

NOTES ON A COLLECTION OF COLEOPTERA: RUTELIDAE FROM SIKKIM

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I—INTRODUCTION

The present paper deals with the material of Rutelidae (Coleoptera) collected by Dr. A. G. K. Menon during the period from 14.3.59 to 21.8.59 from the areas visited by him in Sikkim, while acting as a Liaison Officer to Dr. F. Schmid of the Zoological Museum of Lausanne, Switzerland.

The coleopterous material of the family Rutelidae collected from twenty different localities in Sikkim comprises of 5 genera and 17 species.

The specimens were collected from the following localities, the altitudes ranging from 542 metres to 3,879 metres: Manul (1,485 m.), Tong (1,501 m.), Chungthang (1,515 m.), Sachu (2,879 m.), Lachen (2,706 m.), Thombyak (3,879 m.), Yathang (3,530 m.), Thangu (3,842 m.), Bichhu (2,727 m.), Lachung (2,727 m.), Dambang (2,985 m.), Manshitang (1,576 m.), Teng (1,515 m.), Tong (1,394 m.), Naga (1,515 m.), Singhik (1,575 m.), Mangan (1,576 m.), Dickchu (542 m.) and Thombu (3,167 m.) in the north, and Singtam (1,515 m.) in the West Sikkim.

The Coleoptera fauna of Sikkim bears resemblance with that of Darjeeling and other eastern Himalayan localities.

Of the 193 examples of beetles, 118 belong to the species *Callistopopillia iris* (Candeze), which clearly indicates its commonness in the area. This species shows considerable variation in colouration, while other species show very minor or slight variations. Nine species viz., (1) *Popillia cupricollis* Hope, (2) *Mimela passerinii* Hope, (3) *Mimela pectoralis* Blanchard, (4) *Mimela schneideri* Ohaus, (5) *Anomala signaticollis* Nonfried, (6) *Anomala xanthoptera* Blanchard, (7) *Anomala stoliczkae* Sharp, (8) *Anomala tumidicauda* Arrow, and (9) *Anomala erythroptera* (Kraatz) are recorded for the first time from the area.

The abbreviations *Ex.*, *Exs.*, and *m.*, are used for example (specimen), and examples (specimens) and metres, respectively. Only the species *Anomala xanthoptera* Blanchard is recorded from the western Sikkim, while the other species are reported from the northern Sikkim.

II—SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNT

Order	COLEOPTERA
Superfamily	SCARABAEOIDEA
Family	RUTELIDAE

1. *Dactylopopillia virescens* (Hope)

1831. *Popillia virescens* Hope, *Gray's Zool. Miscell.*, p. 23.

1917. *Dactylopopillia virescens*. Arrow, *Fauna Brit. India, Coleoptera : Lamellicornia*, pt. 2, p. 56.

Material.—2 exs. as follows: 1 ex., Manshitang (1,576 m.), 26. vii. 59; and lex., Teng (1,515 m.), 30 vii. 59.

Remarks.—Originally described from Nepal, this species has been recorded from West Bengal (Darjeeling, Mongphu, Soom, Pedong, Kurseong, Gopaldhara, Rungbong Valley) and also from Sikkim (upper Tiesta). The colour of the specimens examined varies from those described originally, the elytra being brown chocolate with greenish metallic lusture. Pronotum rugosely punctured except for the basal part.

2. *Popillia cyanea* Hope

1831. *Popillia cyanea* Hope, *Gray's Zool. Miscell.*, p. 23.

1917. *Popillia cyanea*: Arrow, *Fauna Brit. India, Coleoptera : Lamellicornia*, pt. 2, p. 62.

Material.—19 exs. as follows: 2 exs., Yathang (3,530 m.), 17. vi. 59; 4 exs., Chungthang (1,551 m.), 23. vii. 59, 29. vii. 59; 5 exs., Manshitang (1,576 m.), 26. vii. 59; 7 exs., Naga (1,515 m.), 2. vii. 59; 1 ex., Dickchu (542 m.), 14. viii. 59.

