

CONTRIBUTION TO THE ACRIDID FAUNA (ORTHOPTERA) OF NORTH-EASTERN STATES OF INDIA

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INTRODUCTION

The grasshopper fauna of the North-eastern states of India is meagrely known. However, stray contributions have been made by Serville (1839), Stal (1878), Kirby (1914), Uvarov (1927a, 1927b, 1930, 1942), Willemsse (1925), Ramme (1941), Bhowmik (1965) and more recently Shishodia and Hazra (1985). As a result of these studies, inter alia, 13 interesting new species were described from the areas (vide appendix).

The present communication contains records of localities of the relatively well known species, comprising of 33 species or subspecies belonging to 27 genera under 9 sub-families, and most of these, have been recently dealt with elsewhere (Bhowmik, 1986). Of these, 17 species are new records from some of the states of north-eastern India. Some of the species not recorded earlier by Bhowmik (op. cit.) are also included. The total number of species from north-eastern states of India, is now 57 species under 42 genera (vide appendix)

SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNT

Order	ORTHOPTERA
Family	ACRIDIDAE
Subfamily	ACRIDINAE

1. *Acrida exaltata* (Walker, 1859)

Material : 1 ♂ and 2 advanced ♀ nymphs; Noa Dhihing river, Namsai, Lohit district; 10.9.86; R.N. Bhargava coll. 1 ♀; Foothill, W. Kameng; 4.1.86; R.N. Bhargava coll.

Remarks : A very common species of the region.

2. *Phalaeoba antennata* Brunner, 1893

Material : 2 ♂♂, 1 ♀; Kamlong, Lohit district; Nov. 1986; R.N. Bhargava coll. 1 ♀; Kheram, Lohit district; 25.9.86; R.N. Bhargava coll. 1 ♂, 2 ♀♀; Kalaktank, W. Kameng; 26.12.85; R.N. Bhargava coll. 4 ♂♂, 6 ♀♀; (and 1 nymph); Foot Hill,

Tipi, W. Kameng; 8.9.84; R.N. Bhargava coll. 4 ♀♀; Sepai Jala, Agartala; 10.11.83; P. Halder coll. 1 ♀; Motinagar, Silchar, Assam; 6.11.83; B.C. Saha coll. 1 ♂; Sultana vill., Lohit district; Arunachal Pradesh; 9.9.86; R.N. Bhargava coll.

Remarks : In India the species is common in Darjeeling district (Bhowmik and Rui, 1984). It is recorded here for the first time from Tripura.

3. *Phlaeoba infumata* Brunner, 1893

Material : 1 ♂, 1 ♀; Rydak forest, Jalpaiguri, West Bengal; 9.9.75; H.K. Bhowmik coll.

Remarks : The species was so far recorded from Arunachal Pradesh and Burma. It is recorded here from West Bengal for the first time.

4. *Phlaeoba panteli* Bolivar, 1902

Material : 1 ♀; Nilpara (Hasimara) Jalpaiguri; 31.8.75; H.K. Bhowmik coll. 1 (nymph); Sepai Jala, Agartala; 10.12.83; P. Halder coll. 1 ♀; Kheram Lohit district, Arunachal Pradesh; 26.9.86; R.N. Bhargava coll. 2 ♂♂; 119 miles point, Paya, Lohit district; 15.9.86; R.N. Bhargava coll. 1 ♂, 1 ♀; Mankao, Chowkhan, Lohit district; 19.9.86; R.N. Bhargava coll. 1 ♀, Kheram vill. Bordumsa, Lohit district; 8.9.86. R.N. Bhargava coll. 1 ♂, 4 ♀♀; Paya, Lohit district; Arunachal Pradesh; R.N. Bhargava coll.

Remarks : Previously known from Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal and Afganistan, the species is a new record from Tripura.

5. *Gonista sagitta* (Uvarov, 1912)

1912. *Gelastorrhinus sagitta* Uvarov, *Horae Soc. Ent. Rose.*, 40(3) : 10.

