

A new species of the genus *Durgades* Dist. of the family Agallidae (Homoptera: cicadelloidea)*

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Abstract. A new species of *Durgades distanti* is described with illustrations. All the species of the genus are represented and a key presented.

Keywords. Insects; *Durgades* D.; Agallidae; Homoptera.

1. Introduction

The genus *Durgades* was erected by Distant in the year 1912 with the type specimen, *D. nigropictus* from India. During the examination of the type material, deposited by H. S. Pruthi in Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta, the paratypes in respect of *D. idiocerus* pruthi consisted of two categories. One category pertained to the holotype of *D. idiocerus* (517/H7) and the second category (526/H7 and 523/H7) showed different characters even externally although Pruthi (1930) included all of them as paratypes of *D. idiocerus*. During the examination of the Pusa Entomological collections, the authors noticed some male specimens of the second category and hence the genitalic studies were undertaken.

2. Distributional records of the genus

Distant (1912) described *D. nigropictus* from Eastern Himalayas. Later Pruthi (1930) described two more species, *D. mirabilis* and *D. idiocerus* from the Eastern Himalayas and North West Himalayas respectively. Thus three species have been described from all over the world. A fourth species, *D. distanti* sp. nov. is described in this paper.

3. Key to the species of *Durgades* Distant

All the four species of the genus, *Durgades* can be separated by the following key.

1. Scutellum with a central longitudinal black spot and a smaller basal spot on each side

D. nigropictus Distant

†Adopted from the doctoral thesis submitted to the Post-graduate school of Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi by the senior author in 1975.

- Scutellum without central longitudinal black spot and smaller basal spot on each side 2
2. Subgenital plates long and fairly broad *D. mirabilis* Pruthi
- Subgenital plates long and triangular 3
3. Aedeagus bears a circlet of stout appendages, present around the gonopore. *D. idiocerus* Pruthi
Aedeagus bears a small flaplike structure at the apical gonopore (figure 6)
D. distanti sp. nov.

4. Systematic account

4.1. Subfamily Agallinae

Genus *Durgades* Distant

Durgades Distant, 1912, *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.* 10:608.

Type-species: *Durgades nigropictus* Distant

2. *Durgades distanti* sp. nov. (Figures 1-11)

Material available: 2♂♂ (pinned)

Male: Length 4 mm.

Piceous specimens. Three black stripes on vertex. Antennal pits, entire postclypeus except in an oval midportion, anteclypeus, pronotum in the anterior portion with a median incursion posteriorly, entire scutellum except marginally and abdomen dorsally and ventrally black.

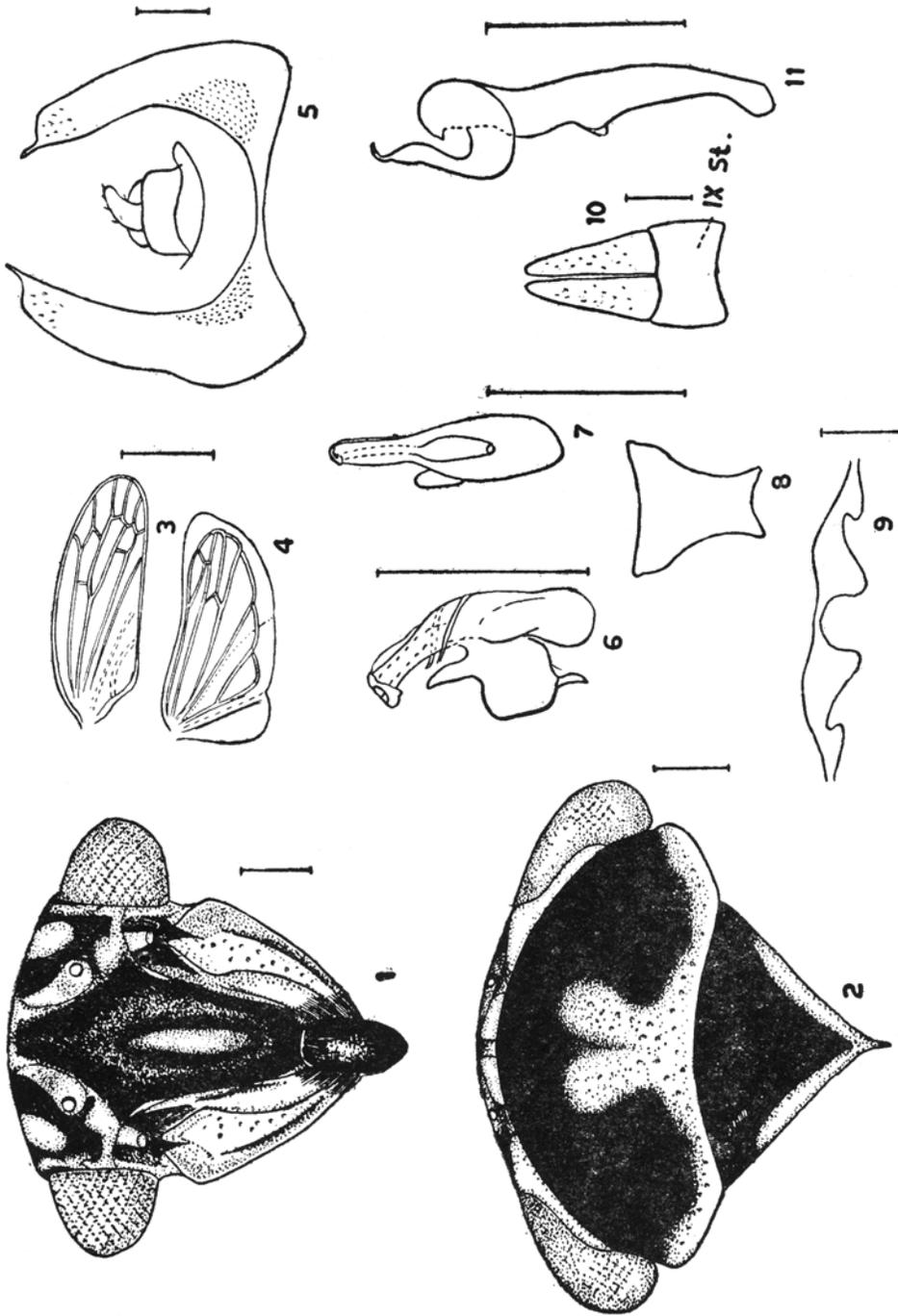
Form: Face (figure 1) slightly broader than long; ocelli large, rounded, situated on face, more removed from each other than from eyes, postclypeus broadly triangular; anteclypeus more or less oval and long. Head broader than pronotum (figure 2) vertex anteriorly obtuse, short in the middle than at the sides; pronotum well granulated with the posterior margin slightly concave. Abdominal apodeme (figure 9) broad and rounded at apex.

