



**ON A COLLECTION OF CENTIPEDES (SCOLOPEN-  
DROMORPHA : SCOLOPENDRIDAE AND  
CRYPTOPIDAE) FROM ANDAMAN AND  
NICOBAR ISLANDS**

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INTRODUCTION

The scolopendromorph fauna of Andaman and Nicobar Islands has not been studied comprehensively. Gravely (1910) was the pioneer worker in this field and he recorded ten species of Scolopendromorpha from these Islands. Since then no work on the said group was done. The present study was undertaken with a view to record centipedes found to occur in these Islands and also comparing their distribution with the adjoining mainland of India. There is every possibility that some species are common with that of the mainland while a few are characteristic of their respective occurrence. The present paper is based on the centipede materials collected by survey parties of Zoological Survey of India from the said Islands.

LIST OF SCOLOPENDROMORPHS

Species recorded for the first time from these Islands.

1. *Asanada brevicornis* Meinert
- \*2. *A. agharkari* (Gravely)
- \*3. *Cormocephalus dentipes* Pocock
- \*4. *C. pygmaeus* Pocock
5. *Ethmostigmus pygomegas* (Kohlrausch)
- \*6. *Otostigmus (O.) insularis* Haase
7. *O. (O.) rugulosus* Porat
8. *O. (O.) scaber* Porat
- \*9. *Rhysida longipes longipes* Newport
10. *Rhysida nuda immarginata* (Porat)
- \*11. *Scolopendra amazonica* (Bucherl)

12. *S. cingulata* Latreille
13. *S. hardwickei* Newport
14. *S. morsitans* Linnaeus
- \*15. *S. subspinipes subspinipes* Leach
- \*16. *S. s. dehaani* Brdt
17. *Scolopocryptops melanostomus* (Newport)

### 1. *Asanada agharkari* (Gravely)

1912. *Pseudocryptops agharkari* Gravely. *Rec. Indian Mus.*, 7 : 417.

1968. *Asanada agharkari* Lewis. *J. nat. Hist.*, 2 : 173-176.

*Specimens examined* : 2 ex. Wimberly Gung, South Andaman, 2. xii. 1923, *Kemp* coll. (Reg. No. 4336/18)

*Distribution* : INDIA : Maharashtra.

*Remarks* : The author has observed some important characters of this species which are mentioned here. Anal legs—no groove on the surface of prefemur but a sulcus present more or less of whole of its length at posterior end ; deep groove on a little more than posterior half of femur ; no groove or sulcus on tibia claw of anal leg serrated. This species can easily be distinguished from other scolopendrids by its short, stumpy and spineless anal legs.

### 2. *Cormocephalus dentipes* Pocock

1891. *Cormocephalus (C.) dentipes* Pocock, *Ann. nat. Hist.*, 7 (6) : 66.

*Specimens examined* : 1 ex. Mount Harriet Range, South Andaman, 1. iii, 1964, *B. S. Lamba* coll. (Reg. No. 3474/18) ; 4 ex. Port Blair, South Andaman, 15. iii. 1915, *Kemp* coll. (Reg. No. 4329/18).

*Measurements* : Body length ranges from 24 mm. to 41 mm.

*Distribution* : INDIA : West Bengal.

*Remarks* : This species occurs in one colour variety—reddish green ; it is wide spread in South Andaman ; six glabrous segments of antenna instead of four as described by Pocock (1891).

### 3. *Cormocephalus pygmaeus* Pocock

1892. *Cormocephalus (C.) pygmaeus* Pocock, *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.*, 7 (2) : 192.

*Specimens examined* : 1 ex. Chiria Tapu, South Andaman, 9.iv. 1964, B. S. Lamba coll. (Reg. No. 3491/18).

*Distribution* : INDIA : Tamil Nadu ; Maharashtra.

*Remarks* : This species is not having any tubercle on anal prefemur. This is, also, a common species like the previous one but here it is represented from South Andaman.

#### 4. *Otostigmus (Otostigmus) insularis* Haase

1887. *Otostigmus carinatum* var *insularis* Haase, *Abh. Mus. Dresden*, 5 : 69.

1930. *O. (O.) insularis* : Attems, *Das Tierreich*, 54 : 154.

*Specimens examined* : 1 ex. Arial Bay, North Andaman, 25. iv. 1971, B. K. Tikader coll. (Reg. No. 3512/18) ; 1 ex. Mt. Harriet Range South Andaman, 9. ii. 1964, B. S. Lamba coll. (Reg. No. 3498/18).

*Measurements* : Body length ranges from 35 mm to 56 mm.

*Distribution* : INDIA : West Bengal.

*Remarks* : This is one of the common species of the genus *Otostigmus*. It is not widely distributed in these Islands.

#### 5. *Otostigmus (Otostigmus) rugulosus* Porat

1876. *Otostigmus rugulosus* Porat, *Bih. Svensk. A. Handl* 4 (7) : 21.

1930. *O. (O.) rugulosus* : Attems, *Das Tierreich*, 54 : 144.