Remarks.—The species was first recorded from Nepal. It is known to occur in West Bengal (Siliguri, Darjeeling, Kurseong, Mongphu, Peshok, Gopaldhara), Assam (Khasi hills), U.P. (Nainital, Almora), Sikkim (Upper Tiesta) and Nepal (Kathmandu, Sundrijal, Gowhar, Chandra Giri).

3. *Popillia nitida* var. *concolor* Kraatz

1831. *Popillia nitida* Hope, *Gray's Zool. Miscell.*, p. 23.

1917. *Popillia nitida* var. *concolor* Kraatz, Arrow, *Fauna Brit. India, Coleoptera : Lamellicornia*, pt. 2, p. 70.

Material.—6 exs. as follows: 1 ex., Thombu (3,167 m.), 14. vi. 59; 1 ex., Yathang (3,530 m.), 15. vi. 59; 3 exs., Lachen (2,706 m.), 30. vi. 59; 1 ex. Bichhu (2727 m.), 14. vii. 59.

Remarks.—*P. nitida* var. *concolor* was described from Sikkim. The species *P. nitida* has already been reported from West Bengal (Darjeeling, Kurseong), Assam (Khasi Hills), Manipur and Sikkim (Gangtok, Laching), besides Nepal (which is the type locality).

4. *Popillia cupricollis* Hope

1831. *Popillia cupricollis* Hope, *Gray's Zool. Miscell.*, p. 23.

1917. *Popillia cupricollis*: Arrow, *Fauna Brit. India, Coleoptera : Lamellicornia*, pt. 2, p. 73.

Material.—4 exs. as follows : 1 ex., Manshitang (1,576 m.), 26.vii.59; 1 ex., Tong (1,394 m.), 1.viii.59; 1 ex., Naga (1,515 m.) 2.viii.59; 1 ex., Dickchu (542 m.), 13.viii.59.

Remarks.—It is a very widely distributed species in the Himalayan belt and it has been recorded from the Punjab (Kangra Valley, Kulu, Kasauli), Himachal Pradesh (Simla), U.P. (Nainital, Kumaon, Mussoorie), West Bengal (Darjeeling, Kurseong, Pedong, Soom), and Nepal (which is its type locality). It is now reported from the above localities in Sikkim, thus extending the limits of its distribution eastward.

5. *Callistopopillia iris* (Candeze)

1869. *Anomala iris* Candeze, *Col. Hafte*, 5, p. 43.

1917. *Callistopopillia iris*: Arrow, *Fauna Brit. India, Coleoptera Lamellicornia*, pt. 2, p. 93.

Material.—118 exs. as follows: 22 exs., Lachen (2,706 m.), 9.vi.59; 3 exs., Yathang (3,530 m.), 15.vi.59, 17.vi.59; 90 exs., Thangu (3,842 m.), 18.vi.59; 3 exs., Lachung (2,727 m.), 30.vi.59.

Remarks.—A long series of specimens of the species is present in the collection examined. The species is already known from West Bengal (Darjeeling, Kurseong, Mongphu, Murshidabad), Jammu & Kashmir (Ladakh), Tibet (Yatong) and Sikkim.

In this species the colouration varies considerably. Originally described as bright metallic green and side of the elytra fiery red, but in some of the specimens examined the colour of elytra is completely reddish, with faint green metallic lustre and the fiery red band is completely obscure. The general appearance of elytra in these specimens is somewhat dull as compared to the typical specimen of the species.

6. *Mimela passerinii* Hope

1842. *Mimela passerinii* Hope, *Proc. Linn. Soc.*, 1, p. 128.

1917. *Mimela passerinii*: Arrow, *Fauna Brit. India, Coleoptera: Lamellicornia*, pt. 2, p. 105.

