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### **Short Communication**

## **NEW RECORD OF *COPRIS SIGNATUS* WALKER (SCARABAEIDAE : COLEOPTERA) FROM HARYANA, INDIA**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The majority of dung beetles belong to subfamily Scarabaeinae (Coprinae). These beetles are nature's scavengers, they clean up the earth surface by burying the dung into the soil. Thus they reduce the pollution from the earth surface and improve the soil fertility and water holding capacity of the soil. Their efficiency in locating and removing debris (Janzen 1983) makes them important components in the functioning of terrestrial ecosystem. They have also been used as indicators for measuring biodiversity (Halffter et al 1992). Mittal (2005) reported 136 species of dung beetles from North India (Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan) while working on dung beetles of Haryana. An interesting species was collected from cattle dung and monkey faecal matter in pitfall bait traps as well as during manual collections. The species is identified as *Copris signatus* Walker, which is a new addition to the fauna of Haryana and so far never reported from north India. Identification was made with the help of identification keys by Arrow (1931).

Subfamily SCARABAEINAE

*Copris signatus* Walker

*Material examined* : Total 8 specimens (3 females and 5 males); 1 individual on 17<sup>th</sup> September 07 in pitfall bait trap (Cow dung), 5 individuals on 13<sup>th</sup> November

07 in manual collection (Cow dung), 1-1 specimen in pitfall trap on 8<sup>th</sup> April 08 (Cow dung and Monkey faecal matter) were collected by Nidhi Kakkar, Kurukshetra, Haryana.

*Diagnosis* : Length: 10-16 mm; breadth: 6-8.5mm; dry weight: 110- 130 mg; Male with a pair of narrow erect processes in the front margin of clypeus, they are nearly parallel or slightly approaching one another at the tips. Just before the eyes the head bears a median, transverse, erect T-shaped process, its shaft short and broad, arms long and pointed. Female with the bilobed clypeal margin in the middle and head bears a slight conical projection in front of the eyes.

*Remark* : This species is reported for the first time in Northern India.

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