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On the genus *Tenagobonus* Stål (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Gerridae) from India with a description of a new species

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Abstract

Tenagobonus venkataramani **sp. nov.** from Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve (GNBR), Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India, is described and compared with allied species. Morphological notes on *T. ceylonensis* Hungerford and Matsuda, 1962, and *T. nicobarensis* Andersen, 1964, known from India, are presented along with distribution maps of these three Indian species.

Key words: Gerrinae, Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve, Great Nicobar Island

Introduction

The palaeotropical genus *Tenagobonus* Stål, 1853 are water striders belonging to the family Gerridae and subfamily Gerrinae. Most of the species are endemic to a single island or a particular region. The genus *Tenagobonus* can easily be distinguished from its closely related genus *Limnometra* Mayr, 1865, by having the thorax much longer than the abdomen; the second segment of each front tarsus longer than the first; the absence of very strong, long, and pointed connexival spines on males (except a few species); the females with a flap-like or weak slender process on each side of the seventh abdominal segment; and presence of claws on the hind legs (Hungerford & Matsuda, 1958). Most of the species of *Tenagobonus* are light coloured, however the species of *Limnometra* are dark. This genus is found mainly on lentic parts of partly shaded forest streams. Hitherto, 15 species of *Tenagobonus* are recognized and one more new species is described in the present paper. Thirumalai (2002) reported two species of *Tenagobonus* from India.

Material and methods

Study area: The Andaman and Nicobar groups of islands are situated in the Bay of Bengal about 1200 km from Chennai coast, in India. These two groups of islands are separated by about 160 km at Ten Degree Channel (at 10° north latitude). For the present study the material was collected from South India, Andaman and Nicobar Islands during explorations between 2010 and 2012. The new species was found on the well-shaded, cool, and slow-flowing streams of Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve.

A D-frame aquatic net was used to collect the insects and the material was preserved in 75% ethanol. Specimens were studied with a Leica stereozoom-microscope (Leica M205A) and photographs and measurements were taken through the same microscope using the software Leica Application Suite (LAS V3.8). Measurements are given in mm. The mean value (n=5) of leg measurements of paratypes are provided in Table 1. All the studied materials in the present study were deposited in Zoological Survey of India, New Alipore, Kolkata, West Bengal.