Contribution to the knowledge of the histerid beetles (Coleoptera, Histeridae) of North India

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Abstract: Faunistic records of 23 species belonging to 16 genera of Histeridae from North India, primarily from Uttarakhand province, are presented. All identified species are new to the fauna of Uttarakhand. Three species are reported from India for the first time: Eulomalus pupulus COOMAN, 1937, Atholus maindronii (LEWIS, 1901) and A. pirithous MARSEUL, 1873. The habitus of all studied species is illustrated.

Key words: Coleoptera, Histeridae, India, fauna, new records.

Introduction

The histerid beetles (Coleoptera) are well represented in the Indian subcontinent. Members of this family are small to medium in size, round, oval or elongated in shape, generally black and shining with hard exoskeleton. They are predacious in habit both in larval and adult form, occuring in a variety of habitats namely in soil, in dung of various animals, in termite, nests and under bark. The Indian fauna of Histeridae was studied by early workers like J.Ch. FABRICIUS, G. PAYKULL, CH. WIEDEMANN, W.F. ERICHSON, S.A. MARSEUL, C.G. THOMSON, G. LEWIS and others entomologists. Amongst the above workers MARSEUL (1853) and LEWIS (1892, 1894) studied extensively on the fauna of India and its neighbouring countries and described a large number of Indian species. Later H. BICKHARDT (1913) and A. COOMAN (1932) contributed more to the knowledge about Indian Histeridae. Recently J. THÉROND & W. SCHAWALLER (1978), S. MAZUR (1975) and Y. GOMY (1976) contributed further to our knowledge. Till now about 275 species from 57 genera are known from India in comparison to about 4500 species and 400 genera all over the world (MAZUR 2011a).

The aim of this study is to report the faunistic results of the Histeridae collected by two of coauthors undertaken during Juny 2011 and April 2012 in North India, Uttarakhand province, Uttar Pradesh [classified by LÖBL & SMETANA (2004) as belonging to the Palaeartic fauna].

Material and methods

This paper is based on specimens which are deposited in the following institutions and private collections:
Results

Subfamily Dendrophiinae Reitter, 1909

*Diplostix* sp. (Fig. 1)


*Eulomalus pupulus* Cooman, 1937 (Fig. 2)

Material examined: Uttarakhand province: 1 spec.: left side of Kosi River, 5 km N Ramnagar, N29°43'2'' E79°14'0'', 19-23.06.2011, A. Shavrin (DUBC).

Distribution: The species is known from Vietnam, Burma (Myanmar), Nepal, Sumatra, Borneo, Taiwan, China (Yunnan, Hainan). This is the first record for India here.

*Pachylomalus andrewesi* (Lewis, 1904) (Fig. 3)

Material examined: Uttarakhand province: 3 spec.: left side of Kosi River, 5 km N Ramnagar, N29°43'2'' E79°14'0'', 7-11.06.2011, A. Anichtchenko & A. Shavrin (DUBC).

Distribution: The species was known from South India. First record for North India and Uttarakhand province.

*Platylomalus mendicus* (Lewis, 1892) (Fig. 4)

Material examined: Uttarakhand province: 4 spec.: left side of Kosi River, 5 km N Ramnagar, N29°43'2'' E79°14'0'', 7-11.06.2011, A. Anichtchenko & A. Shavrin (DUBC).

Distribution: The species is known from Far Eastern Russia (Maritime province [=Primorskiy Kray]), Japan, China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Indonesia. Recorded also from India by Cooman (1937): "de diverses localités d’Indochine, des Indes, de Java".

Subfamily Histerinae Gyllenhal, 1808

*Atholus maindronii* (Lewis, 1901) (Fig. 5)

Material examined: Uttarakhand province: 1 spec.: 8 km W Bijnor, Ganga River, N29°24'56.06'' E78°15'2.41'', 08.04.2012, A. Anichtchenko (DUBC), Haryana province: 1 spec.: Kamal, 18.05.2001, M. Raković (CHSM); 1 spec.: New Dehli, 27.09.1997, P. Pucholt (CHSM).

Distribution: The species is known from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Nepal. It is the first record for India.
Figs 1-4. Habitus of Histeridae: (1) Diplostix sp.; (2) Eulomalus pupulus COOMAN; (3) Pachylomalus andrewesi (LEWIS); (4) Platylomalus mendicus (LEWIS). Scale bar: 1.0 mm.

A. pirithous MARSEUL, 1873 (Fig. 6)

reitteri BICKHARDT


Distribution: The species is known from Russia (Maritime province), Japan, China, Taiwan, Korea, Vietnam, Nepal, Oman. It is new records for India here.

Apobletes schaumei MARSEUL, 1861 (Fig. 7)

tener MARSEUL

Material examined: Uttarakhand province: 1 spec.: left side of Kosi River, 5 km N Rammagar, N29°43'2" E79°14', 7-11.06.2011, A. Shavrin (DUBC).

