Notes on Ptilomera agriodes (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Gerridae) from Eastern Ghats, India

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Notes on *Ptilomera agriodes* (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Gerridae) from Eastern Ghats, India

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Freshwater Hemiptera commonly known as aquatic bugs are widely distributed in the aquatic ecosystem. There are 325 species belonging to 84 genera and 18 families reported from India (Basu & Subramanian 2017). The aquatic bug belongs to the suborder Heteroptera (true bugs), in which infra order Gerromorpha are semi-aquatic bugs living on the surface water. Gerromorpha include eight families, viz.: Gerridae, Velidae, Hydrometridae, Hebridae, Hermatobatidae, Paraphrynovelidae, Macroveliidae, and Mesoveliiidae (Damgaard 2008). Family Gerridae has 26 genera and 93 species in India (Basu & Subramanian 2017), in which genus *Ptilomera* are large water striders distributed in the aquatic habitats. Globally, there are 57 species belonging to the genus *Ptilomera*, in which only six species were documented from India (Jehamalar et al. 2017): *Ptilomera agriodes* Schmidt, 1926; *P. assamensis* Hungerford & Matsuda, 1965; *P. laticaudata* (Hardwicke, 1823); *P. occidentalis* Zettel, 2003; *P. tigrina* Uhler, 1860, and *P. nagalanda* Jehamalar & Chandra, 2017.

Among this *P. agriodes* was originally described from Tiruchirappalli and Tharangambadi, in the state of Tamil Nadu. Later it was reported from Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Rajasthan by various workers (Thirumalai 2002; Thirumalai et al. 2007; Jehamalar & Chandra 2013; Basu et al. 2015; Jehamalar et al. 2017). Earlier, Basu et al. (2015) reported *P. agriodes* only from Devkund waterfall, Mayurbhanj District, Odisha region of Eastern Ghats. The present study documents *P. agriodes* extended distribution from different parts of Eastern Ghats regions like Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana and Tamil Nadu.

*P. agriodes* was collected from the different streams of Eastern Ghats (Table 1, Figure 1). The specimens were collected by hand-operated insect-nets and preserved in 10% formalin and labeled. After sorting, the specimens were observed under stereo zoom microscope (Olympus SZX10). The specimens are deposited at the National Zoological Collection, FBRC/ZSI, Hyderabad.

Table 1. Collections location of *Ptilomera agriodes* from different parts of Eastern Ghats regions, India.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Locations</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Latitude (N)</th>
<th>Longitude (E)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Challagadda stream</td>
<td>Vishakhapatnam</td>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>18.054</td>
<td>82.947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stream near Thatiguda waterfall</td>
<td>Vishakhapatnam</td>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>18.226</td>
<td>83.007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stream near Muliguda, way to Borra cave</td>
<td>Vishakhapatnam</td>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>18.263</td>
<td>83.031</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dharamattam waterfall</td>
<td>Vishakhapatnam</td>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>17.712</td>
<td>82.478</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yerravaram waterfall</td>
<td>Vishakhapatnam</td>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>17.754</td>
<td>82.476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stream near Bentabiri</td>
<td>Koraput</td>
<td>Odisha</td>
<td>18.568</td>
<td>82.499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dudum waterfall</td>
<td>Koraput</td>
<td>Odisha</td>
<td>18.519</td>
<td>82.454</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lassari forest waterfall</td>
<td>Kandhamal</td>
<td>Odisha</td>
<td>19.717</td>
<td>83.656</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stream near lower side of Daringbadi</td>
<td>Kandhamal</td>
<td>Odisha</td>
<td>19.849</td>
<td>84.272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gandahati waterfall</td>
<td>Ganjam</td>
<td>Odisha</td>
<td>18.890</td>
<td>84.270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stream near Andaanda</td>
<td>Ganjam</td>
<td>Odisha</td>
<td>19.031</td>
<td>84.388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marsila waterfall</td>
<td>Nammakal</td>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>11.308</td>
<td>78.394</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stream near Malaipalem</td>
<td>Salem</td>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>11.822</td>
<td>78.214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Namma Aruvi waterfall</td>
<td>Nammakal</td>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>11.289</td>
<td>78.365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agaya Gangai waterfall</td>
<td>Nammakal</td>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>11.267</td>
<td>78.395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stream near Kottachedu, Kari Raman Temple</td>
<td>Salem</td>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>11.831</td>
<td>78.272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mallela Theertham waterfall, Nallamala Forest</td>
<td>Mahabubnagar</td>
<td>Telangana</td>
<td>16.266</td>
<td>78.856</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saleswaram</td>
<td>Mahabubnagar</td>
<td>Telangana</td>
<td>16.189</td>
<td>78.639</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
13 males, 8 females Exs, FBRC/ZSI/INS/1067, Stream at Saraiguda, way to Borra caves, 05.ix.2018; 8 males, 4 females Exs, FBRC/ZSI/INS/1132, Marsila waterfall, 06.i.2019; 3 males, 10 females Exs, FBRC/ZSI/INS/1133, Malai Palem waterfall, 08.i.2019; 3 males, 2 females Exs, FBRC/ZSI/INS/1318, Saleswaram, 28.xii.2018; 4 males, 2 females Exs, FBRC/ZSI/INS/1407, Namma Aruvi waterfall, 06.i.2019; 6 males, 8 females Exs, FBRC/ZSI/INS/1413, Agaya Gangai waterfall, 6.i.2019; 9 males, 5 females Exs, FBRC/ZSI/INS/1540, Near Nagalru waterfall, 08.i.2019; 39 males, 35 females Exs, FBRC/ZSI/INS/1132, Kottachedu Kari Raman Temple, 07.i.2019; 1 male Exs, FBRC/ZSI/INS/1687, Gandahati waterfall, 25.xi.2019; 4 males, 4 females Exs, FBRC/ZSI/INS/1714, Stream near Bentalbiri, 29.xii.2019; 2 males, 1 female Exs, FBRC/ZSI/INS/1711, Dudum waterfall, 29.xii.2019; 1 male, 6
females Exs, FBRC/ZSI/INS/1712, Lassari forest waterfall, 03.i.2020; 3 males, 6 females Exs, FBRC/ZSI/INS/1709, Stream near Kasipatnam, 27.xii.2019; 1 male Exs, FBRC/ZSI/INS/1710, Stream near Daringbadi, 04.i.2020; 4 males, 13 females Exs, FBRC/ZSI/INS/1707, Stream near Andaanda, 05.i.2020.

**Diagnostic features:** Body length of the male is 13–14 mm; Female 11–12 mm. Surface of the body is dark brown to yellow brown in color. Eyes are large reddish-brown to black and broadly rounded. First antennal segment is larger than combining length 2–4. Rostrum is short, male mid femur fringe of black setae. Length of male abdomen 6mm, paramere curved and contains setae. Hind legs are longer than body length; spine-like lateral process of the pygophore extended well the lateral process of the proctiger. The posteromedian margin of the proctiger is bisinuate.

**References**


**Erratum**


Page #15281,

Table 1. line Stud Book #40 last box in row reads: N. Schaffer Should read: N. Schaffer P. Kretzschmar T. Hildebrandt
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