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Rare ground-beetle species of *Leleuporella* Basilewsky (Coleoptera: Carabidae: Scaritinae: Scaritini) from Indian sub-continent

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Abstract

Description of a new carabid species belonging to the rare genus *Leleuporella* Basilewsky with key to the species is provided. It is the first species of the genus from the Indian mainland and second from the Oriental region after the discovery of *L. sexangulata* from Sri Lanka. Disjunct distribution of *Leleuporella*, in the river basins in Equatorial Africa and south west of the Indian subcontinent is supporting evidence to the argument about the biogeographic separation of Indian subcontinent from Gondwanaland and the related faunal similarities between the regions.

Key words: *Leleuporella*, the Western Ghats, biodiversity hotspot

Introduction

Leleuporella Basilewsky, of the subtribe Clivinina (Coleoptera: Carabidae: Scaritini) was considered a rare taxon confined to the Eastern Congolian Swamp Forests of equatorial Africa with two species, *L. caeca* Basilewsky and *L. mandibularis* (Burgeon) until the discovery of the third species, *L. sexangulata* Balkenohl from the dry evergreen forest ecoregion of Sri Lanka (Balkenohl 1997; Basilewsky 1956) (Fig. 1). Disjunct distribution of *Leleuporella* in the Afrotropical region and rarity in museum collections are the key reasons for paucity of knowledge about them. The present study reports the discovery of a new taxon of *Leleuporella* in the Indian mainland, with notes on the disjunct distributional pattern in the widely separated African continent and Indian subcontinent.

Methods

Specimens were collected with light traps from residential buildings. Total body length was measured from the tip of the mandibles to the pygidium (Lawrence *et al* 1999). Identification of the new species has been confirmed by comparing with type specimens in the Coleoptera collections of the Royal Museum for Central Africa, Tervuren, Belgium. Sexing was done by dissecting out the abdominal region. All measurements are reported in mm. Line drawings of habitus and genitalia were reconstructed from digital images. The new species is named after the local name of the host institution.

Abbreviations of measurements

TL	total body length.
TW	broadest body width.

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