Material.—22 exs. as follows: 11 exs., Lachen (2,706 m.), 21.vi.59; 6 exs., Lachung (2,727 m.), 30.vi.59; 2 exs., Chungthang (1,515 m.), 2.vii.59; 2 exs., Dambang (2,985 m.) 10-11.vii.59; 1 exs., Naga (1,516 m.), 4.viii.59.

Remarks.—This species is already known from Sikkim (Lachen Valley), West Bengal (Darjeeling, Soom, Birchil hill, Mongphu, Jal Pahar), Jammu & Kashmir (Cambellpur), Tibet and West China.

7. *Mimela pectoralis* Blanchard

1851. *Mimela pectoralis* Blanchard, *Cat. Coll. Ent. Mus.*, Paris, (1850), p. 197.

1917. *Mimela pectoralis*: Arrow. *Fauna Brit. India, Coleoptera: Lamellicornia*, pt. 2, p. 107.

Material.—Singhik (1,576 m.), 5.viii.59; 1 ex., Mangan (1,576 m.).

Remarks.—This species has been previously recorded from West-Pakistan (Lahore), India: Himachal Pradesh (Simla), and Nepal. It is now reported for the first time from the above localities in northern Sikkim.

8. *Mimela schneideri* Ohaus

1905. *Mimela schneideri* Ohaus, *Deutsche, Ent. Zeits.*, p. 89.

1917. *Mimela schneideri*: Arrow, *Fauna Brit. India, Coleoptera : Lamellicornia*, pt. 2, p. 108.

Material.—3 exs. as follows: 1 ex., Thombyak (3,879 m.), 2.vi.69; 2 ex., Lachen (2,706 m.), 4.vi.59.

Remarks.—This species has already been recorded from Assam (Kohima, Naga hills), Manipur, Burma (Ruby mines, Maymyo). It is now reported from the above localities in northern Sikkim.

9. *Mimela princeps* Hope

1842. *Mimela princeps* Hope, *Trans. ent. Soc. London*, 3 p.65.

1917. *Mimela princeps*: Arrow, *Fauna Brit. India, Coleoptera: Lamellicornia*, pt. 2, p. 115.

Material.—3 exs. as follows: 1 ex., Tong (1,394 m.), 1.viii.59; 1 ex., Singhik (1,576 m.), 6.viii.59; 1 ex., Mangan (1,576 m.), 11.viii.59.

Remarks.—It is known to occur in West Bengal (Siliguri Darjeeling, Ghumti, Pashok, Gopaldhara, Rungbong Valley, Mongphu), Assam (Khasi Hills, Shillong, Namoth Cachar), Burma (Tonkin), Bhutan and Sikkim.

10. *Mimela heterochropus* Blanchard

1851. *Mimela heterochropus* Blanchard, *Cat. Coll. Ent. Mus., Paris*, (1850), p. 196.

1917. *Mimela heterochropus*: Arrow, *Fauna Brit. India, Coleoptera : Lamellicornia*, pt. 2, p. 117.

Material.—2 exs., Dickchu (542 m.), 15.viii.59.

Remarks.—The species was originally recorded from Nepal. It is also known to occur in Sikkim, U.P. (Nishangarh Dist. Bahraich), West Bengal (Lebong Mongphu, Rungbong, Kurseong, Darjeeling), Assam (Naga Hills), Burma and Tonkin.

11. *Anomala signaticollis* Nonfried

1893. *Anomala signaticollis* Nonfried, *Berl. Ent. Zeitschr.*, p. 334.

1917. *Anomala signaticollis*, Arrow, *Fauna Brit. India, Coleoptera : Lamellicornia*, pt. 2, p. 198.

Material.—1 ex., Lachen (2,706 m.), 5.vi.59.

Remarks.—This species is known from U.P. (Dehra Dun), Assam (Khasi Hills, Shillong, Cherrapunji) and Manipur. It is now recorded from Sikkim. The specimens of this species have an undivided prothoracic dark patch (*c.f.* *A. fulviventris* Bl.)

