

## Studies on Indian species of *Sciocoris* FALLEN

(Heteroptera: Pentatomidae)

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Abstract: Genus *Sciocoris* redefined, the genitalic characters are incorporated. Two species *S. tamilnadensis* sp. n. and *S. rufus* sp. n. are proposed. A key to Indian species is also provided.

### Genus *Sciocoris* FALLEN

*Sciocoris* FALLEN, 1829: 20.

Type-species: *Sciocoris terreus* SCHRANK

The genus is characterised as follows:

Head wider than long, rounded apically; juga laminated and extended beyond tylus; rostrum extended up to hind coxae; bucculae slightly longer than first rostral segment, anteroventral angles small and rounded; antennae 5-segmented, segment first not reaching apex of head, second about one and a half times the length of third; pronotum with anterolateral margins laminated, humeral angles obtuse; scutellum as long as wide; thoracic sterna deeply sulcated; metasternal scent gland ostiole with peritreme small, slightly raised apically, evaporatoria semicircular and tuberculated; last tergum in female (fig. D) with anterior margin slightly concave, posterior margin broadly curved. Female genitalia: external plates (fig. E), first gonocoxae broadly triangular, paratergites 8th and 9th triangular, spermatheca (fig. F), distal duct small, bulb rounded without tubular outgrowths. Male genitalia: Pygophore as shown in fig. G; subgenital plate (fig. H) of uniform width, anterior margin with prolongation medially, posterior margin broadly concave.

### Key to Indian species of *Sciocoris* FALLEN

*S. lateralis* FIEBER and *S. luteo-fasciatus* DISTANT are not incorporated in the key due to inadequate descriptions.

1. Antennae with segment fourth shorter than fifth ..... 2
- Antennae with segment fourth longer than fifth ..... 4
2. Body and legs yellowish brown or pale red; juga meeting apically (figs. A, L); antennae with segment second subequal to or longer than fourth; rostrum yellowish or reddish except the apical segment dark; pronotum with anterior margin broadly and deeply concave ..... 3
- Body and legs completely dark brown; juga separated apically (fig. I); antennae with segment second slightly shorter than fourth; rostrum completely dark; pronotum with anterior margin broadly and slightly concave ..... *S. tamilnadensis* sp. n.
3. Body completely red with red puncts; antennae with segment second as long as fourth (fig. M); space between ocellus and inner orbital mar-

- gin about one-half the inter-ocellar space (fig. L); thoracic sterna red medially ..... *S. rufus* sp. n.
- Body yellowish brown with dark puncts; antennae with segment second longer than fourth (fig. B); space between ocellus and inner orbital margin less than one-half the inter-ocellar space (fig. A); thoracic sterna dark medially ..... *S. indicus* DALLAS
4. Membrane shining fuscous brown; connexiva pale with black spots at the segmental incisures; body beneath dark piceous-brown ..... *S. funebris* DISTANT
- Membrane piceous; connexiva alternately ochraceous and piceous; body beneath piceous ..... *S. lewisi* DISTANT

*Sciocoris indicus* DALLAS (figs. A-H)

The species has been described in detail by DISTANT (1902).

Material examined: 8 ♀♀, 5 ♂♂, INDIA: Uttar Pradesh, Aligarh University Botanical Garden, on Grass, 30.VI.1978 (M. NAYYAR AZIM); 6 ♀♀, 5 ♂♂, Tamil Nadu, Madras, on *Croton* sp., 11.XI.1979 (M. NAYYAR AZIM); 5 ♀♀, INDIA: Uttar Pradesh, Nainital, Haldwani, on wild plant, 19.5.1986 (M. NAYYAR AZIM).

*Sciocoris tamilnadensis* sp. n. (figs. I-K)

Female:

Head (Fig. I). - Dark brown, darkly and thickly punctate; distinctly wider than long, apex broadly rounded; juga separated apically; eyes and ocelli reddish brown, space between ocellus and inner orbital margin slightly less than one-half the interocellar space. Rostrum completely dark, extended upto hind coxae; segments I, II, III and IV, 0.70, 0.87, 0.34 and 0.3 mm in length respectively. Antennae brownish; segments I, II, III, IV and V, 0.31, 0.39, 0.29, 0.41 and 0.55 mm in length respectively.

