

New Reports

REPORT OF *USILANUSBURMANICUS* DISTANT (HEMIPTERA: LYGAEIDAE) FROM ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS, A NEW RECORD TO INDIA

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INTRODUCTION

Andaman and Nicobar Islands are a group of more than 500 islands and islets are located in Bay of Bengal. The tropical rain forests of these islands house a very rich and unique diversity of animal life. Lygaeidae is one of the large and diverse families of order Hemiptera, representatives often referred as seed bugs. The family is characterized by the presence of Ocelli, except in brachypterous form, bucculae well developed, antennae located through middle of eye. There are about 500 genera and 4000 species known worldwide of this family. Four species of Genus *Usilanus* namely, *U. burmanicus*, *U. denotatus*, *U. maculipennis*, *U. pictus* are known globally (Slater, 1964). Of these, *U. burmanicus* was earlier reported from Myanmar and China (Distant, 1910) has been presently reported from Andaman and Nicobar Islands, is new record to India. *Usilanus burmanicus* belong to subfamily Rhyparochrominae is characterized by the brown or black and white color form, cephalic trichobothria usually present, fore femora incrassate, strongly armed, usually curving forward antero-laterally from midline of sternum.

METHODOLOGY

While undertaking the surveys of various parts of Andaman and Nicobar islands, for the inventorisation of insect fauna, an interesting specimen of Lygaeidae was also collected by the first author, which was later identified as *Usilanus burmanicus* Distant, a new record to the family Lygaeidae fauna from these islands. Identified specimen was pinned and added to the National Zoological Collection of Hemiptera section in Zoological survey of India, Kolkata. Analysis and photography was done by a Leica Stereozoom Microscope (Leica M205A) (Plate 1).

RESULTS

Systematic account

Order: Hemiptera

Suborder: Heteropteroidea

Infraorder: Pentatomorpha

Superfamily: Lygaeoidea

Family: Lygaeidae

Subfamily: Rhyparochrominae

Usilanus burmanicus Distant 1909

1909. *Usilanus burmanicus* Distant *A.M.N.H.* (8) III: 341.

1910. *Usilanus burmanicus* Distant *Fauna Brit. India, Heteroptera*, V: 82-84.

Material examined: Andaman and Nicobar Island, South Andaman, Rangat, 19.VIII.1991 (1 ex.), Coll. K. Chandra.

Diagnostic character: Body above black, lateral margin of corium ochraceous, antennae piceous, 2nd and 3rd joint almost equal in length, Head and sternum black, abdomen black, rostrum ochraceous, legs pale ochraceous, anterior femora, apices of intermediate and posterior femora tibiae and joints of tarsal black, anterior femora thick, head coarsely punctate, pronotum finely punctate with black, posterior lobe coarsely punctate, scutellum finely punctate, apical area of scutellum have a carinate line; three abdominal segments tuberculate.

Distribution: India (Andaman and Nicobar Islands), Myanmar and China.

DISCUSSION

This study about the *Usilanusburmanicus*Distant will add a new record to the lygaeidae fauna of India and will also enrich the information on fauna of Andaman and Nicobar Island. The finding of such rare bug species from these Islands show that this area is very rich and many more such species are expected, if further extensive and intensive surveys are undertaken.

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- Slater, J.A. (1964): A catalogue of the Lygaeidae of the world. University of Connecticut, Storrs.Vol. 2.



Usilanus burmanicus Distant Dosal view



Usilanus burmanicus Distant ventral view

Plate 1: *UsilanusBurmanicus*Distant

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