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## ***Chaudhuriomyia*, a new tanypod genus of Macropelopiini (Diptera: Chironomidae: Tanypodinae) from the Eastern Himalaya**

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### **Abstract**

A new genus, *Chaudhuriomyia* in the tribe Macropelopiini belonging to subfamily Tanypodinae is described and illustrated in all life stages. The genus can be distinguished from all the other known Macropelopiini by the presence of a blunt claw on fore leg and a smooth surface of tibial spur in adult male, seminal capsules without proper neck in adult female, round anal lobe in pupa, and slightly inwardly bent inner tooth of ligula in larva. Generic diagnoses for larva, pupa and adult are provided. Taxonomic position and distribution of the genus are discussed along with a new adult key of tribe Macropelopiini. The specimens were collected from a stream in Indo-Bhutan border area of Eastern Himalaya in Indian Subcontinent. A note on the ecology and biology of the new genus is included.

**Key words:** Chironomidae, Himalaya, new genus, systematics, taxonomy

### **Introduction**

The Himalaya, one of the biodiversity hotspots, is a great biological amphitheater, home to diverse, unique flora and fauna. Several areas remain unexplored in comparison to other zoogeographical regions, due to its complex topography and geological juvenility (Mani 1974).

During our survey of chironomid midges in Eastern Himalayas, some larvae were collected from streams of Indo-Bhutan border area, in lesser Himalayas. The larvae were reared to adult and after an initial study it was found that the specimens belonged to the tribe Macropelopiini of subfamily Tanypodinae.

Eleven genera were assigned to the tribe Macropelopiini: *Alotanypus* Roback, *Apsectrotanypus* Fittkau, *Bilyjomyia* Niitsuma & Watson Jr., *Brundiniella* Roback, *Derotanypus* Roback, *Fittkauimyia* Karunakaran, *Guassutanypus* Roque & Trivinho-Strixino, *Macropelopia* Thienemann, *Psectronanypus* Kieffer, *Radotanypus* Fittkau & Murray and *Wuelkerella* Añón Suárez & Sublette. The taxon considered in the present work is closely related to the following genera: *Apsectrotanypus* Fittkau, *Bilyjomyia* Niitsuma & Watson Jr. and *Macropelopia* Thienemann in most features. However, as the taxon did not conform to any one of the known genera, a new genus is here proposed. In addition, a key to genera of tribe Macropelopiini considering adult male characters is provided.

### **Material and methods**

The larvae were collected using a dropper and scoop sampler from the surface of rocks on a stream that falls in to the River Jaldhaka at Bindu Barrage (Bhutan) and also from another stream at Jhalong (India) in Himalaya. The larvae were transported alive in the laboratory for rearing. Ecological data were recorded from the collection site. Environmental parameters temperature, pH, TDS and salinity were measured using Multi-Parameter Testr™ 35 series, Dissolved Oxygen was measured with iodometric method (Clesceri *et al.* 1998). In order to obtain association of larva, pupa and adult, each larva was reared separately in vials within Environmental Test Chamber