

FIRST RECORD OF *ACANTHASPIS PORRECTA* DISTANT (HETEROPTERA: REDUVIIDAE: REDUVIINAE) FROM INDIA

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ABSTRACT: *Acanthaspis porrecta* Distant, 1904, belonging to subfamily Reduviinae of family Reduviidae recorded for the first time from West Bengal (Bankura dist.), India and redescribed along with additional diagnostic characters and measurements of different body parts.

KEY WORDS: Reduviidae, Reduviinae, *Acanthaspis porrecta*, new record, India

The genus *Acanthaspis* was established by Amyot & Serville (1843) for the type species *Acanthaspis sexguttata* Fabricius under the subfamily *Acanthaspidinae* and well represented in Oriental and Ethiopian region. Distant (1904) in "*The Fauna of British India including Ceylon and Burma*" has placed this genus under the division *Acanthaspidaria* of the subfamily *Acanthaspidinae* including 40 species. A perusal of literature reveals that altogether 90 species under 46 genera belonging to 9 Subfamilies of the family Reduviidae are so far known from West Bengal (Distant, 1904, 1910; Cook, 1977). Biswas et al. (1994) while dealing with the fauna of West Bengal has included 73 species under 43 genera belonging to 8 subfamilies of the family Reduviidae from West Bengal, with a note that further 17 species under 12 genera were not available for their study. However, they (1994) have included other 4 species viz. *fulvipes* (Dallas), *lineatipes* Reuter, *maculata* (Distant) and *sexguttata* (Fabr.) in the same work recorded from West Bengal. After reviewing the checklist of Indian Assassin bugs (Insecta: Hemiptera: Reduviidae) published by Ambrose (2006) it is found that till to date seven species viz. *fulvipes* (Dallas), *lineatipes* Reuter, *maculata* (Distant), *luteipes* Walker, *quinquespinosa* (Fabr.), *rugulosa* Stal and *sexguttata* (Fabr.) are recorded under genus *Acanthaspis* Amyot and Serville from West Bengal. Present study recorded *Acanthaspis porrecta* Distant for the first time from India (West Bengal: Bakura dist.: Belbani) which was earlier recorded from Sri Lanka.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study is based on the materials collected from a field survey from Belbani, Bakura district of West Bengal. The specimen is deposited in the National Zoological Collection of Zoological Survey of India, Hemiptera Section, Kolkata. Different body parts were measured and their ratios were calculated for the establishment of additional diagnostic characters. Measurement and photographs of the species were taken with the aid of Leica M 205A microscope. All measurements are in millimetres.

OBSERVATION AND RESULTS

***Acanthaspis* Amyot & Serville, 1843**

1843. *Acanthaspis* Amyot & Serville, Histoire Naturelle des Insectes Hemipteres Libraire Encyclopedique de Roret, Paris: Fain et Thunot., 336 pp.

Type species : *Acanthaspis sexguttata* Fabricius

Distribution : Ethiopian and Oriental regions.

***Acanthaspis porrecta* Distant, 1904** (Plate 1, Figs. 1-7)

1904. *Acanthaspis porrecta* Distant, Fauna Brit. India, Rhynchota, 2: 261.

1990. *Acanthaspis porrecta*, Maldonado, Carribbean J. Sci. (special ed.), 387 pp.

Material examined: 1ex., INDIA: West Bengal: Bankura District: Belbani, 3.IX.1986, Coll. P. Mukhopadhyay and party.

Description: Head, anterior lobe of pronotum, base of scutellum and hemelytra excluding spots, mesonotum, metanotum, abdomen, black; antennae, rostrum, base of posterior lobe of pronotum, a spot at apex of corium and a large transverse spot almost crossing corium at inner angle, spots to connexivum above and beneath, coxae, trochanters and legs pale yellowish brown; head longer (HL=2.32 mm) than wide (HW=2.11 mm) (1.00:0.54), anteocular area (AO=1.35 mm) longer than postocular area (PO=0.97 mm) (1.00: 0.71) (Fig. 4); first segment of antennae (A1=1.86 mm) passing apex of head and distinctly shorter than second segment (A2=3.76 mm), ratio of antennal segments: I:II:III:IV = 0.49:1.00:0.71:0.44; first segment of rostrum (1.23 mm) slightly longer than second segment (1.11 mm), ratio of rostral segments: I:II:III = 1.00:0.90:0.48 (Fig. 3); anterior lobe of pronotum (AP=1.64 mm) shorter than posterior lobe (PP=2.29 mm) (0.71:1.00) (Fig. 5), which is with two short but prominent tubercles; scutellum longer (SL=2.33 mm) than wide (SW=1.77 mm) (1.00: 0.75) and with very long, robust, laterally porrect spine at apex; hemelytra not exceeding the length of abdomen; hind femora (HF=6.22 mm) shorter than hind tibiae (HT=8.07 mm); abdomen longer (AL= 9.96 mm) than wide (AW= 4.68 mm) (1.00: 0.46).

This species is closely related to *Acanthaspis luteipes* Walker, but can be easily separated by its very long, robust laterally porrect apical spine of scutellum and piceous hemelytra excluding spots.

Measurements: (1 female in mm). Body length 17.97; head length 2.32, width across eye 2.11; length of anteocular region 1.35, postocular region 0.97; length of antennae 9.96, lengths of antennal segments I : 1.86, II : 3.76, III : 2.67, and IV : 1.66; rostral length 2.94, length of rostral segments I : 1.23, II : 1.11 and III : 0.60; length of pronotum 3.94; length of anterior pronotal lobe 1.64, posterior pronotal lobe 2.29, width of anterior pronotal lobe 2.92, posterior pronotal lobe 4.91; length of fore coxa: 2.19, trochanter: 1.23, femur: 3.86, tibia: 4.74, tarsus: 1.73, claws: 0.57; mid coxa: 1.33, trochanter: 0.89, femur: 3.24, tibia: 3.98, tarsus: 1.44, claw: 0.43; hind coxa: 1.35, trochanter: 0.90, femur: 6.22, tibia: 8.07, tarsus: 2.31, claw: 0.57.

Distribution: INDIA: West Bengal. Elsewhere: Sri Lanka.

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PLATE : 1



Fig. 1

Fig. 2

Fig. 3



Fig. 4

Fig. 5



Fig. 6

Fig. 7

Plate 1: Figures 1-7. *Acanthaspis porrecta* Distant. 1. Dorsal view of female; 2. ventral view of female; 3. head with rostrum, lateral view; 4. head, dorsal view; 5. pronotum, dorsal view; 6. foreleg, ventral view; 7. abdominal tip of female, ventral view.