1933. *Gonista sagitta* : Uvarov; 1933 *Trans.Inst. Zool. Acad. Sci URSS* 1 : 189.

Material : 1 ♀, Churachandpur, Manipur; 20.11.83; S.K. Gupta coll.

Remarks : The species was previously known from Karnatak, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Burma and SriLanka. It is a new record from north-eastern India.

It is a little known species and some observation on its morphology are given below:

Antenna as long as combined length of head and pronotum, 21-segmented, 3rd to 10th segments somewhat ensiform, apical segments tapering, whiplike towards tip. Prozona one and a half times longer than metazona; 2nd sulcus indented on prozona but does not cross median carina. Tegmen about 8mm. longer than abdomen, acuminate at apex. Posterior femur shorter than abdomen; posterior tibia shorter than femur, with 13 external and 14 internal short spines; dull yellowish. Mesosternum long, its lobes small, almost touching in middle line; metasternum separated by a distinct suture.

Measurement (one female in mm.); Body 39; antenna 15; prozona 4.5; metazona 3; tegmen 35; posterior femur 17; posterior tibia 14.

6. *Ceracris nigricornis laeta* (Bolivar, 1914)

Material : 2 ♀♀; Khellong, West Kameng; 7.1.86; R.N. Bhargava coll.

Remarks : The specimens (30-32) agree well with known accounts (Bhowmik, 1986). It is, however, a new record from Arunachal Pradesh.

7. *Ceracris nigricornis nigricornis* (Walker, 1870)

Material : 2 ♂♂, 1 ♀, Lamka, Manipur; 21.11.83; B.C. Saha coll. 2 ♀♀; East Kameng; 13.12.85; R.N. Bhargava coll. 3 ♂♂, 1 ♀; Kellong, West Kameng, 8.1.86 and also (80 nymphs-probably 3rd stage instars): Tawang, West Kameng; 22.9.84; R.N. Bhargava coll.

Remarks : This subspecies has a restricted distribution ranging over the Himalayas and Karen Hills (Burma). In the plains, it is only known from Pusa (Bihar) and Tripura. The availability of a large series of nymphs during September indicate postmonsoon breeding.

8. *Ceracris deflorata* (Brunner, 1893)

Material : 1 ♀; Moreh, Manipur; 25.11.83; B.C. Saha coll.

Remarks : The species was previously known from Pusa and Chapra (Bihar) and Burma. Its present record is the eastern most limit of its distributional range in India.

9. *Holopercna darjeelingensis* (Bolivar, 1914)

Material : 1 ♂; Tenga, West Kameng; 24.9.84; R.N. Bhargava coll.

Remarks : The species seems to be distributed throughout the Eastern and Western Himalayas. Arunachal Pradesh is, however, a new record for it.

II. Sub-family GOMPHOCERINAE

10. *Aulacobothrus decisus* Walker, 1871

Material : 1 ♂; 1 ♀; Churachandpur, Manipur; 20.11.83; B.C. Saha coll.

Remarks : Previously recorded from Bombay and Tamil Nadu, the species is recorded here for the first time from Manipur.

III. Sub-family OEDIPODINAE

11. *Aiolopus thalassinus tamulus* (Fabricius, 1798)

Material : 1 ♀; Dirang, W. kameng; 19.9.84 and 1 ♀; Tenga, W. Kameng; 24.9.84; R.N. Bhargava coll. 4 ♀♀; Raipasa, Ambasa, Tripura; 20.2.83; A.K. Sanyal & party coll. 1 ♀; Lembuchera, Agartala; 7.2.83; A.K. Sanyal and party coll.

Remarks : A common rice-pest of oriental regions and Australia.

12. *Acrotylus humberianus* (Saussure, 1884)

Material : 1 ♂, 1 ♀; Lalchhuri, Ambasa, Tripura; 22.2.83; A.K. Sanyal & party coll.

