

NEUROCTENUS PAR BERGROT (HEMIPTERA: ARADIDAE), A NEW RECORD FROM INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Present study deals with the report of the species *Neuroctenus par* Bergroth, belonging to family Aradidae and order Hemiptera from Andaman and Nicobar Islands, a new addition to the fauna of India.

Keywords: *Neuroctenus par*, Aradidae, Hemiptera, Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

INTRODUCTION

Aradidae are commonly known as flat bug due to their extremely flattened body. Insects of this family are cryptic and their economic importance not much known. Some of them are mycophagous and some are attracted by bark beetle pheromones.

Genus *Neuroctenus* Fieber, belongs to subfamily Mezirinae, characterized by granular body, labium arises from apex of clypeus from atrium, mostly apterous but some macrophages forms are also known. It is the largest subfamily of Aradidae and has 119 genera and 308 species distributed globally. *Neuroctenus par* is previously reported from Myanmar, Java and Malaysia (Distant, 1902). Fourteen species of this genus were known throughout the world (Blote, 1965) and Kormilev (1973) added 2 new

species from Indonesia. From India, only one species *Neuroctenus affinis* Distant, 1902 was previously known and the present one is the second record.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

While undertaking the surveys of various parts of Andaman and Nicobar islands, for the inventorisation of insect fauna, an interesting specimen of Aradidae was also collected by the first author, which was later identified as *Neuroctenus par* Bergroth, a new record to the family Aradidae 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 (Plate 1) was done by a Leica Stereo zoom Microscope (Leica M205A).



Fig 1 *Neuroctenus par* Bergroth Dorsal side



Fig 2 *Neuroctenus par* Bergroth Ventral side

Plate 1: *Neuroctenus par* Bergroth, a new record to the family Aradidae fauna from A & N Islands

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Systematic account

Order: Hemiptera
 Infraorder: Pentatomorpha
 Superfamily: Aradoidea
 Family: Aradidae
 Subfamily: Mezirinae

Neuroctenus par Bergroth, 1887 (Figs. 1 & 2) 1887.
Neuroctenus par Bergroth, *Of v. Finska Vet.-Soc. Forh.* XXIX:180.

1902. *Neuroctenus par* Distant *Fauna Brit. India, Heteroptera*, II: 156-166.

Material examined: Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Nicobar Group, Pulo-Milow, 30.III.1992, (1ex.), Coll. K. Chandra.

Diagnostic character: Body above piceous, body granulate, abdomen brown and piceous, antenna 1st and 2nd joint subequal in length and piceous; pronotum impressed; anterior lateral angle rounded, apical margin of corium bisinuate, apical angle luteous, membrane metallic lustre, legs dentate, a series of tuberculation on abdomen.

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

This study about the *Neuroctenus par* Bergroth will add a new record to the Aradidae 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 in biodiversity and many more species are expected, if further extensive and intensive surveys are undertaken.

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