

STUDIES ON THE INDIAN ISOPODS PT. 2 NOTES ON
THE ONISCID COLLECTION FROM THE KAMENG
DIVISION OF NEFA

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(With one text-figure)

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I—INTRODUCTION

The material reported here deals with terrestrial Isopods collected in 1961 by Dr. K. C. Jayaramakrishnan in the Kameng Division, North-Eastern Frontier Agency. Although small in number, the collection includes fascinating forms. It consists of four species belonging to four genera viz., *Porcellio* Latreille, *Philoscia* Latreille, *Porcellionides* Miers and *Cubaris* Brandt and two families. Of the family Oniscidae, *Porcellio* and *Philoscia* were collected at elevations of 1982 and 2012 metres and *Porcellionides* was collected from 593 metres. The Armadillidae is represented by a single species viz., *Cubaris marmoratus* Collinge in the collection. This was also collected from an elevation of 1982 metres.

II—SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNT

TRIBE ONISCOIDEA

FAMILY ONISCIDAE

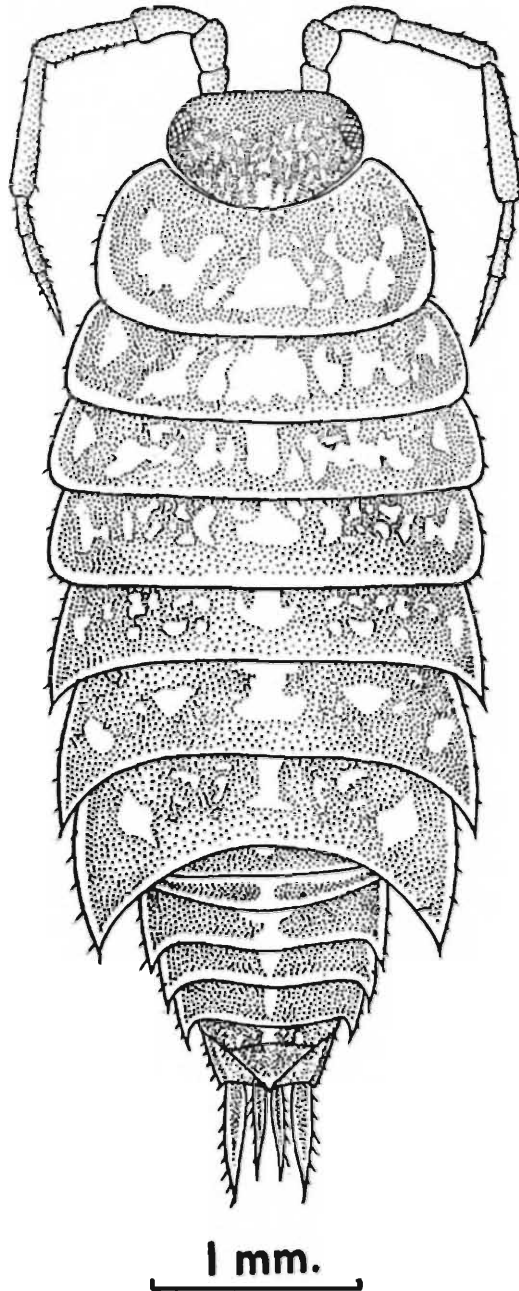
1. *Porcellio assamensis* Chopra

1924. *Porcellio assamensis* Chopra, *Rec. Indian Mus.*, 26(1), p. 51, text-figs. 1 & 2.

Rec. Zool. Surv. India. 63 (1-4), 1971.

Ten specimens of this somewhat rare species were collected from below the stones above the confluence of Milan Kang with R. Digien, alt. ca. 1982 m., 20.iv.1961.

Porcellio assamensis was first described by Chopra in 1924 from Siju Cave, Garo Hills in Assam. Subsequently, for about three decades, there have been no records of this species. Needless to say, its record now for the first time from the Kameng Division of NEFA is of special interest from the point of view of its distribution.



TEXT-FIG. 1.—*Philoscia muscorum* (Scopoli)—Dorsal view.

2. *Philoscia muscorum* (Scopoli)

(Text-figure 1)

1863. *Oniscus muscorum* Scopoli, *Entomologia Carniolica*, p. 415.
 1885. *Philoscia muscorum* (Scopoli) : Budde Lund, *Crust. Isopoda Terrestria*, p. 207.
 1889. *Philoscia muscorum* (Scopoli) : Sars, *An account of the Crustacea of Norway*, 2, p. 173, pl. 76, fig. 1.

The genus *Philoscia* differs from *Porcellio* in having a three-segmented antennal flagellum and in the absence of lateral and central lobe on the head. Only three species of this genus have so far been recorded from India. Collinge (1915) described *P. tenuissima* from Madras. Budde Lund (1894) and Chopra (1924) described two cave forms namely, *P. coeca* and *P. dobakholi* from the Moulmein cave in Burma and Siju cave in Assam respectively. In addition, there are two other records of this genus from N. E. Assam and Abor Country by Collinge (*loc. cit.*) who did not give them any specific names.

This species is represented by two specimens collected from below stones, about 1.6 km. north-west of Shergaon, alt. 2012 m., 7.v.1961.

Philoscia muscorum has a fairly wide range of distribution over Europe and Africa, being known from Britain, Denmark, Germany, Poland, Austria, France, Spain, Italy and Algeria. So far, as I am aware, this species has not been recorded from India. Therefore, its occurrence now reported for the first time from the Kameng Division of NEFA is, indeed, very significant.

3. *Porcellionides pruinosus* (Brandt)

1833. *Porcellio pruinosus* Brandt, *Conspectus Crust. Oniscodorum*, p. 19.
 1879. *Metoponorthus pruinosus* (Brandt) : Budde Lund, *Prospectus Isopoda terrestrium*, p. 4.
 1911. *Porcellionides pruinosus* (Brandt) : Stebbing, *Rec. Indian Mus.*, 6(4), p. 189.

There are three specimens of this species in the present collection. They are collected from below stones and rotting wood in the jungle on way to Kalaktang, alt. 610 m., 10.iii.1961.

This species is considered to be rather cosmopolitan since its distribution extends from greater part of Europe, North Africa, North and South America and Sumatra (South-East Asia). However, in India Stebbing (1911) reported this species from Kurseong (1524 m.) from the Eastern Himalayas. Subsequently Collinge (1914) recorded from Rotung, Abor Country ; Kobo and Sadiya in the North Eastern Assam. It is now reported for the first time from the Kameng Division of the NEFA region.

Family : ARMADILLIDAE

4. *Cubaris marmoratus* Collinge

1916. *Cubaris marmoratus* Collinge, *Rec. Indian Mus.*, 8(9), p. 545, pl. 1, figs. 1-8.

A fairly large number of specimens referable to this species are represented in the collection. They were collected from below stones above the confluence of Milan Kang with Digien river, alt. 1982 m., 20.iv.1961.

Collinge (1916) described this species from specimens collected from under bark at Kobo, Abor Country. The species is characterized by the presence of small and narrow lobes of the maxillipede and by the shape of uropoda. Since then, the species has not been reported from India, this being the first record from Kameng Division, in NEFA.

III—SUMMARY

This short paper deals with terrestrial Isopods from the Kameng Division of North-Eastern Frontier Agency. The material consists of four species pertaining to two families viz., Oniscidae and Armadillidae. While *Philoscia muscorum* (Scopoli) is recorded for the first time from India, the other three species are reported for the first time from this region.

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