

DIVERSITY OF PYRRHOCOROIDEA (HEMIPTERA: HETEROPTERA) OF MADHYA PRADESH, INDIA

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ABSTRACT: The present paper deals with the study of 11 species pertaining to two families Largidae and Pyrrhocoridae of the superfamily Pyrrhocoroidea from Madhya Pradesh. Of these, two species of the family Largidae and three species of the family Pyrrhocoridae are new addition to the fauna of the state.

KEY WORDS: Pyrrhocoroidea, Largidae, Pyrrhocoridae, Madhya Pradesh, New records.

Pyrrhocoridae is one of the smaller families of the order Hemiptera having around 446 species under 46 genera throughout the world (Henry, 2009) and nearly 45 species under 15 genera from India (Saha and Bal, 2010). They are red coloured and are known as red bugs and some species of the genus *Dysdercus* are also called as cotton strainers. The family is characterized by the large robust body with brighter in colour, corium broader without appendix, membrane generally with minimum four and maximum five veins. Most of the members of this family are phytophagous.

Southwood (1956) studied the eggs of the Heteroptera and suggested that the families Largidae and Pyrrhocoridae together formed a separate superfamily Pyrrhocoroidea with two families i.e. Largidae and Pyrrhocoridae. Largidae can be distinguished from Pyrrhocoridae by the pronotum laterally reflexed and the abdominal sternum seven of female split medially, whereas pronotum is laterally reflexed and the abdominal sternum seven entire in female in case of Pyrrhocoridae. Previously Chandra (2008, 2009), Chandra & Kushwaha (2013) and Chandra et al. (2010, 2012) reported 6 species from Madhya Pradesh.

Altogether 11 species of the superfamily Pyrrhocoroidea belonging to two families viz. Largidae (5 species) and Pyrrhocoridae (6 species) are reported from Madhya Pradesh. Of these, two species of the family Largidae and three species of the family Pyrrhocoridae are new record to the fauna of the state.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The specimens of the superfamily Pyrrhocoroidea are collected either by sweeping or light trap methods from various districts and protected areas of Madhya Pradesh. Collected specimens are killed by using of benzene in killing jars and after that those insects are set and pinned and preserved in the laboratory. The pinned and labelled specimens are identified with the help of various literatures as well as Distant (1902). Photography and morphology of bug was studied by Leica microscope M 205-A (Plate 1).

Table.1 List of superfamily Pyrrhocoroidea studied from Madhya Pradesh.

S. N.	Suborder / Superfamily / Family / Species	No. of exs.	Collection localities (Area / WLS / National Park / Biosphere Reserve)	Districts	Date of Collection
Order : HEMIPTERA Suborder: HETEROPTERA Superfamily: PYRRHOCOROIDEA Family: LARGIDAE					
1	<i>Physopelta quadrigutta</i> (Bergr.,1894)	1	PBR	Hoshangabad	07.vi.2099
		2	PBR	Hoshangabad	06.iv.2001
		5	ZSI Quarters Colony	Jabalpur	12.iv.2012
2	<i>Physopelta schlanbuschi</i> (Fabr.,1787)*	10	SWLS	Raisen	14.iv.2011
3	<i>Physopelta trimaculata</i> Stehlik, 2008	1	SWLS	Raisen	10.iv.2011
4	<i>Physopelta gutta</i> (Burmeister,1834)	1	VDWLS	Damoh	13.iii.2011
		2	SWLS	Raisen	10.iv.2011
		1	PBR	Hoshangabad	06.iv.2001
5	<i>Antilochus coqueberti</i> Fabr.,1803	8	SWLS	Raisen	01.iv.2011
		2	VDWLS	Damoh	23.vi.2009
		8	ZSI office	Jabalpur	14.ii.2010
		3	PBR	Hoshangabad	10.iv.2001
		10	RH Sarsala	Narsinghpur	08.iii.2014
Family: PYRRHOCORIDAE					
6	<i>Euscopus albatus</i> Distant, 1909*	1	VDWLS Vijay Nagar	Damoh Jabalpur	11.iii.2011 11.iv.2010
7	<i>Deltocephalus infirmus</i> Melichar, 1903	1	Chandia Village	Shahdol	03.xi.2007
8	<i>Dysdercus koenigii</i> (Fabr.,1775)	5	SWLS	Raisen	11.ii.2010
		2	VDWLS	Damoh	18.xi.2009
		1	PBR	Hoshangabad	25.x.2002
		3	Vijay Nagar	Jabalpur	15.ii.2012
		2	RH Sarsala	Narsinghpur	12.iii.2014
9	<i>Scantius pallens</i> (Distant, 1903)	1	Barha	Katni	08.vi.2009
10	<i>Scantius volucris</i> Gerstaecker, 1873*	1	Karmajhiri, PTR	Seoni	23.vi.2001
11	<i>Dermatinus lugubris</i> Distant, * 1903	1	SWLS	Raisen	21.ix.2011

Abbreviations used: PBR- Pachmarhi Biosphere Reserve; SWLS- Singhori Wildlife Sanctuary; VDWLS- Veerangana Durgavati Wildlife Sanctuary; PTR- Pench Tiger Reserve; RH- Rest House; ZSI-Zoological Survey of India; * -New record to state.

RESULTS

Altogether 11 species were identified belonging to two families of superfamily Pyrrhocoroidea from Madhya Pradesh are reported from Madhya Pradesh. Of these, 2 species of family Largidae and 3 species of family Pyrrhocoridae are new addition to state fauna.

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Plate 1



Physopelta trimaculata Stehlik



Physopelta gutta (Burmeister)



Physopelta schlanbuschi (Fabr.)



Euscopus albus Distant



Antilochus coqueberti Fabricius



Dysdercus koenigii (Fabricius)