12. *Anomala agilis* Arrow

1917. *Anomala agilis* Arrow, *Fauna Brit. India, Coleoptera : Lamellicornia*, pt. 2, p. 207.

Material.—1 ex., Chungthang (1,551 m.), 23.viii.59.

Remarks.—This species is known to occur in West Bengal (Darjeeling, Kurseong, Soom, Pashok, Mongphu), and Bhutan. It is now recorded from Sikkim.

13. *Anomala xanthoptera* Blanchard

1851. *Anomala xanthoptera* Blanchard, *Cat. Coll. Ent. Mus. Paris*, (1850), p. 195.

1917. *Anomala xanthoptera*: Arrow, *Fauna Brit. India, Coleoptera : Lamellicornia*, pt. 2, p. 224.

Material.—1 ex. from western Sikkim, Singtam (1,515 m.), 5.iv.59.

Remarks.—This species has been reported from the Himanchal Pradesh (Kulu Valley and Kangra Valley), and U.P. (Dehra Dun). The present record from the western Sikkim is of interest.

14. *Anomala perplexa* (Hope)

1839. *Euchlora perplexa* Hope, *Proc. zool. Soc.*, 2, p. 70.

1917. *Anomala perplexa*: Arrow, *Fauna Brit. India, Coleoptera : Lamellicornia*, pt. 2, p. 228.

Material.—4 exs. as follows: 3 exs., Dickchu (542 m.), 3.viii.59; 1 ex., Naga (1,515 m.), 2.viii.59.

Remarks.—The species is already recorded from West Bengal (Darjeeling, Gopaldhara, Rungbong Valley, Pedong, Mongphu), Sikkim (Gangtok), Bhutan (Maria Basti) and Nepal.

15. *Anomala stoliczkae* Sharp

1873. *Anomala (Callistethus) stoliczkae* Sharp, *J. Roy. Asiat. Soc. Bombay*, 48, 2, p. 173.

1917. *Anomala stoliczkae*: Arrow, *Fauna Brit. India, Coleoptera : Lamellicornia*, pt. 2, p. 243.

Material.—2 exs., Sachu (2,879 m.), 16.v.59; 1 ex., Lachung (2,727 m.), 2.vii.59.

Remarks.—This species is known to occur in West Pakistan (Murree), India, U.P. (Jaunsar), West Bengal (Darjeeling), Tibet and West China. The elytra are pea-green in colour, and the humeral and apical calli are ruby red.

16. *Anomala tumidicauda* Arrow

1912. *Anomala (Callistethus) tumidicauda* Arrow, *Ann. Mag. nat., Hist.*, (8) 9, p. 83.

1917. *Anomala tumidicauda*: Arrow, *Fauna Brit. India, Coleoptera : Lamellicornia*, pt. 2, p. 247.

Material.—2 exs. as follows: 1 ex., Lachung (2,727 m.), 30.vi.59; 1 ex., Lachen (2,706 m.), 2.vi.59.

Remarks.—This species is known to occur in West Bengal (Darjeeling, Kurseong, Labong). It is now recorded from Sikkim.

17. *Anomala erythroptera* (Kraatz)

1892. *Ischnopopillia erythroptera* Kraatz, *Deutsche Ent. Zeits.*, p. 295.

1917. *Anomala erythroptera*: Arrow, *Fauna Brit. India, Coleoptera : Lamellicornia*, pt. 2, p. 262.

Material.—1 ex., Manul (1,485 m.), 10.vi.59.

Remarks.—This species is recorded from Assam (Khasi Hills, Shillong), and West Bengal (Kurseong, Darjeeling, Suriel, Mongphu). It is now being recorded from the above locality in Sikkim.

III—SUMMARY

The paper deals with 193 examples of Coleoptera of the family Rutelidae, comprising of 5 genera and 17 species. Nine species are new records from Sikkim area.

IV—ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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