*Specimens examined* : 4 exs. Mt. Harriet Range, South Andaman, 26. iii. 1964, B. S. Lamba coll. (Reg. No. 3558/18).

*Measurements* : The length of the body varies from 37 mm. to 46 mm.

*Distribution* : INDIA : Andaman.

*Remarks* : This is one of the common species of the genus *Otostigmus* but here it is represented only from South Andaman.

#### 6. *Rhysida longipes longipes* (Newp.)

1845. *Branchiostoma longipes* Newport, *Tran. Linn. Soc. London*, 19 : 411.

1930. *Rhysida longipes longipes* Attems, *Das Tierreich*, 54 : 194.

*Specimens examined* : 2 ex. Ross Island, North Andaman, 30. iii. 1911, C. Paiva coll. (Reg. No. 3781/18).

*Measurement* : The length of the body ranges from 46 mm. to 47 mm.

*Distribution* : INDIA : Maharashtra ; West Bengal.

*Remarks* : This is a medium size centipede and is not uncommon in mainland but is not widely distributed in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. This species is being reported for the first time from Andaman Island.

### 7. *Scolopendra amazonica* (Bücherl)

1946. *S. morstans amazonica* Bücherl, *Men. Inst. Butantan*, 19 : 135.

1959. *S. amazonica* Jangi, *Ent. News*, 70 : 253.

*Specimens examined* : 1 ex. Port Blair, South Andaman, 13. ii. 1915. Kemp coll. (Reg. No. 4338/18); 1 ex. Corbyns Cove, South Andaman, 1. iii. 1975, G. K. Srivastava coll. (Reg. No. 4337/18).

*Measurements* : Body length ranges from 31 mm. to 61 mm.

*Distribution* : INDIA : Maharashtra.

*Remarks* : This is a common centipede and is found in two colour varieties, red and reddish brown. Dorsal sulci of the body begin from 3rd tergite instead of 2nd and lateral margination from 12th tergite in place of 16th as stated by Jangi (1955). The species has been recorded for the first time from Andaman Island.

### 8. *Scolopendra morsitans* L.

1758. *S. morsitans* Linnaeus, *Syst. Nat. Ed. 10* : 638.

*Specimens examined* : 1 ex. Wright Mayo, Mt Harriet Range, South Andaman, 31. iii. 1964, B. S. Lamba coll. (Reg. No. 3463/18); 1 ex. Aberdeen, Port Blair, South Andaman, 1. 6. 1935, H. S. Rao coll. (Reg. No. 3534/18).

*Measurements* : Body length varies from 61 mm. to 115 mm.

*Remarks* : This species is one of the common centipede in the mainland and is widely distributed in these Islands, too.

### 9. *Scolopendra subspinipes dehaani* Brdt.

1840. *Scolopendra dehaani* Brdt., *Bull. Ac. Petersbourg*, 7 : 152.

1930. *S. subspinipes vaadehaani* Attems, *Das Tierreich*, 54 : 31.

*Specimens examined* : 2 ex. Rest House, Tugapur, Mayabunder, Middle Andaman, 8. v. 1971, *B. K. Tikader* coll. (Reg. No. 3481/18) ; 1 ex. Port Blair, South Andaman, 15. iii. 1916, *Kemp* coll. (Reg. No. 3625/18) ; Near Forest Department Camp, Smith Island, North Andaman, 27. iv. 1971, *B. K. Tikader* coll. (Reg. No. 3482/18).

*Measurements* : The length of the body ranges from 46 mm. to 139 mm.

*Distribution* : INDIA : West Bengal ; Tamil Nadu ; Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

*Remarks* : This species is one of the largest varieties of centipede. Out of these specimens, one is devoid of any spine on anal femur which is rarely seen. This species is found to occur both in dwelling houses and forest areas.

### 10. *Scolopendra subspinipes subspinipes* Leach

1815. *Scolopendra subspinipes* Leach, *Trans. Linn. Soc. London*, 1 : 383.

*Specimens examined* : 2 ex. Casurrina Bay, North Andaman, 11. iv. 1966, *A. Daniel* coll. (Reg. No. 3483/18) ; 1 ex. Campbell Bay, Great Nicobar, 21. iii. 1966, *A. Daniel* coll. (Reg. No. 3485/18).

*Measurements* : Body length varies from 45 mm. to 132 mm.

*Distribution* : INDIA : Tamil Nadu (Madras).

*Remarks* : This is, also, one of the larger varieties of centipede but is not so widely distributed as other species of the genus *Scolopendra*.

### 11. *Scolopocryptops melanostomus* (Newp.)

1845. *Scolopocryptops melanostoma* Newport, *Trans. Linn. Soc.*, 19 ; 406.

1974. *S. melanostomus* : Bucherl, *Symp. zool. London*, No. 32 ; 129-30.

*Specimens examined* : 1 ex. Magarnullah agriculture, Nicobar, Island, 14. 1. 1975, *S. K. Bhattacharyya* coll. (Reg. No. 4327/18) ; 1 ex. Rangat, Middle Andaman, 6. iii. 1975, *G. K. Srivastava* coll. (Reg. No. 4331/18).