



Lathriobates manohardasi sp. nov. (Hemiptera: Gerromorpha: Gerridae) from Tamil Nadu, India, with a key to the species

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Abstract

Lathriobates manohardasi sp. nov. is described and compared with known congeners. A key to the species of the genus of world is included.

Key words: Trepobatinae, Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu, India

Introduction

Gerridae comprises a group of semi-aquatic bugs that spend almost their entire lives skating above the water surface of lentic and lotic environments. Approximately 750 species are distributed among 60 genera and 9 subfamilies of Gerridae (Moreira, 2011). Thirumalai (2002) reported one species each of *Calyplobates*, *Gnomobates*, *Lathriobates*, and *Naboandelus* of the subfamily Trepobatinae from India. The world fauna of *Lathriobates* includes four species: *L. obscures* Miyamoto, *L. rufus* Polhemus & Polhemus, *L. johorensis* Polhemus & Polhemus and *L. raja* Distant. A fifth species *Lathriobates manohardasi* sp. nov. is described here.

The genus *Cryptobates* Esaki, 1929 (Gerridae: Heteroptera) is a junior homonym of *Cryptobates* Fairmaire, 1882 of the family Tenebrionidae (Coleoptera), so the name *Lathriobates* was proposed as a replacement name by Polhemus (2004), with type species *Gerris raja* Distant, 1910.

Material and methods

Study area: Kanyakumari is regarded as the southern most district of Tamil Nadu. The district lies between 77° 15' and 77° 36' E longitude and 8° 03' and 8° 35' N latitude. The district has a climate, suitable for growing a number of crops. In the present study, the new species was collected from an irrigation ditch near to a banana field (Type locality: Plate II).

The insects were collected using a D-frame aquatic net and preserved in 75 percent ethanol. Specimens have been studied with Leica MZ125 microscope. The photographs and measurements were taken through a Leica stereo zoom microscope (Leica M205A), using the software Leica application suite (LAS V3.8).

Key to the species of *Lathriobates* of the world

1. Posterior margin of female abdominal sternum VII truncated; body pale brown to yellowish brown without distinct stripes 2
- Posterior margin of female abdominal sternum VII excavated; body yellowish to orange brown with distinct stripes 3
2. Body yellowish to brown; mesofemur shorter than mesothorax and abdomen together (Malaysia) *L. obscures* Miyamoto
- Body orange brown; mesofemur more or less equal to the length of mesothorax and abdomen together (Malaysia and Singapore) *L. rufus* Polhemus & Polhemus
3. Mesosternum with dark stripe on lateral region (West Malaysia). *L. johorensis* Polhemus & Polhemus