13. *Heteropternis respondens* (Walker, 1859)

Material : 4 ♂♂, 1 ♀; Fatikchara, Agartala; 26.2.83. 1 ♀; Raipasa, Ambasa, Tripura; 20.2.83. 1 ♂; Hatipocha, Tripura; 11.2.83. All by A.K. Sanyal and party coll. Also from - 2 ♂♂; Adderly, Nilgiri, Tamil Nadu; 28.2.83; S. Sur coll.

Remarks : Though a common species, it is reported here for the first time from Tripura.

14. *Oedaleus abruptus* (Thunberg, 1815)

Material : 1 ♂, 3 ♀♀; Fatichara, Agartala; 26.2.83; A.K. Sanyal & party coll. 1 ♂; Subhasnagar, Agartala; 5.2.83; A.K. Sanyal & party coll.

15. *Gastrimargus africanus africanus* (Saussure, 1884)

Material : 1 ♂; Solari, W Kameng; 26.9.84; R.N. Bhargava coll. 1 ♀; Motinagar, Silchar, Assam; 6.11.83; B.C. Saha coll.

Remarks : A very common sub-species.

16. *Trilophidia annulata* (Thunberg, 1815)

Material : 2 ♀♀; Kalak tang. W. Kameng; 27.12.85 and (2 nymphs); foothills, W. Kameng; 4.1.86; R.N. Bhargava coll. 1 ♀; Sepahi jala, Agartala; 6.2.83. 3 ♂♂; 1 ♀; Subhas Nagar, Agartala; 5.2.83; A.K. Sanyal & party coll.

IV Sub-family HEMIACRIDINAE

17. *Spathosternum prasiniferum prasiniferum* (Walker, 1871)

Material : 4 ♀♀, (and 1 nymph); Foothills, W. Kameng; 4.1.86. 2 ♂♂, 4 ♀♀; Kellong, W. Kameng; 7.1.86. 3 ♂♂, 4 ♀♀; Tipi, W. Kameng; 15.12.85. All by R.N. Bhargava coll. 3 ♂♂, 5 ♀♀; and numerous nymphs. Noadihing river, Namsai, Lohit district; 10.9.86; R.N. Bhargava coll. 1 ♂; Lembuchera, Agartala; 7.2.83; A.K. Sanyal & party coll.

18. *Hieroglyphus banian* (Fabricius, 1798)

Material : 1 ♂; Medo, Lohit district, Arunachal Pradesh; 26.9.86; R.N. Bhargava coll.

Remarks : A widespread species of India and a rice-pest.

V Sub-family OXYINAE

19. *Oxya velox* (Fabricius, 1787)

Material : 1 ♂, 1 ♀; Sunpura, Paya, Lohit district, Arunachal Pradesh; 17.9.86; R.N. Bhargava coll. 1 ♂, 3 ♀♀; Kheram, Lohit district; 25.9.86; R.N. Bhargava coll.

Remarks A common species.

20. *Oxya paravicina* Willemse, 1925

Material : 1 ♂, 1 ♀; Paya, Lohit district, Arunachal Pradesh; 14.9.86; R.N. Bhargava coll.

Remarks : The species was described in 1925 from India and it was revised by Hollis (1971) from 10 specimens of North-east India. The present *material* agrees to known account, and is a topotype (plate 1, figs. 1-2).

21. *Oxya hyla hyla* (Serville, 1831)

Material : 8 ♂♂, 9 ♀♀; E. Kameng; 13.12.85; R.N. Bhargava coll. 2 ♂♂; Subhasnagar, Agartala; 8.2.83. 2 ♂♂; Lembacherra, Agartala; 7.2.83. 2 ♂♂; Raipasa, Ambasa, Tripura; 20.2.83.

Remarks : A common subspecies, but recorded from Arunachal Pradesh for the first time.

