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ON A NEW SPECIES OF APOVOSTOX HEBARD (DERMAPTERA : SPONGIPHORIDAE) FROM INDIA

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INTRODUCTION

The genus *Apovostox* Hebard, 1927 was redefined and resurrected by Srivastava (1985). According to him it is now clear that *Labia pygidiata* Dubrony, 1879 and *Irdex nitidipennis* Bormans, 1894, type species of the genera *Apovostox* and *Irdex* Burr, 1911, respectively, are not congeneric. Most of the reference, besides Bormans (1894), pertaining to *Spongiphora nitidipennis* are perhaps referrable to *Chaetospania jupiter* Burr, 1900.

At present three species and one subspecies (Srivastava, 1975) are recorded from India and a new species is described here which can be separated by the following key.

KEY TO THE SPECIES (Based on males only)

1 (6). Parameres broad in most part, only gently narrowed near apex with tip obtuse or acute (figs. 7, 9 & 11).

2 (5). Pygidium laterally at middle with a single tooth; parameres with tip obtuse

3 (4). Pronotum slightly longer than broad, not widened posteriorly with hind margin broadly rounded, forming a sort of semicircle alongwith hind angles; pygidium at base declivitous, afterwards forming a rectilinial plate, widened posteriorly with hind margin truncate, laterally with a posteriorly directed small tooth at middle (fig. 5) ; forceps internally differentiated into dorsal and ventral borders but latter only with several teeth (fig. 6). ..... ***A. agrawali*** sp. n.

4 (3). Pronotum about as long as broad, gently widened posteriorly with hind margin convex; pygidium strongly declivitous at base, ventrally deplanate, laterally diverging from base to a little before middle where a sharp posteriorly directed point present, afterwards converging, hind margin emarginate with angle sharply pointed; forceps internally armed ventrally and dorsally with serrations or teeth (fig. 8) .... ***A. stella samingensis*** (Srivastava, 1975)

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5 (2). Pygidium laterally with a pair of teeth at about middle (fig. 10); parameres with tip acute (fig. 11) ..... ***A. chauhani*** (Srivastava, 1975)

6 (1). Parameres narrow, comparatively broader at base, sharply narrowed apically with tip acuminate (figs. 13 & 15)

7 (8). Forceps with a basal lamellation above; pygidium declivitous and narrowed at base, afterwards broad and flat with hind margin faintly emarginate and dentate and angles produced into a sharp point (fig. 12) ..... ***A. serrata*** (Kapoor, 1967)

8 (7). Forceps without a basal lamellation above; pygidium distinctly prolonged, flat, gently dilated a little before middle, lateral margin irregular, narrowed apically with tip deeply incised (fig. 14) ..... ***A. burri*** (Srivastava,, 1975)

Apovostox agrawali sp. n.

(figs. 1-7)

Male : General colour blackish brown; head slightly darker; mouth parts and legs yellowish brown and forceps reddish brown. Pubescent.

Head smooth, slightly longer than broad, frons and occiput weakly depressed, epicranial sutures obsolete, median suture distinct, hind margin emarginate in middle. Eyes prominent, black, distinctly longer than post-ocular area. Antennae partly damaged (on the right basal two segments and on the left 13 segments remaining) with segments long and slender; 1st comparatively stouter but narrowed at base, about as long as the distance between antennal bases; 2nd short, about as long as broad; 3rd long and cylindrical; 4th about as long as preceding but stouter; 5th onwards gradually increasing in length distally and each narrowed basally, a few apical ones thinner. Pronotum slightly longer than broad, lateral margin parallel, hind margin broadly rounded, somewhat semicircular alongwith hind angles, median sulcus distinct; prozona convex and well differentiated from flat metazona. Elytra and wings well developed, strongly pubescent. Legs typical of the genus; hind tarsi with 1st segment over six times longer than broad; 2nd short, about as long as broad; 3rd only slightly shorter than 1st. Abdomen gently dilated in middle, tergites weakly convex, impunctate. Penultimate sternite transverse, smooth, hind margin rounded, scarcely emarginate in middle. Ultimate tergite transverse, smooth, disc weakly depressed with longitudinal rows of pubescent and smooth areas alternating, sides parallel, posteriorly in middle with a feeble depression, above the base of forceps weakly tumid; hind margin incrassate, trisinuate, oblique laterally. Pygidium at base declivitous, afterwards forming a rectilinial plate, widened posteriorly with margin sub-truncate, sides with a posteriorly directed small tooth at about middle. Genitalia with parameres three times longer than broad, almost of uniform width except near apices gently narrowed, tip obtuse; virga distinct.

Female : Unknown.

