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**HAEMADIPSA ANAIGUNDIENSIS SP. NOV. (HIRUDINEA :
HAEMADIPSIDAE) A NEW SPECIES OF LEECH FROM
TAMIL NADU, INDIA**

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INTRODUCTION

There are more than 448 species of leeches in the world. In India only 63 leech species of leeches are recorded so far (Bandyopadhyay & Mandal, 2006). This new species has been collected from Nilgiri hills of Tamil Nadu during recent faunistic survey carried out by Zoological survey of India. In addition to this many new records have also recorded along with this. Harding and Moore (1924, 1927), Sanjeeva Raj and Gladstone (1981) have described number of new species from India. Mandal (2004) has described two new species from West Bengal. Soos (1965) is the pioneer in Taxonomy of leeches. Bandyopadhyay (2005), Mandal (1966, 2002, 2004 and 2005), Raut and Nandi (1980) have done some work on taxonomy and ecological work of leeches in West Bengal. Soota (1977), Chandra (1983), Blanchard (1917), Julka (1980) and Ghosh (1998) contributed a lot on the taxonomy of leeches.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

After making the collection, leeches were sorted out. Then the cleaned leeches were placed in a tray with a small quantity of water and were slowly killed by anaesthetizing with alcohol. Leeches usually die in an extended condition by the process. Just after death, the leeches were kept in 70% alcohol for permanent preservation. As fixing fluid 4% formalin may be used.

***Haemadipsa anaigundiensis* sp. nov.**

Holotype : Z.S.I. Reg. No. An 3259/1, 1 ex. Coll. A. Misra and party. 22.11.2004, Anaigundishola, District Poolachi, Tamil Nadu, India.

Paratype : Z.S.I. Reg. No. an 3260/1, 1 ex. Coll. A. Misra and party. 22.11.2004, Anaigundishola, District Poolachi, Tamil Nadu, India.

Diagnosis : *Colour* : Yellowish brown in living condition, fade up at preserved state.

Body : Small but robust, distinct head region, middle part of the body is more in breadth than the two ends. Posterior part is broader than the anterior part. It looks like the glossiphonid leech *Placobdella emydae*. Black patches on dorsal and ventral region.

Length : The total length of the body of *Haemadipsa anaigundiensis* is 7 mm-14 mm at rest.

Breadth : 4 mm.

Colour : Ash green in living, ash or brownish black in preservative.

Sucker : Anterior sucker .5 mm in diameter, posterior sucker 1 mm in diameter. Posterior sucker is almost round, anterior sucker looks like an earthen lamp. Jaws may be seen after preservation.

Eyes : Five pairs of eyes, fourth and fifth pair separated by two annuli.

Host and habitat : It is found in moist forest, sucks the blood of different animals and also human beings.

Distribution : India : Tamil Nadu (Anaigundishola forest, District Poolachi).

Remarks : The specific name is proposed according to the name of the place where from the first example was collected.

Table showing comparison of *Haemadipsa anaigundiensis* sp. nov. with the other five species of the genus *Haemadipsa* in India.

	<i>Haemadipsa anaigundiensis</i> sp. nov.	<i>H. dussumier</i>	<i>H. moorei</i>	<i>H. montana</i>	<i>H. ornata</i>	<i>H. sylvestris</i>
Stripe	Complete, from first pair of eyes to the base of posterior sucker	No stripe	Complete, black, chain strip, from the bottom of first pair of eyes to the base of posterior sucker	Complete, black, number of stripe three	Complete, black, creamed coloured, number of stripe three	Complete, black, number of stripe three
Marginal stripe	creamed coloured	Absent	Complete yellow coloured	Complete pale yellow coloured	Complete creamed coloured	Complete bright orange
Colour	Ash green (in living)	Yellowish mottled black	Dark	Dark	Velvately black	Blakish brown
Body length	7 mm	—	—	—	—	—
Breadth	4 mm	—	—	—	—	—
Breadth of anterior sucker	.5 mm	—	—	—	—	—
Breadth of posterior sucker	1 mm	—	—	—	—	—

Table (Cont'd.).

	<i>Haemadipsa anaigundiensis</i> sp. nov.	<i>H. dussumier</i>	<i>H. moorei</i>	<i>H. montana</i>	<i>H. ornata</i>	<i>H. sylvestris</i>
Clitellum	Not prominent	prominent	prominent	prominent	prominent	prominent
Breeding season	–	–	–	June-July	June-July	May-July
Eggs	–	–	–	5-7	3-7	13-15
Stomach	More than seven chambered	One chambered	–	–	–	–
Caeca	Short, more than three pairs	three pairs, short	–	–	–	–
Crop	Not branched	Almost branched	–	–	–	–
Vaginal stalk	Short	Long	–	–	–	–
Caecum	Present	Present	–	–	–	–
Altitude	3000 mts.	1200 mts.	1500-1800 mts.	3000 mts.	3000 mts.	1500-2000 mts.
Reference	Blanchard, 1894	Blanchard, 1917	Moore, 1927	Moore, 1927	Sanjeva Raj and Gladstone, 1981	Present author

SUMMARY

A new species of leech *Haemadipsa anaigundiensis* is described from Tamil Nadu. It is distinguished in possessing the following characters. One black stripe is on the median dorsal region, from the base of the posterior sucker to the first pair of eyes. Eyes five pairs. Six pairs of white papillae are on the dorsum. Lateral side bear one pair of cream coloured line. The leech is as green in living and ash or brownish black in preserved condition. Both the dorsal and ventral regions bear black spots. Length of a full-grown preserved specimen is 7 mm and width is 4 mm. Posterior sucker is 1 mm in diameter; anterior sucker measures 5 mm diameter. A living specimen becomes double in length in full extension.

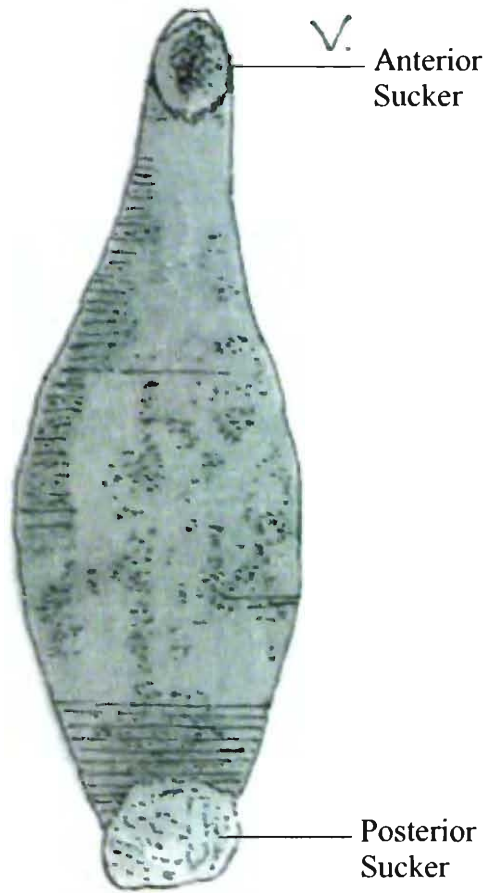
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Haemadipsa aneigundiensis



(After preservation)
Haemadipsa aneigundiensis



(In living)
Haemadipsa aneigundiensis