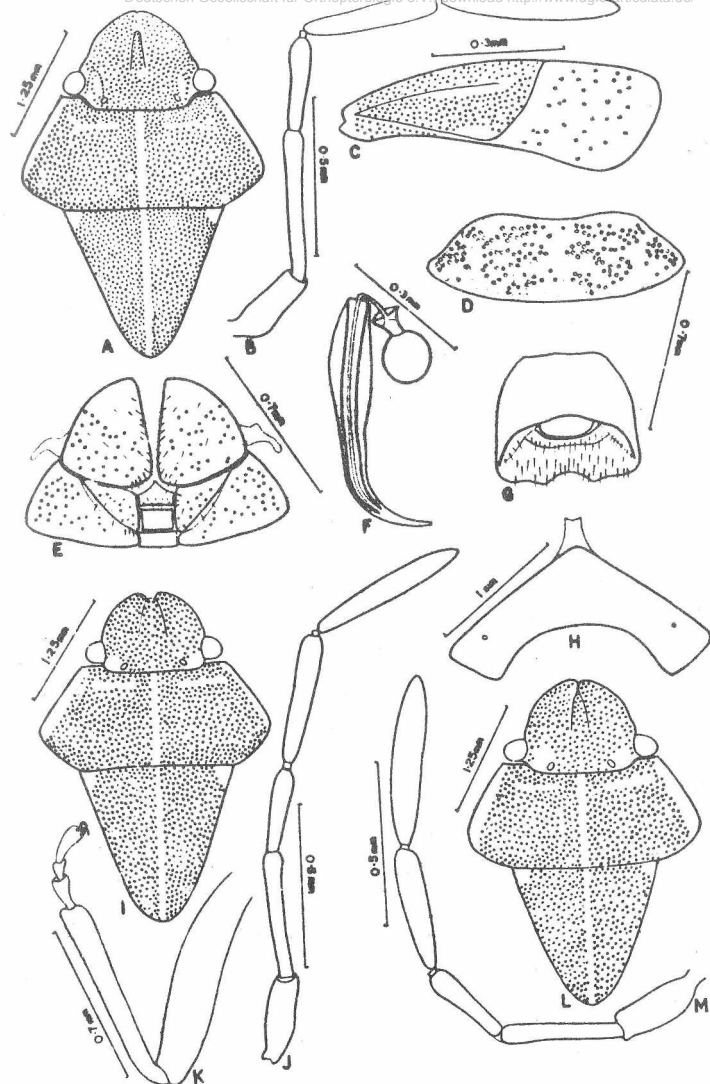
Thorax. - Dark brown and thickly punctate; pronotum with anterior margin broadly and slightly concave, humeral angles obtuse, anterolateral margins straight; maximum width of pronotum about two and a half time its median length; scutellum as long as wide, gradually narrowing apically. Hemelytra with corium weakly sclerotised and sparsely punctate, membrane with dark patches; legs dark brown.

Abdomen. - Dorsum dark, connexiva alternately yellow and dark; venter brownish; dorsum finely, connexiva and venter thickly punctate; about as long as wide.

Body length: 5 mm.

Holotype ♀. INDIA: Tamil Nadu, Madras, on grass, 12.XI.1979 (M. NAYYAR AZIM).

Paratypes: 2 ♀♀ (same data as holotype).



Figs. A-H. *Sciocoris indicus* DALLAS; A. Head and thorax in dorsal view, ♀; B. Antenna, ♀; C. Hemelytra, ♀; E. External genitalia, ♀; F. Spermatheca, ♀; G. Pygophore, ♂; H. Subgenital plate, ♂.  
Figs. I-K. *Sciocoris tamilnadensis* sp. n.; I. Head and thorax in dorsal view, ♀; J. Antenna, ♀; K. Fore leg, ♀.  
Figs. L, M. *Sciocoris rufus* sp. n.; L. Head and thorax in dorsal view, ♀; M. Antenna, ♀.

Female:

Resembles *Sciocoris tamilnadensis* sp. n. except in the following Characters:

Head pale red with red puncts, juga meeting apically, eyes dark, ocelli red; space between ocellus and inner orbital margin about one-half the inter-ocellar space; antennae pale red with second and fourth segments subequal in length (0.41:0.41 mm); thorax, hemelytra with corium, legs and dorsum of abdomen pale red with red puncts; thoracic sterna medially red.

Body length: 4 mm.

Holotype ♀. INDIA: Uttar Pradesh, Aligarh, University Agricultural farm, on *Croton* sp., 28.VI.1978 (M. NAYYAR AZIM).

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