



New Records of Darkling Beetles (Tenebrionidae: Coleoptera) from India

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ABSTRACT: The identification of Darkling beetles of Himachal Pradesh revealed that the new records of 02 species under 02 genera and 02 tribes of 02 sub families not only to Himachal Pradesh, but also to India.

Key Words: New records, Darkling Beetles.

INTRODUCTION

The family Tenebrionidae is the fifth largest family under the order Coleoptera containing more than 18,000 species in the world which exhibits an extraordinary wide range of superficial dissimilarity: the larvae on the other hand are strikingly uniform in character and representatives of the family are found in almost all the habitats viz; in rotten wood, under bark, stones and logs, feeding on decaying vegetation, in dung, seeds, cereals, fungi, roots and dead animal matter etc. These are usually black or brown, though some are grey and a few are marked with different bright colors have bead-like antennae, each with 11 segments; the eyes are notched; the mandibles are short, stout, each usually with a basal tooth; the coxae of the front legs are spherical, those of the hind legs are transverse; the tarsi of the front and middle legs each have 5 segments, while those of the hind legs have 4; and the 1st segment of each of the tarsi of the hind legs is always longer than the 2nd. The trochanter is of heteronomous type. Although there are some scattered reports on the Tenebrionidae (Coleoptera) fauna of the northern states (Masumoto and Schawaller, 2010, Schawaller, 1996, 2002, 2006, 2007a, 2007b and Schawaller and Ando 2006 and 2009) while studying the darkling beetles, occurrence of *Uloma spinipes* Kaszab, 1975 and *Promethis granulata* Kaszab, 1988 from different parts of Himachal Pradesh state constitutes the new records of those species not only from Himachal Pradesh but also from India.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present paper is based on the identification of the material present in the National Zoological Collection and recent collections by different survey parties of Zoological survey of India. The material was sorted out, set pinned, identified and classified as per Bouchard *et al* (2005). The identification is mainly based on the differences in the morphological characters and the structure of the genitalia.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The paper contains the new records of 02 species under 02 genera and 02 tribes of 02 sub families not only to Himachal Pradesh, but also to India. Although there are some scattered reports on the Tenebrionidae (Coleoptera) fauna of the northern states (Masumoto and Schawaller, 2010, Schawaller, 1996, 2002, 2006, 2007a, 2007b and Schawaller and Ando 2006 and 2009) there is no report by Indian workers. Even though there are reports on the several species of *Uloma* and the genus *Promethis*, while studying the darkling beetles, occurrence of *Uloma spinipes* Kaszab, 1975 and *Promethis granulata* Kaszab, 1988 from different parts of Himachal Pradesh state constitutes the new records of those species not only from Himachal Pradesh but also from India. Further study may also reveal the occurrence of new species also.

SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNT

Subfamily: Tenebrioninae Latreille, 1802

Tribe : Ulomini Blanchard, 1845

Genus : *Uloma* Dejean, 1821

Species : *spinipes* Kaszab, 1975

Material examined: 1 Ex. Himachal Pradesh, Chamba district, Dugli, 10.vii. 2014. V.D. Hegde and party coll.Reg. No. 20452/H4A; 1 Ex. Himachal Pradesh, Una district, Baduhi, 22.vii. 2014. K.K. Mahajan coll. Reg. No. 20453/H4A.

Diagnostic characters: Body slightly brown, mentum with basolateral impressions, slightly excavated, dense setation on the lateral sides. Ligula is with or without sparse setae. Pronotum with distinct impression, punctuation laterally somewhat coarser, surface without micropunctuation. Punctures of elytral rows somewhat broader than stripes, elytral interval slightly convex. Last visible sterniteum bordered, protibia with a longitudinal row of granules. Body length - 6.0mm.

*Uloma spinipes**Promethis granulata*

Distribution : INDIA: Himachal Pradesh (Chamba and Una districts).

Elsewhere: Bhutan.

Subfamily: Stenochiinae Kirby, 1837

Tribe: Cnodalonini Oken, 1843

Genus : *Promethis* Pascoe, 1869

Species : *granulata* Kaszab, 1988

Material examined: 1 Ex. Himachal Pradesh, Kinnaur district, Pooh, 20.ix. 1969, K.K. Mahajan coll. Reg. No. 20206/H4A.

Diagnostic characters: Pronotum quadrangular, thickly punctate, lateral margins slightly bent, almost straight lined, antero-posterior margin slightly sinuous. Elytra with fine punctuation up to apex. The interspaces granulation fine and dense. Head finely punctate than the pronotum. Eye folding downwards. The frontal sutures transeverse, slightly bent. The basal segment of antenna thick, the antennal segments from 6th onwards broader than the preceding one. Body length -20 mm.

Distribution : INDIA: Himachal Pradesh (Kinnaur district).

Elsewhere: Myanmar.

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