

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 & 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 and 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).

Abbreviations used: PBR- Pachmarhi Biosphere Reserve; SWLS- Singhori Wildlife Sanctuary; VDWS- 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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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 2 5	PBR PBR ZSI Quarters Colony	Hoshangabad Hoshangabad Jabalpur	07.vi.2099 06.iv.2001 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 2	VDWLS SWLS	Damoh Raisen	13.iii.2011 10.iv.2011
5	<i>Antilochus coqueberti</i> Fabr.,1803	1 8 2 8 3 10	PBR SWLS VDWLS ZSI office PBR RH Sarsala	Hoshangabad Raisen Damoh Jabalpur Hoshangabad Narsinghpur	06.iv.2001 01.iv.2011 23.vi.2009 14.ii.2010 10.iv.2001 08.iii.2014
Family: PYRRHOCORIDAE					
6	<i>Euscopus albatius</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 2 1 3 2	SWLS VDWLS PBR Vijay Nagar RH Sarsala	Raisen Damoh Hoshangabad Jabalpur Narsinghpur	11.ii.2010 18.xi.2009 25.x.2002 15.ii.2012 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

Plate 1



Physopelta trimaculata Stehlik



Physopelta gutta (Burmeister)



Physopelta schlanbuschi (Fabr.)



Euscopus albus Distant



Antilochus coqueberti Fabricius



Dysdercus koenigii (Fabricius)