightly broader than tergite 9, with slightly projecting upper part, rounded lower angle and digging hairs in addition to small hairs; gonapophysis lateralis small, rounded and with black hairs.

Measurements : 2 ♀♀ : Length of fore wing, 30 mm; hind wing 28 mm.



3

Figs. 1-3. *Myrmeleon assamensis* Ghosh (female) : 1. Pronotum, 2. tip of female abdomen, 3. fore - and hind wings.

Material examined : 2 ♀♀ : India : Lakshadweep Islands, vegetable gardens, 3 kms. east of tourist hut, Kavaratti, 28. iii. 1984; southern end of Agatti, 6. iv. 1984 (*D. K. Mandal* and party coll).

Distribution : India : Assam and Lakshadweep Islands.

Remarks : The male of the species has been described new to science by Ghosh (the paper is in press) from Assam. Hitherto unknown female has been described in this paper. A single male specimen collected during Lakshadweep Survey, 1984 (in and around Dak Bungalow, Kadmat, 10. IV 1984, *D. K. Mondal* and party - Coll.) differs from female in having 9 cross veins before Rs which is with 12 - branches.

Creoleon griseus (Klug)

1834. *Myrmeleon griseus* Klug, *Symb. Phys.*, IV. Tafel 36, fig. 8.

1972. *Creoleon griseus*, Holzel, *Beitr. naturk. Forsch Sudw-Dtl.*, 1 : 61.

Measurement : Male : Length of fore wing, 30 mm; hind wing, 28 mm.

Material examined : One male : Indian : Lakshadweep Islands: Kadmat, in the compound of Dak Bungalow, 12. iv. 1984 (*D. K. Mondal* and party coll.)

Distribution : India (West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Lakshadweep Is.); Iran; Israel; Sudan; Egypt.

Remarks : The species is for the first time recorded from Lakshadweep Islands.

SUMMARY

Description of an unknown female and the new locality records of two species belonging to the family Myrmeleontidae collected during Lakshadweep Survey, 1984, have been provided in this paper.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The author expresses his gratitude to the Director, Zoological Survey of India, for kindly providing laboratory facilities.

REFERENCES

- Ghosh, S. K. 1981. New records of Neuroptera : Planipennia from the Lakshadweep Island, India, coupled with a short note on the taxonomic variation of *Centroclisis eustalsacta* (Gerst.). *Bull. Zool. Surv. India*, 3 (3) : 269-270.
- Ghosh, S. K. Contribution to the taxonomical studies of Neuroptera (Suborder Planipennia) from eastern India. I. Family Myrmeleontidae. *Rec. zool. Surv. India, Occ. pap.* (in press).