VI. Sub-family COPTACRIDINAE

22. *Eucoptacra praemorsa* (Stal, 1860)

Material : 2 nymphs; Sutanlu, Namsai, Lohit district; 9.9.86. 2 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀; Kellong, W Kameng; 7-8.1.86 and 1 ♂; Forest Rest House, Tipi; W Kameng; 8.9.84; R.N. Bhargava coll. 3 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀; Moreh, Manipur; 24.11.83; B.C. Saha coll. 1 ♂, 1 ♀; Fatikchera, Agartala; 26.2.83. 2 ♂♂, 1 ♀; Khemsia Mangal, Teliamura, Tripura; 18.2.83. 1 ♂, 1 ♀; Raipasa, Ambasa, Tripura; 20.2.83.

Remarks : The species is common in Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura.

23. *Apalacris varicornis* Walker, 1870

Material : 1 ♂; Boisa, Nagaland; 20.11.83; S.K. Gupta coll.

Remarks : Previously known from "North India", Kurseong and Lebong, West Bengal, it is a new record for Nagaland.

24. *Circocephalus indica* Bhowmik & Halidar, 1982

Material : 1 ♂; Khellon, W Kameng; 7.1.86. 1 ♀; Pakni Ssanctuary, E. Kameng; 14.12.85. All R.N. Bhargava coll. 1 ♀; Cachar district, Assam; B.C. Saha coll. 1 ♂, 2 ♀♀; Ukhrul, Manipur; 16-17.11.83; S.K. Gupta coll. 1 ♀; Bhutanghat, Jalpaiguri, West Bengal.

Remarks : The species was described from Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri districts of West Bengal. It is newly recorded here from Arunachal and Assam.

VII. Sub-family EYPREPOCNEMIDINAE

25. *Choroedocus robustus* (Serville, 1839)

Material : 1 ♀; Forest Rest House, Tipi, W. Kameng; 8.9.84; R.N. Bhargava coll.

Remarks : First described from Sylhet, the species is now known from Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri districts as well as from Calcutta (old collection) (Bhowmik and Halder, 1984). It is an endemic species of eastern India including Bangladesh.

26. *Eyprepocnemis alacris alacris* (Serville, 1839)

Material : 1 ♂, Kheram, Lohit district; 25.9.86; R.N. Bhargava coll. 1 ♂, (and 50 nymphs); Fatichara, Agartala; A.K. Sanyal & party coll. 26.2.83.

Remarks : This variable subspecies seems to be widespread throughout India. It is a new record from Arunachal Pradesh. The occurrence of 3-staged instars in February indicated postwinter breeding.

VIII. Sub-family CYRTACANTHACRIDINAE

27. *Chondracris rosea* (de Deer, 1773)

Material : 2 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀; Salari, W. Kameng; 26.9.84; R.N. Bhargava coll. 1 ♂; Churachandpur, Manipur; 20.11.83; S.K. Gupta coll.

Remarks : This species is common throughout India.

28. *Patanga (Patanga) succincta* (Fisher de Waldheim, 1870)

Material : 1 ♂; Churachandpur, Manipur; 20.11.83; B.C. Saha coll.

Remarks : The species, popularly known as the 'Bombay Locust', is rare in eastern India regions. Jago (1981) has proposed a new subgeneric status for it. This is a new record for Manipur.

29. *Pachyacris vinosa* (Walker, 1870)

Material : 3 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀; Moreh, Manipur; 25.11.83. 1 ♀; Tamu, Burma; 24.11.83. All B.C. Saha coll.

Remarks : Distributed fairly widely in the woods of India, Burma and China. It is, however, a new record for Manipur.

IX. Sub-family CATANTOPINAE

30. *Stenocatantops splendens* (Thunberg, 1815)

Material : 1 ♀; Medo, Lohit district, Arunachal Pradesh; 26.9.86; R.N. Bhargava coll. 1 ♀; Forest Rest House, Tipi, W. Kameng; 8.9.84; R.N. Bhargava coll. 3 ♂♂;

Churachandpur, Manipur; 20.11.83; B.C. Saha coll. 2 ♂♂, 1 ♀; Sepahi Jala, Agartala; 6.2.83; A.K. Sanyal & party coll.

