Uttar Pradesh J. Zool. 8(1) : 100-102, 1988

A NEW SPECIES OF *TRIBELOCEPHALA* (HETEROPTERA : REDUVIIDAE) FROM WESTERN GHATS

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A new species of the genus *Tribelocephala* Stal namely *Tribelocephala uppasii* from Western Ghats has been described and illustrated.

The subfamily *Tribelocephalinae* is perhaps one of the least known subfamilies of Reduviidae. This subfamily is characterised by the absence of ocelli, acutely pointed anteocular area and well developed antenniferous tubercles and by the elbowing of the rostrum at the junction of first and second segments in order to remain closely opposed to the ventral surface of the head. Under natural condition, the first antennal segment is porrectly held in front of the head while the rest of the antennal segments are kept folded back. Distant (1904 & 1910) described only two species, namely, *T indica* and *T. orientalis*, from the Oriental region and the delineating features between the two species are not convincingly recorded. The present species is distinctly different from these two already described species and therefore considered a new addition to the Oriental species of Tribelocephalinae.

Tribelocephala uppasii, Sp. nov. (Fig. 1)

Female length 14.5 mm; width across the abdomen 5.5 mm; macropterous;

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elongately ovate, posteriorly broad; concolorous, piceous; pedicel, flagellar segments, second and third rostral segments and tarsomeres stramineous; head elongate, dorsally rugulose throughout, even upto the tip of the clypeal process; anteocular area acutely pointed, porrect, a little longer than the postocular area; collar short, smooth, light brown; head laterally pilose eyes wide apart, black; interocular fissure and area occluded by the rugulose condition of the frons and the

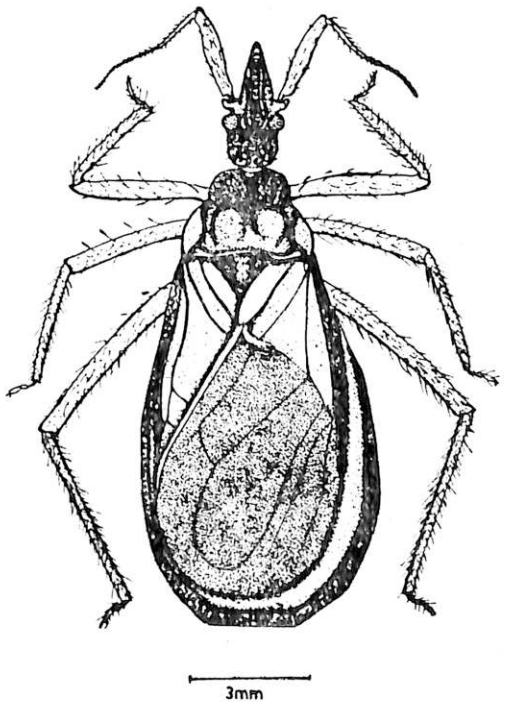

Fig 1. *Tribelocephala uppasii* Sp nov.

occiput; ocelli absent; scape slightly shorter than head, highly incrassated, rugulose, deeply constricted at base, contrastingly piceous from the rest of the segments; filaments five segmented, more transparently stramineous, highly pilose; first rostral segment almost as long as the second and reaching the posterior margin of the eyes; pronotal anterior lobe highly globose, much smaller than posterior lobe, almost completely partitioned into two halves by a deep longitudinal fissure; each lobe rugulose and pilose; anterolateral angles nontuberculate; ventrolateral angles of the pronotum obscurely tuberculate; epimeron globose

almost as large as the anterior lobe of pronotum on each side; posterior lobe transverse, coarsely granulate with obscure, smooth areas on either half; lateral angles rounded; a median longitudinal furrow extending from the anterior lobe and terminating at the middle of the posterior lobe; posterior margin sinuous; scutellum obscure, triangular, rugulose, unarmed; corium passing the middle of the hemelytra, coarsely granular basally and marginally; its smooth submarginal area terminating subapically; membrane not covering the abdomen entirely basally with a white spot near the apex of clavus; legs sparingly tomentose; tibiae as long as femora; fore coxae closely approximate; sternites coarsely granulate; abdominal sternites finely granulate; connexivum narrow and slightly deflected upward.

This species resembles *Tribelocephala orientalis* in its general texture of the head, pronotum and legs and in the colouration of the antennae, but differs from it by its highly rugulose nature of the head, bilobate condition of the anterior lobe of the pronotum and in being sparingly tomentose and not pilose, by the warty nature of the scape, and by the presence of a white spot at the apex of clavus.

Holotype : Female, Serial No. 127, monotypic. Pinned specimen deposited for the present in the reduviid collection of the Division of Entomology, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, South India

Collection information : Specimen collected from the Nirar Dam, Valparai Tamil Nadu, on 22-XII-1985 at elevation 900 MSL, temperature 27°C and humidity 64%.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors are grateful to the authorities of Bharathiar University, Coimbatore for p oviding facilities and to Department of Science and Technology, New Dilhi, for financial support and encouragement. Thanks are due to Dr. S. K. Tandon, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta, for his assistance in comparing the specimen with the National Collection of Reduviidae.

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