



On Gerridae (Insecta: Heteroptera) from Bhutan, with description of a new species of *Onychotrechus* Kirkaldy, 1903

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Abstract

Hitherto the water striders (Gerridae) of Bhutan have been almost unknown. Only one species, *Metrocoris compar* (Buchanan-White, 1883), has been reported. Mainly based on new collections, the present study raises the number of known species to nine. *Onychotrechus jaechi* sp.n. is described; it is closely related to *O. robustus* Andersen, 1980 described from northwestern India.

Key words: Heteroptera, Gerridae, *Onychotrechus*, new species, first record, Bhutan, check-list

Zusammenfassung

Die Wasserläufer (Gerridae) Bhutans sind bisher nahezu unbekannt gewesen. Nur eine einzige Art, *Metrocoris compar* (Buchanan-White, 1883), war aus Bhutan gemeldet. Hauptsächlich anhand neuer Aufsammlungen erhöht diese Studie die Anzahl bekannter Arten auf neun. *Onychotrechus jaechi* sp.n. wird beschrieben. Die neue Spezies ist mit dem aus Nordwestindien beschriebenen *O. robustus* Andersen, 1980 nächstverwandt.

Introduction

Little is known about the water striders from the eastern Himalayas. Bhutan in particular is almost unstudied due to restrictions to access and research. Recent expeditions to Bhutan in the course of an international project (see Material and methods) yielded material of Gerromorpha which, although small, allows some insights into the country's fauna. Based on the collections obtained from those expeditions, Zettel (2007) published the first records of Hebridae from Bhutan; and in this paper we present a preliminary list of the Gerridae of this country. Prior to this study, only one gerrid species, *Metrocoris compar* (Buchanan-White, 1883), has been reported from Bhutan (Chen and Nieser 1993). However, it remains uncertain whether the specimen labelled "Bhoutan Anglais" indeed originates from the present area of Bhutan, which was never an "English" colony. More probably the label refers to the areas in neighbouring Assam in India (Duars Plain) that were ceded to the British in the treaty of Sinchula in 1865. Anyway, the presence of *M. compar* in Bhutan is here confirmed by new samples. A second species, *Gerris (Macrogerris) gracilicornis* (Horváth, 1879), is listed in an unpublished catalogue of the Gerromorpha (Nils Møller Andersen, unpublished); we could not locate the specimen on which this record is based. The present paper treats material of eight species, seven of which are first records for the fauna of Bhutan. One striking new species of *Onychotrechus* is described.