Fore wing (figure 3): Tegmina elongated and narrow extending beyond the tip of the abdomen; Veins very clear except claval veins which are obscure; five apical and three anteapical cells.

Hind wing (figure 4): Wings with well developed veins; apical cells four in number.

External male genitalia: Pygofer (figure 5) with its lobes narrow and elongated with a pointed spine at the apex of each lobe, microsetae present on dorso-mesial portion. Subgenital plate (figure 10) long and triangular.

Internal male genitalia: Aedeagus (figures 6 and 7) with short preatrium, atrial apodeme big and irregular shaped, broad in the middle and provided with two projections on anterior and posterior margins; aedeagal shaft cylindrical, longer than atrial apodeme, provided with a pair of thin processes at mid-length, small flap-like structure present at the apical gonopore. Connective (figure 8) trapezoidal with base broader and apex slightly narrowed. Paramere (figure 11) elongated with its cephalic portion short, broad at base and apex and narrowed in the middle, caudally produced into two arms, inner arm broad, curved and pointed, outer arm broad and obtusely rounded at apex.



Figures 1-11. *Durgades distanti* sp. nov. 1. face. 2. pronotum. 3. fore wing. 4. hind wing. 5. pygofer. 6. aedeagus (lateral view). 7. aedeagus (dorsal view). 8. connective. 9. subgenital plate. IX st. ninth sternum. 10. paramere. 11. paramere.

Abdominal apodeme (figure 9) broad and rounded at apex.

All the figures are drawn to the scale of 0.2 mm except in the case of wings which are drawn to 1 mm scale.

Holotype ♂, India: Assam: Shillong, 'Lantana', 30. V. 1918, Coll. A.G.R. (Wings and genitalia on slides and rest on tag). Paratype: 1 ♂, India, Assam: Chirapunji, 30. V. 1918, Coll. A.G.R.

The type specimens are deposited in National Pusa Collections, I.A.R.I., New Delhi.

5. Discussion

This species is very similar to *D. idiocerus* Pruthi (1930) but can be differentiated externally by the colour markings on pronotum and scutellum and also by the shape of tegmina. The blackish colouration on pronotum behind the vertex is restricted only to one fourth the length of pronotum in *D. idiocerus* while the same in the present species extends to nearly three fourth of its length. The scutellum is black almost in this species while only the basal half of the scutellum is black in *idiocerus*. Internally, a cirlet of stout appendages present round the gonopore of *idiocerus* and the same absent in the present species. Thus the paratypes Regd. Nos. 526/H7 and 523/H7, existing in the ZS1 repository have to be separated from the rest of the paratypes.

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