

Fauna of Assassin Bugs (Hemiptera: Reduviidae) from Tilari Forest, Kolhapur, Maharashtra

S.V. More¹, M.S. Prashant^{2*} and A. Singh³

¹*Department of Zoology, R. B. Madkholkar Mahavidyalaya, Chandgad-416509
Maharashtra, India.*

²*Department of Zoology, Sagar Gangotri College of Education, Ullur-577412, Sagar
(Tq), Shimoga (Dt) Karnataka, India.*

³*Department of Zoology, Ch. Shiv Kumar Singh Smarak Mahavidyalaya, Dhata,
Fatehpur, U. P. India.*

Abstract

The vegetation in the Tilari forest of Chandgad Tahsil is very rich and related to the Dajipur reserved forest of Radhanagari. However, a little information is available about biodiversity from study region, especially on the entomofauna. The assassin bugs are voracious feeders and predatory insects belonging to family Reduviidae. A total of 19 Indian species of assassin bugs under 13 genera and 7 subfamilies were recorded. The present study contains all the species of Reduviidae which were reported first time from Tilari forest Chandgad.

Keywords: Vegetation, Tilari forest, Assassin bugs, Reduviidae, Chandgad

INTRODUCTION:

The assassin bugs are the members of the suborder Heteroptera of the order Hemiptera. It is one of the largest families in the order Hemiptera and they are mostly found in tropical rain forest, but generally they occur in semiarid zone and scrub

* Corresponding author

jungle. The members of this group are voracious feeders and predatory in nature. Naturally, all the species of this family are predators, but they are not useful for the particular insect pests and nonpredatory Reduviidae bugs are blood sucking ectoparasites, for example subfamily of Triatominae. Some species of this family are pathogenic and transmit various diseases to man and animals and they are known as kissing bugs, which feed on vertebrate blood and mostly found in Neotropical region. Members of this group are mostly found in association with the bark of trees, shrubs, herbs and trees (Readio, 1927; Miller, 1935; Louis, 1974). Reduviidae bugs are mostly predatory insects and are widely diverse in their morphology, diet specialization and microhabitat preference (Froeschner and Kormilev, 1989; Maldonado- Capriles' 1990; Schuh and Salter, 1995; Weirauch and Schuh, 2011). The family of Reduviidae consists of more subfamilies than any other hemipteran family and their composition and relationship remain unsettled (Ambrose, 1999; 2000; 2004b). This is the largest family of predaceous terrestrial Hemiptera, globally represented by more than 6878 species and subspecies under 981 genera belonging to 25 subfamilies (Henry, 2009). Of these 465 species under 144 genera belong to 14 subfamilies (Ambrose, 2006). But, most of the information on Reduviidae family is available in Fauna of British India (Distant, 1902; 1910) and he described 342 species of Reduviids belonging to 106 genera, including allied families. At the present 33 species of Reduviidae belonging to 21 genera under 7 subfamilies were reported from Maharashtra State (Sharma and Bano, 2012). The present study indicates that most of Reduviidae bugs were collected from mercury light, for example subfamily Harpactorinae. *Cydnocoris sp* is very interesting Reduviidae bugs belonging to subfamily Harpactorinae and during the study period, this species was collected from the light source. It is a new citation from the Kolhapur District.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

During the present surveys of the Tilari forest Chandgad, a total number of 19 Reduviidae bugs were collected from different localities. Most of the specimens were collected by the hand picking method and some were by insect net. The majority of the species of bugs was collected from different light sources and collected specimens were set and pinned and then all the species of bugs were deposited in the laboratory of Zoology R. B. M. Mahavidyalya, Chandgad. The identification of bugs was confirmed by available literature (Distant, 1902; 1910).

RESULTS:

ORDER: HEMIPTERA

SUBORDER: HETEROPTERA

FAMILY: REDUVIIDAE

1. Subfamily: Harpactorinae Reuter, 1887

Genus *Cydnocoris* Stal, 1866

Cydnocoris sp

Genus *Endochus* Stal, 1859

Endochus sp

Genus *Nagusta* Stal, 1859

Nagusta sp

Genus *Polididus* Stal, 1858

Polididus armatissimus Stal, 1859

Genus *Sycanus* Amyot & Serville, 1843

Sycanus sp

Genus *Isyndus* Stal, 1858

Isyndus sp

2. Subfamily Peiratinae Stal, 1859

Genus *Ectomocoris* Mayr, 1865

Ectomocoris sp

Ectomocoris sp

Ectomocoris cordiger Stal, 1866

Genus *Sirthenea* Spinola, 1840

Sirthenea flavipes (Stal, 1855)

3. Subfamily Reduviinae (Acanthaspidinae Distant, 1902)

Genus *Acanthaspis* Amyot & Serville, 1843

Acanthaspis sp

Acanthaspis sp

Acanthaspis sp

4. Subfamily Ectrichodiinae Amyot & Serville, 1843**Genus *Scadra*** Stal, 1859*Scadra* sp*Scadra* sp**5. Subfamily Stenopodainae Amoyt & Serville, 1843****Genus *Oncocephalus*** Klug, 1830*Oncocephalus* sp*Oncocephalus* sp**6. Subfamily Tribelocephalinae Stal, 1866****Genus *Tribelocephala*** Stal, 1853*Tribelocephala* sp**7. Subfamily Triatominae Jeannet, 1919****Genus *Triatoma*** Laporte, 1833*Triatoma rubrofasciatus* (de Geer, 1773)**ACKNOWLEDGMENT:**

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PHOTO PLATE OF BUGS



Cydnocoris sp



Endochus sp



Nagusta sp



Polididus armatissimus



Sycanus sp



Isyndus sp



Ectomocoris sp



Ectomocoris sp



Ectomocoris cordiger



Sirthenea flavipes



Acanthaspis sp



Acanthaspis sp



Acanthaspis sp



Scadra sp



Scadra sp



Oncocephalus sp



Oncocephalus sp



Tribelocephala sp



Triatoma rubrofasciatus

