



***Chremistica ribhoi* sp. n. (Hemiptera: Cicadidae) from North-East India and its mass emergence**

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Abstract

The genus *Chremistica* Stål, 1870 is reported from the northeastern region of India for the first time. A new species, *Chremistica ribhoi*, is described from this region and male genitalia illustrations and scanning electron microscope photographs of the pygofer for *C. ribhoi* are presented. Observations on mass emergence of *C. ribhoi* are described.

Key words: *Chremistica* Stål, new record, *Chremistica ribhoi* sp. n., mass emergence, North-East India

Introduction

Distant (1906, 1909) recorded a total of 145 cicada species from the Indian region, with a further addition of 23 species bringing up the total number of species to 168 (Distant 1916). Sen *et al.* (1998) reported 19 species of cicadas under 12 genera with four new records from the state of Meghalaya in India. According to Yaakop *et al.* (2005) the genus *Chremistica* Stål consists of 41 species with occurrences in India, Sri Lanka, continental S.E. Asia, Taiwan, Philippines, Malayan Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo and Java including the lesser Sunda islands with one group reported from Madagascar. Boulard (2002, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012) further described and listed six species of *Chremistica* viz., *C. moultoni* (Boulard, 2002), *C. mussarens* (Boulard, 2005), *C. bimaculata inthanonensis* (Boulard, 2006) and *C. sibilissima* (Boulard, 2006), *C. atratula* (Boulard, 2007), and *C. phamiaangensis* (Boulard, 2009) from Thailand and a species from Vietnam, *C. sueuri* (Pham, 2013) by Pham & Constants (2013). However, only two species of *Chremistica* are reported from the Indian subcontinent: *Chremistica seminiger* (Distant, 1909) from Nilgiri Hills of South India and *Chremistica mixta* (Kirby, 1891) from Sri Lanka (Bregman, 1985). In this paper, a new species viz. *Chremistica ribhoi* from the Ri Bhoi district of Meghalaya is described. This extends the distribution of the genus *Chremistica* to the northeastern Himalayan region of India.

Material and methods

Specimens of the new species were collected from two different sites within the Ri-Bhoi district of Meghalaya, India. Collected specimens were dried for two days in an oven at 35°C and pinned and mounted later for taxonomic study. Male genitalia of two male paratypes were prepared by pulling out the male pygofer and macerating the pygofer in 10% KOH for 12 hours. The male genitalia then washed in warm water and dehydrated in acetone. The samples after air drying were secured in brass stubs (10 mm diameter x 30 mm high) and were coated in a JFC-1100 (Jeol) ion sputter coater. The coated samples were examined in a JSM-6360 (Jeol) scanning electron microscope at an accelerating voltage of 20 KeV in the secondary electron emission mode.