Remarks : Rather commonly distributed in India; this is a new record for Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur.

31. *Xenocatantops humilis* (Serville, 1839)

Material : 1 ♂, 3 ♀♀; Khellong, W. Kameng; 8.1.86. 1 ♂; Kalaktang; 27.12.85. 1 ♀; Kamlang, Lohit district, 23.9.86. All R.N. Bhargava coll. 1 ♂, 1 ♀; Harinchara, Ambasa, Tripura; 21.2.83; A.K. Sanyal & party coll.

Remarks : This is a very common species.

32. *Catantops innotabilis* (Walker, 1870)

Material : 2 ♂♂; Noa Dhihing river, Namsai, Lohit district, Arunachal Pradesh; 18.9.86; R.N. Bhargava coll. 2 ♂♂; Fatikchara, Agartala; 26.3.83; A.K. Sanyal & party coll.

Remarks : A very common species.

33. *Cingalia dubia* (Walker, 1870)

1941 (1940). *Cingalia (Mesambria) dubia* : Ramme, *Mitt.zool.Mus.Berlin*, 25(1) : 147

Material : 1 ♂, 4 ♀♀; Ukhrul, Manipur; 17.11.83; S.K. Gupta coll. 1 ♂, 1 ♀; Boisa, Nagaland; 30.11.83. S.K. Gupta coll.

Remarks : Previously known from Sri Lanka and Darjeeling (Bhowmik, 1986). Recorded here for the first time from the north-eastern Himalayas.

SUMMARY

33 species or subspecies of grasshoppers (Order Orthoptera : Family acrididae) belonging to 27 genera are recorded here from the north-eastern states of India. This including the discovery of 17 new records, has increased the no. of species to 57 under 42 genera from the region. A complete list of species from the areas is provided in the appendix.

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APPENDIX

List of species of grasshoppers so far known from north - eastern states of India
(with inter - states distributions)

<i>Name of species</i>	<i>Distribution</i>
Sub family ACRIDINAE	
<i>Acrida exaltata</i> (Walk. 1859)	(Common)
<i>Phlaeoba antennata</i> Brunner, 1893	(Assam; Arunachal P; Tripura)
<i>P. infumata</i> Brunner 1983	(Arunachal Pradesh; West Bengal)
<i>P. panteli</i> Bolivar, 1902	(A.P. Tripura; West Bengal)
* <i>P. assama</i> Ramme, 1941	(Assam; Arunachal Pradesh)
<i>Ceracris nigricornis nigricornis</i> (Walk. 1870)	(Arunachal Pradesh; Manipur)
<i>C. n. laeta</i> (Bolivar, 1914)	(Arunachal Pradesh)
<i>C. deflorata</i> (Brunner, 1893)	(Manipur)
<i>Holopercna darjeelingensis</i> (Bolivar, 1914)	(Assam; Arunachal Pradesh)
<i>H. sukhadae</i> Bhowmik, 1965	(Assam)
Sub family GOMPHOCERINAE	
<i>Aulacobothrus luteipes</i> (W. 1871)	(Assam)
<i>A. decius</i> Walk. 1871	(Manipur)
<i>Aiolopus thal. tamulus</i> (Fabr. 1793)	(Arunachal Pradesh)
Sub family OEDIPODINAE	
<i>Trilophidia annulata</i> (Th. 1815)	(Arunachal Pradesh)
<i>Gastrimargus af. africanus</i> (Sauss. 1884)	(Common)
<i>Pternocirta cinctifemur</i> (W. 1859)	(Meghalaya)
<i>Acrotylus humbertianus</i> (Sauss. 1884)	(Tripura)
<i>Oedaleus abruptus</i> (Th. 1815)	(Tripura)
<i>Heteropternis respondens</i> (W. 1859)	(Tripura)
<i>Sphingonotus longipennis</i> Saussure, 1888	(Assam; Arunachal Pradesh)
Sub family HEMIACRIDINAE	
<i>Apalacris varicornis</i> Walk., 1870	(Arunachal Pradesh; Nagaland)
<i>Gesonula punctifrons</i> (Stal, 1861)	(Arunachal Pradesh)
<i>Spathosternum pr. prasiniferum</i> (W. 1871)	(Common)
* <i>Hieroglyphodes assamacris</i> Uvarov 1922	(Assam)
<i>Hieroglyphus banian</i> (Fabr. 1798)	(Arunachal Pradesh)
<i>H. concolor</i> (Walk 1870)	(Assam)
Sub family OXYINAE	
* <i>Oxya grandis</i> Willamse, 1925	(Assam)
* <i>Oxya paravicina</i> Willamse, 1925	(Assam; Arunachal Pradesh)

