

INOPEPLIDAE (COLEOPTERA) FROM ANDAMAN ISLANDS,  
INDIA

*By*

T. K. PAL AND A. K. DATTA

*Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta*

(With 2 Text-figures)

INTRODUCTION

The Inopeplidae is a sharply defined small family of the section Heteromera under the superfamily Cucujoidea. Hetschko (1930) listed 3 of 52 species under the genus *Inopeplus* Smith from India, thence treated under the family Cucujidae (Cucujinae : Inopeplini). Crowson (1955) erected the family Inopeplidae to include the genera *Inopeplus* Smith, *Diagrypnodes* Waterhouse and *Aciphus* Oliff. Sengupta, Pal and Mukhopadhyay (1977) discussed its systematic position and described three more species from India. All these species were recorded from the Indian main land. The family is represented for the first time from the Andaman islands with the description of a new species and record of *Inopeplus albonotatus* (Motschulsky). The type specimen is deposited in the National Zoological collection of the Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta.

***Inopeplus andamanicus* sp. n.**

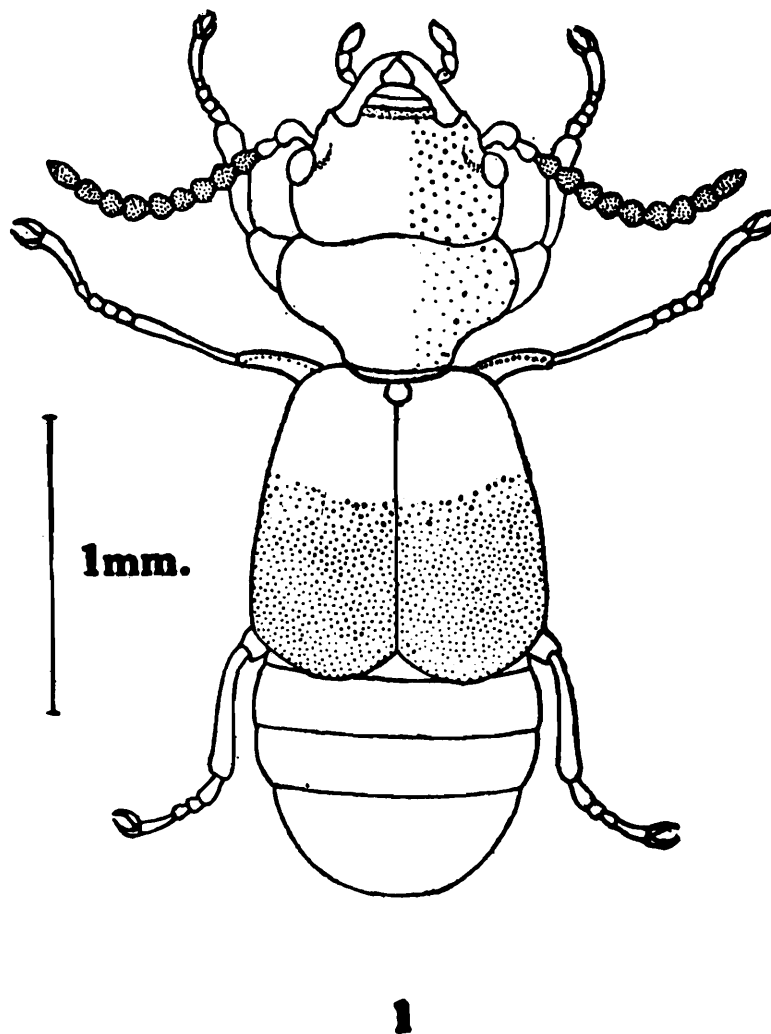
(Text-fig. 1)

General appearance (Text-fig. 1) elongated, flattened, shiny, head and prothorax reddish brown and elytra partially blackish, last three segments of abdomen exposed.

*Head*.—Broader than long, apical margin of head truncate, fronto-clypeal suture distinct and nearly straight, apical margin of frons with a transverse depression ; puncturation on vertex fine and sparse ; eyes moderately large and finely faceted, a semicircular depression surrounding inner margin of eye less distinct, a short transverse depression arise from semicircular depression. Antenna moderately long and slender, scape moderately large and curved, pedicel shorter and narrower than scape, joint 3 slightly wider and longer than pedicel, joints 4-10 subequal and about as broad as long, joint 11 elongated

and acuminate at apex, scape and pedicel reddish brown and joints 3-11 blackish.

*Prothorax*.—Transverse, flattened, widest beyond middle and markedly narrowed towards base; lateral margin curved, smooth and without any denticles, indistinctly bordered; puncturation on pronotum slightly more finer than on vertex and sparsely arranged.



Text-fig. 1. *Inopeplus andamanicus* n. sp., dorsal view.

*Scutellum*.—Transverse, rounded at apex and impunctate.

*Elytra*.—Broader than long, widest near apex, puncturation fine and almost similar as on pronotum, anterior half pale brown and posterior half blackish, three segments of abdomen completely exposed.

*Remarks.*—This species is closely related to *Inopeplus nigricorpus* Sengupta, Pal and Mukhopadhyay but can be differentiated by its pale brown anterior half of elytra, distinctly finer and sparser puncturation on head and prothorax, and exposed last abdominal segments. This species also shows some resemblances with another Indian species, *Inopeplus nitidus* Sengupta, Pal and Mukhopadhyay but can be readily distinguished by the entirely blackish elytra, four distinct denticles on lateral side of prothorax and distinctly bordered pronotum in *nitidus*.