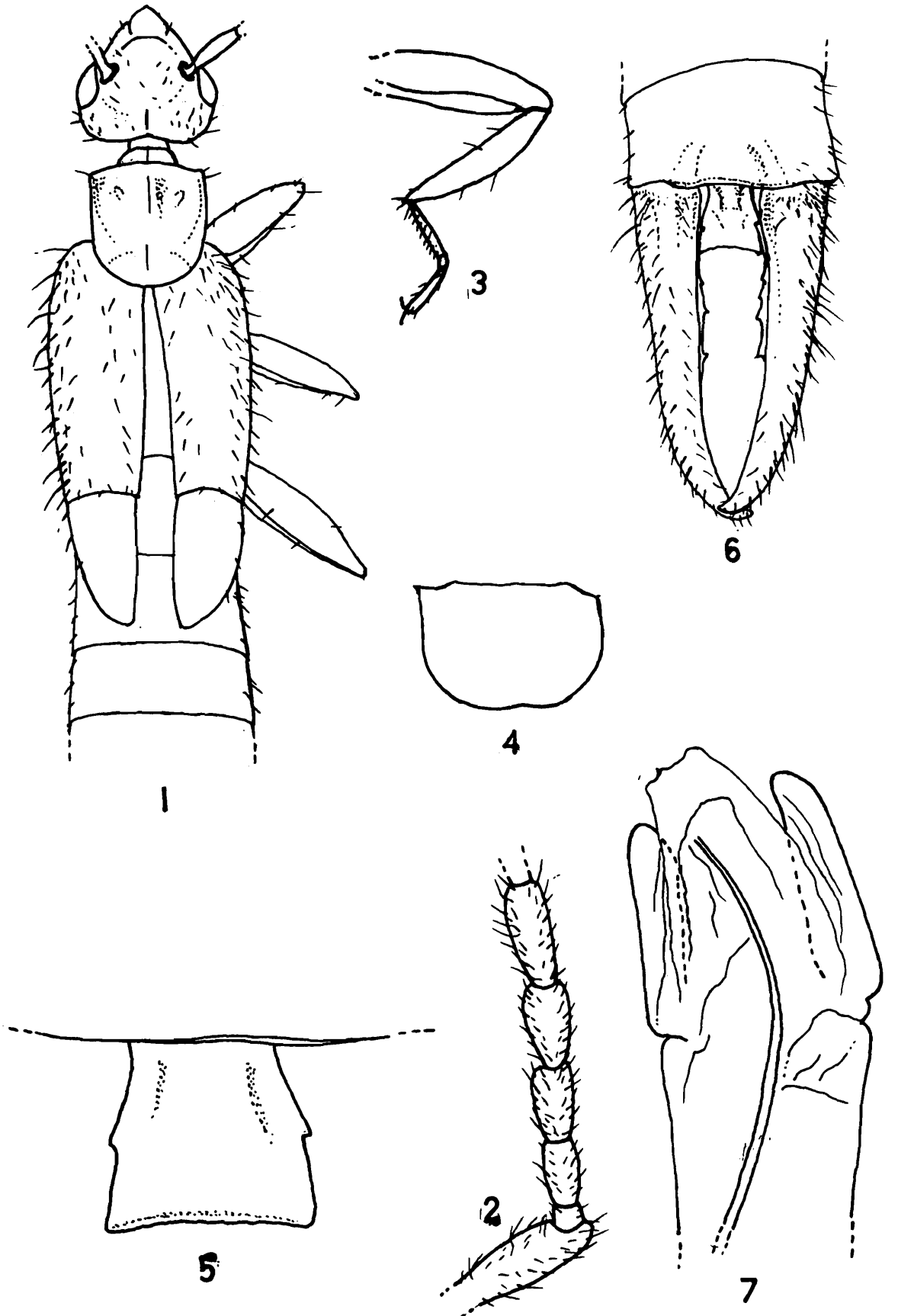

Fig. 1-7. *Apovostox agrawali* sp. n., Holotype Male, 1. Anterior portion of body; 2. A few left basal antennal segments; 3. Hind leg; 4. Penultimate sternite; 5. Pygidium enlarged; 6. Ultimate tergite and forceps; 7. Genitalia.

