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A new species of *Stenolemus* Signoret (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Reduviidae: Emesinae) from India

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Abstract

A new species of *Stenolemus* Signoret, 1858, *Stenolemus annulatus* **sp. nov.** (Reduviidae: Emesinae) is described from India. This new species is closely related to *S. susainathani* Wygodzinsky from Nilgiri Hills, South India and *S. larat* Wygodzinsky from Moluccas, Larat, by sharing common characteristics such as the ratio of distance between eyes and their width, long antennal first segment, slightly elevated postocular region of head and sharply divided pronotum into three parts, but can be easily separated by the following diagnostic characteristics: pronotum with petiole about as long as forelobe and 1.3 times shorter than hindlobe, first antennal segment with five annulations, rostrum creamy white and luteous at apex, basal and lateral areas of second segment; hind lobe of pronotum with 1+1 submedian conical rounded projections; forecoxa shorter than hind lobe of pronotum, foretibia with one subbasal and one submedian annulation and hind femora reaching apex of forewings. A key to Indian species of the genus *Stenolemus* is given.

Key words: Reduviidae, Emesinae, *Stenolemus annulatus*, new species, India

Introduction

Signoret (1858) erected the genus, *Stenolemus* with the type species, *Stenolemus spiniventris* from Mexico. Distant (1904) in his "The Fauna of British India including Ceylon and Burma" included *S. greeni* Distant from India and Sri Lanka, *S. atkinsoni* Distant from India and *S. crassirostris* Stal from Sri Lanka and Philippines. Distant (1919) in "Reduviidae from British India", included *S. hirtipes* Distant from South India. Wygodzinsky (1966) in his monograph included 28 species under the genus, *Stenolemus* from New World and 17 species from Oriental and Australian regions including a new species *viz.*, *S. susainathani* from Tamil Nadu (Cherangoda, Nilgiri Hills, South India). Later, Ambrose (2006) in his checklist of Indian assassin bugs, recorded *S. susainathani* from Coimbatore and Udagamandalam, Nilgiri Hills. Though *Stenolemus* species occur in all zoogeographical regions with native species, no cosmopolitan species is so far recorded. This paper presents a new species *viz.*, *Stenolemus annulatus* from West Bengal and Maharashtra, India.

Two live females of *S. annulatus* **sp. nov.**, were found in the spider web of *Oecobius putus* O.P. Cambridge (Figs. 9–11), belonging to the family of Oecobiidae. Although the reduviids belonging to the genera such as *Eugubinus* Distant, *Ploiaria* Scopoli, *Emesa* Fabricius, *Empicoris* Wolff and *Stenolemus* Signoret are usually known to prey on spiders, representing a transition to araneophagy, the authors could not record the feeding of *S. annulatus* **sp. nov.**

Material and methods

This study is based on the male holotype and two female paratypes collected from a recent field survey from West Bengal and Maharashtra. The holotype and paratypes are deposited in the National Zoological Collection of Zoological Survey of India, Hemiptera Section, Kolkata.

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