Name of species	Distribution
<i>O. diminuta</i> Walk. 1871	(Assam)
<i>O. fuscovittata</i> Marschall, 1836	(Assam)
<i>O. velox</i> (Fab. 1787)	(Common)
<i>Oxya japonica japonica</i> (Thunberg, 1824)	(Assam)
<i>O. hyla</i> (Serville, 1839)	(Arunachal Pradesh; Tripura)
<i>Hygracris palustris</i> Uvarov, 1921	(Assam)
Sub - family COPTACRIDINAE	
<i>Circocephalus indica</i> Bhowmik & Halder 1982	(Assam; Arunachal Pradesh)
<i>Eucoptacra praemorsa</i> (Stal, 1860)	(Arunachal Pradesh; Tripura)
<i>E. saturata</i> (W. 1870)	(Assam)
* <i>Traulia cachara</i> Kirby, 1914	(Assam)
<i>Oxyrrhepes obtusa</i> (de Haan, 1842)	(Arunachal Pradesh)
<i>Pseudocarsula tarsalis</i> (Walker, 1870)	(Assam)
<i>Tristria pulvinata</i> (Uvarov, 1921)	(Assam)
Sub - family CALLIPTAMINAE	
* <i>Peripolus pedarius</i> (Stal, 1878)	(Assam)
Sub - family EYPREPOCNEMIDINAE	
* <i>Eyprepocnemis rosea</i> Uv. 1942	(Meghalaya)
<i>E. al. alacris</i> (Serville 1839)	(Arunachal Pradesh; Tripura)
* <i>Choroedocus robustus</i> (Serville, 1839)	(Assam; Arunachal Pradesh)
* <i>Shirakiacris shirakii</i> (Bolivar, 1902)	(Assam)
Sub - family CATANTOPINAE	
<i>Cingala dubia</i> (Walk. 1870)	(Manipur; Nagaland)
* <i>Assamacris striata</i> Uv. 1942	(Meghalaya)
* <i>Indopodisma kingdoni</i> (Uvarov, 1930)	(Assam)
* <i>Rhinopodisma assam</i> (Uvarov, 1930)	(Assam)
<i>Catantops innotabilis</i> (W. 1870)	(Arunachal Pradesh; Tripura)
<i>Xenocatantops humilis</i> (Serville, 1839)	(Assam; Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh)
<i>Stenocatanops splendens</i> (Th. 1815)	(Arunachal Pradesh; Manipur and Tripura)
Sub - family CRYTACANTHACRIDINAE	
<i>Chondracris rosea</i> (de Geer, 1773)	(Assam; Arunachal Pradesh)
<i>Patanga (Patanga) succincta</i> (Fisher de Waldheim 1870)	(Manipur)
<i>Pachyacris vinosa</i> (W. 1870)	(Mizoram; Manipur)
<i>Cyrtacanthacris tatarica</i> (Linn. 1758)	(Assam)

* Indicates type locality