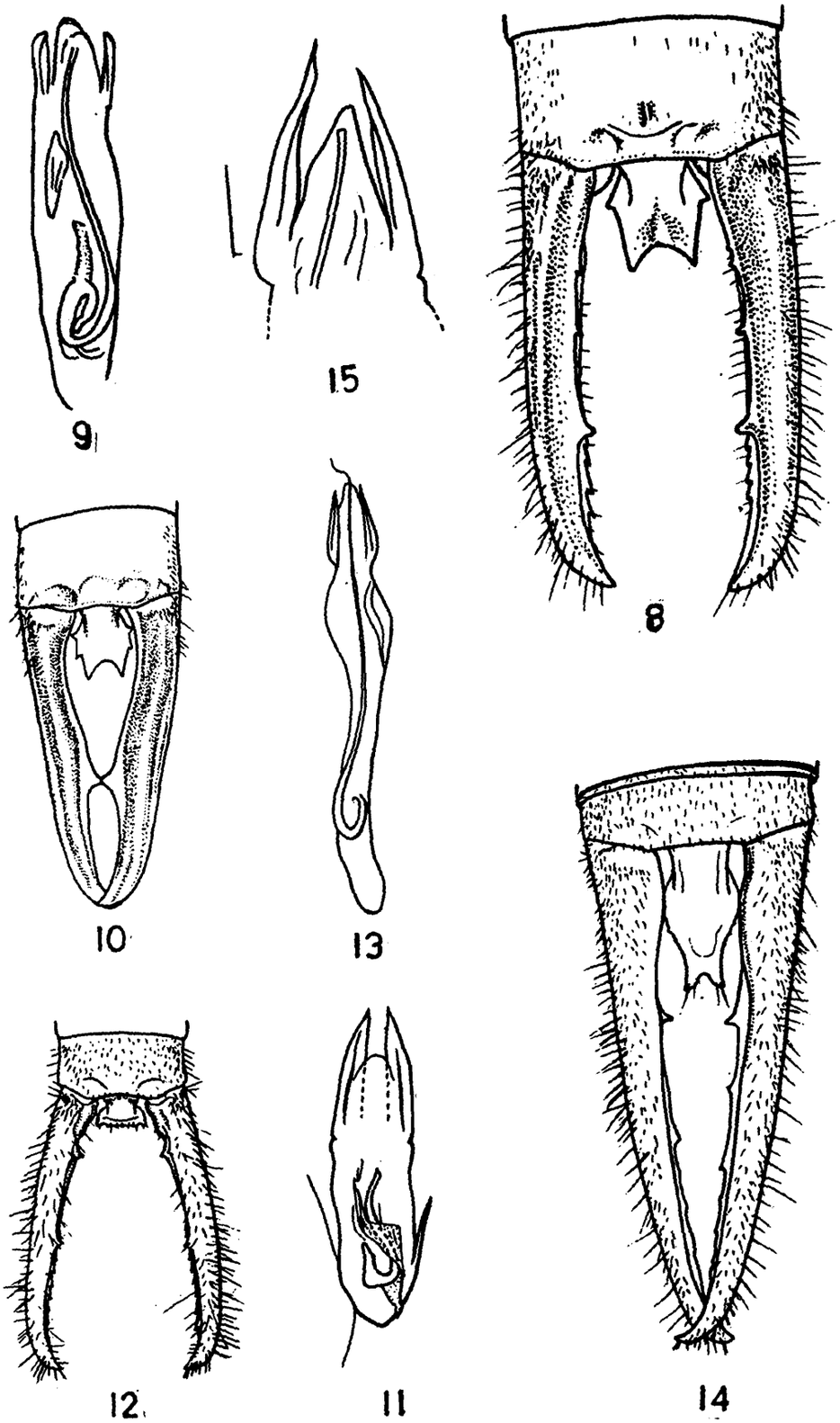

Fig. 8-15. *Apovostox stella samsingensis* (Srivastava), Holotype Male; 8. Ultimate tergite and forceps; 9. Genitalia; *Apovostox chauhani* (Srivastava), Holotype Male; 10. Ultimate tergite and forceps; 11. Genitalia; *Apovostox serrata* (Kapoor); Male; 12. Ultimate tergite and forceps; 13. Genitalia; *Apovostox burri* (Srivastava), Holotype Male; 14. Ultimate tergite and forceps and 15. Genitalia (Figs. 8-15 after Srivastava, 1975).

Measurements : (in mm)	Holotype
	Male
Length of body	8.1
Length of forceps	2.8
Length of pygidium	0.4

Material examined : India : Sikkim : Tumin, 1,800m, Holotype Male (genitalia mounted between two coverslips and pinned with the specimen), 26. ix. 1988 *(V. C. Agrawal)* — deposited in the Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta.

Remarks : The described specied differs from all the known species from India by the shape of male pygidium in being narrowed at base and gradually widening posteriorly with margin subtruncate and incrassate, postero-lateral angles a little projecting, lateral margin with a minute posteriorly directed tooth at about middle.

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