



Short Communication

OCCURRENCE OF *AMOLOPS ASSAMENSIS* SENGUPTA ET. AL., 2008 (AMPHIBIA:ANURA:RANIDAE) AND *POLYPEDATES ASSAMENSIS* MATHEW AND SEN, 2009 (AMPHIBIA:ANURA:RHACOPHORIDAE) IN MEGHALAYA

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Amolops* is represented by six species (*A. assamensis*, *A. formosus*, *A. gerbillus*, *A. marmoratus*, *A. monticola* & *A. viridimaculatus*) in North East India (Mathew & Sen, 2010). Sengupta et al. (2008) described *Amolops assamensis* from Assam. The author came across a total of three specimens of *Amolops assamensis* from the unidentified holding of NERC/ZSI, Shillong. Two specimens (V/A/ERS/ZSI/911) were collected from Mawshamok village, near the living root bridge in August, 2009 and one specimen (V/A/ERS/ZSI/901) was collected from Lawbah forest area, 13 kms ahead of Mawsynram, in March, 2010 from East Khasi Hills district of Meghalaya. (Plate-I & II)

These specimens were compared with two examples of *Amolops assamensis* available at the holdings of NERC/ZSI, Shillong, donated by S. Sengupta, for identification.

The genus *Polypedates* has six species (*P. assamensis*, *P. leucomystax*, *P. maculatus*, *P. megacephalus*, *P. subansiriensis* and *P. taeniatus*) in North East India. Mathew & Sen (2009) described *Polypedates assamensis* from a single specimen collected from Gerukamukh, near NHPC main gate, in Dhemaji district of Assam.

From the unidentified holdings of NERC/ZSI, Shillong, the author came across a male specimen (V/A/ERS/ZSI/914) of *Polypedates assamensis* which was collected from Mawsynram, near PWD IB, in March 2012 from East Khasi Hills district, Meghalaya. (Plate-III)

The holotype of *Polypedates assamensis* (V/A/ERSZSI/803) available at the holding of NERC/ZSI, Shillong was examined for identification. However, the specimen identified differs from the holotype in having 4 rows of light longitudinal bands along with spots (versus without longitudinal bands with prominent blotches) on the dorsum and creamy white color without any black blotches on the ventral side. Further collection of specimens will throw more light for these variations.

Occurrence of the above species in Meghalaya extends their range of distribution.

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PLATE - I



A. *Amolops assamensis* Sengupta et al.
Dorsal View



B. *Amolops assamensis* Sengupta et al.
Ventral View

PLATE - II



C. *Amolops assamensis* View of foot showing inner and outer metatarsals

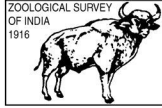
PLATE - III



D. *Polypedates assamensis* Mathew & Sen
Dorsal View



E. *Polypedates assamensis* Mathew & Sen
Ventral View

**Short Communication****FIRST REPORT OF *THELYPHONUS SEPIARIS* (BUTLER, 1873)
(ARACHNIDA: UROPYGI: THELYPHONIDAE) FROM CHHATTISGARH,
CENTRAL INDIA**

The Uropygids, commonly referred as “Whip-scorpions” are moderately sized, tough and striking predators. They are easily separated from scorpions by the presence of a deep constriction between the cephalothorax and abdomen, by the absence of pectines and presence of a long thin multi-segmented whip-like tail instead of a broadly segmented metasoma bearing a poison gland at the tip. These creatures are uncommon and inhabitants of damp places in forests and found under stone, bark, decomposing wood, leaf litter or debris. A few of them excavate burrows for protection of their young (Pocock, 1900). They possess anal glands that they use to spray a chemical to dissuade their predators (Eisner *et al.* 1961). This neglected group has been studied in the past by Rowland and Cooke (1973). The Uropygids are known by 19 species of 6 genera from Indian subcontinent while globally this group contains 103 species under 16 genera (Harvey 2002, 2003).

In India, the Uropygids are so far reported from Assam, Karnataka, Meghalaya, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal (Pocock, 1900); Maharashtra (Bastawade, 1988); Andhra Pradesh (Javed *et al.*, 2009) and Madhya Pradesh (Talmale *et al.*, 2012).

During the course of faunistic survey in Amarkantak Biosphere Reserve (22° 15' to 22° 58' N Latitude and 81° 25' to 82° 5' E Longitude), dist Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh state in Central India, one example (male) of whip-scorpion was collected by Dr. Y.N.Gupta on 10th June from Jalda village near Chaprwa. The locality harbours southern tropical dry deciduous forest mixed with scrub.

On closer examination the specimen was diagnosed as *Thelyphonus sepiaris* (Butler, 1873). (Plate-I). (Registration No. ZSI/CZRC/A/13893).

This species is endemic to the Oriental region and has been reported earlier from Chennai (formerly Madras) Tamil Nadu and Jaffna and Trincomalee in Sri Lanka (Pocock, 1900). Recently Javed *et al* (2009) have recorded it from different localities in Andhra Pradesh showing its extended distribution to the Eastern Ghats and Godavari river basin. The present record of this species from Central India indicates its wide range of distribution. The description of the specimen on hand perfectly matches with description provided for male by Javed *et al.* (2009) barring the number of segments of caudal flagellum (24 versus 33) and some other minor differences in measurements of body parts.



Fig.1 *Thelyphonus sepiaris* (Butler, 1873) (Arachnida: Uropygi: Thelyphonidae)

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