*Measurements.*—Total length 2.91 mm., width of head across eyes 0.73 mm., length of antenna 0.86 mm., length and width of prothorax 0.44 mm. and 0.76 mm., length and width of elytra 1.02 mm. and 1.05 mm.

*Holotype.*—INDIA : ANDAMAN Is., Quari, Hut bay, 22. xi. 1978, B. N. Nandi and party, under bark of Tomping log. (ZSI Reg. No. 9187/H4A)

### ***Inopeplus albonotatus* (Motschulsky)**

(Text-fig. 2)

1859. *Euryplatus albonotatus* Motschulsky, *Etud. Ent.*, 8 : 98 (Indian subcontinent).

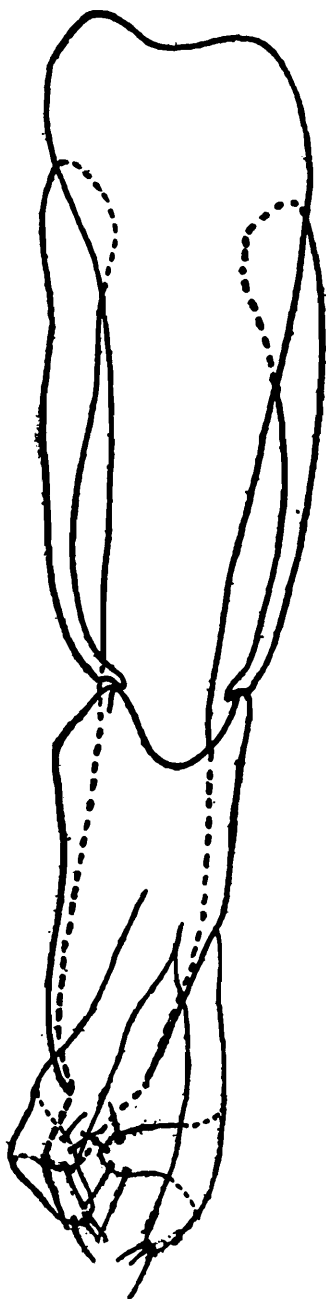
1908. *Inopeplus albonotatus* (Motschulsky); Grouvelle, *Annls Soc. ent. Fr.*, 77 : 462 ; Sengupta, Pal & Mukhopadhyay, 1977. *Oriental Ins.*, 11 (3) : 403.

This species can easily be recognised by its two posterior denticles on lateral margin of prothorax, a whitish spot near apex of each elytron, exposed last three abdominal segments and colour dark brown. Aedeagus (Text-fig. 2) with abruptly narrowed and broadly pointed apex of median lobe ; broad, bilobed and with a few setae at apex of each paramere.

Length—3.08-3.17 mm.

*Material.*—INDIA : ANDAMAN Is., S. Andaman, Kamorta, 11 ex., 11-13. xi. 1978, B. Nandi & party ; under bark of pipal log ; Campbell bay, Premarine area, 2 ex., 3 xii. 1978, B. Nandi & party, under bark of white Dhup log.

*Distribution.*—INDIA : WEST BENGAL, ANDAMAN IS.



2

Text-fig. 2. Aedeagus of *Inopeplus albonotatus* (Motschulsky)

Key to the Indian Species of *Inopeplus*

- |   |     |                           |   |
|---|-----|---------------------------|---|
| 1. Head and prothorax reddish.                      | ... | ...                       | 2 |
| Head and prothorax dark brown to deep black.        | ... | ...                       | 4 |
| 2. Lateral margin of prothorax smooth.              | ... | <i>andamanicus</i> sp. n. |   |
| Lateral margin of prothorax distinctly denticulate. | ... | ...                       | 3 |

8. Elytra blackish with a whitish rounded spot on each elytron, abdominal segments 4 and 5 exposed. ... *biocellatus* (Motschulsky)
- Elytra entirely black and without any spot, abdominal segment 2 partly and segments 3 to 5 completely exposed. ... *nitidus* Sengupta, Pal and Mukhopadhyay
4. Lateral margin of prothorax smooth. ... 5
- Lateral margin of prothorax with two or three denticles. ... 6
5. Head across eyes distinctly wider than prothorax, pedicel and joint 3 of antenna distinctly shorter and narrower than other joints, lateral margin of prothorax distinctly bordered, last four abdominal segments exposed. ... *distinctus* Sengupta, Pal and Mukhopadhyay
- Head across eyes slightly narrower than prothorax, pedicel and joint 3 of antenna together about as long as joints 4-10 together but slightly narrower, lateral margin of prothorax finely bordered, last two abdominal segments exposed. ... *nigricorpus* Sengupta, Pal and Mukhopadhyay
6. Lateral margin of prothorax with two posterior denticles, a whitish testaceous spot near apex of each elytron. ... *albonotalus* (Motschulsky)
- Lateral margin of prothorax with one anterior and two posterior denticles, a whitish longitudinal spot near middle to apex of each elytron. ... *decisus* (Walker)

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors are thankful to the Director, Zoological Survey of India for providing laboratory facilities, to C. S. I. R., New Delhi for providing a Sr. Research Fellowship to one of them (Pal). They are also thankful to Dr. T. Sengupta for reading the manuscript.

## REFERENCES

- CROWSON, R. A. 1955. *The natural classification of the families of Coleoptera*. Nathaniel Lloyd, London.
- HETSCHKO, A. 1930. Cucujidae. *in*, Junk and Schenkling eds., *Coleopterorum Catalogus*, 15 (109) : 1-122.
- SENGUPTA, T. PAL, T. K. AND MUKHOPADHYAY, P. 1977. On the family Inoepilidae (Coleoptera) from India. *Oriental Ins.*, 11 (3) : 395-407.