Distribution: The species is known from China (Hainan), Taiwan, Nepal, Burma, Japan and Oriental region. For India recorded from Meghalaya (Chakraborty & Biswas, 2000).

Hister furcipes MARSEUL, 1854 (Fig. 8)

bellicus LEWIS

Material examined: Uttarakhand province: 2 spec.: 8 km NW Jaspur, lake shore, N29°21'10.54" E78°48'30.99", 22-23.04.2012, A. Anichtchenko (DUBC); 3 spec.: 8 km W Bijnor, Ganga River, N29°22'45.06" E78°15'52.41", 08.04.2012, A. Anichtchenko (DUBC).

Distribution: Described originally from "East India" [India or.] without precise locality, known also from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Java and Nepal (Mazur, 2011b).
H. pullatus ERICHSON, 1834 (Fig. 9)

Material examined: Uttarakhand province: 2 spec.: Uttarkashi E 14 km, 1500 m, N30°45'02'' E78°34'26'', 10-12.04.2012, R. Cibuļskis (DUBC); 8 spec.: 8 km NW Jaspur, lake shore, N29°21'10.54'' E78°48'30.99'', 22-23.04.2012, A. Anichtchenko (DUBC).

Distribution: The species is known from East India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nepal, Assam, Tenasserim, Ivory Coast.

Hololepta elongata ERICHSON, 1834 (Fig. 10)

Material examined: Uttarakhand province: 2 spec.: left side of Kosi River, 5 km N Ramnagar, N29°43'2'' E79°140', 7-11.06.2011, A. Anichtchenko & A. Shavrin (DUBC).

Distribution: A common Oriental species, known from India: Arunachal Pradesh.
Figs 11-16. Habitus of Histeridae: (11) *Nasaltus orientalis* (PAYKULL); (12) *Pachylister distorsus* (ILLIGER); (13) *Platylister* (*Platylister*) *atratus* (ERICSON); (14) *P. (P.) odiosus* (MARSEUL); (15) *P. (P.) sororius* LEWIS; (16) *P. (Popinus) confucii* MARSEUL. Scale bar: 1.0 mm.

*Nasaltus chinensis* (QUENSEL, 1806)

*incisus* ERICSON, *mandibularis* GUÉRIN-MÉNEVILLE

Material examined: Uttarakhand province: 2 spec.: 8 km NW Jaspur, lake shore, N29°21'10.54'' E78°48'30.99'', 22-23.04.2012, A. Anichtchenko (DUBC); 1 spec.: 8 km W Bijnor, Ganga River, N29°22'45.06'' E78°1'52.41'', 08.04.2012, A. Anichtchenko (DUBC).

Distribution: The species is known from Japan, Nepal, South Korea, China, Taiwan, East India (Arunachal Pradesh), Oriental region, introduced to Fiji, Samoa, New Hebrides, Australia, Solomon Is., Hawaii, Trinidad, French Guyana.

*N. orientalis* (PAYKULL, 1811) (Fig. 11)

Distribution: The species is known from Pakistan, East India, Nepal, China, Sri Lanka, introduced to Seychelles.

**Pachylister distorsus** (Illiger, 1807) (Fig. 12)

*bengalensis* Wiedemann, *major* Herbst

Material examined: Uttarakhand province: 2 spec.: 8 km NW Jaspur, lake shore, N29°21'10.54" E78°48'30.99", 22-23.04.2012, A. Anichtchenko (DUBC); 1 spec.: 8 km W Bijnor, Ganga River, N29°22'45.06" E78°1'52.41", 08.04.2012, A. Anichtchenko (DUBC).

Distribution: Known from East India (Coromandel), West Bengal, Myanmar, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

**Platylister (Platylister) atratus** (Erichson, 1834) (Fig. 13)

*buteanum* Desbordes

Material examined: Uttarakhand province: 10 spec.: left side of Kosi River, 5 km N Ramnagar, N29°43'2 E79°14", 7-11.06.2011, A. Anichtchenko & A. Shavrin (DUBC).

Distribution: The species is known from Japan, South China, Taiwan, India (Meghalaya, West Bengal), Nepal, Indochina.

**P. (P.) odiosus** (Marseul, 1861) (Fig. 14)

dissimile* Motschulsky, marseulii* Canedeze

Material examined: Uttarakhand province: 1 spec.: left side of Kosi River, 5 km N Ramnagar, N29°43'2 E79°14", 7-11.06.2011, A. Anichtchenko & A. Shavrin (DUBC).

Distribution: The species is known from India (Kerala, West Bengal), Sri Lanka, Indochina, Tenasserim, Borneo, Java.

**P. (P.) sororius** Lewis, 1904 (Fig. 15)

Material examined: 1 spec.: left side of Kosi River, 5 km N Ramnagar, N29°43'2 E79°14", 7-11.06.2011, A. Anichtchenko & A. Shavrin (DUBC).

Distribution: The species is known from India (Meghalaya, Malabar, Nilgiri Hills), Nepal, Burma, Vietnam.

**P. (Popinus) confucii** Marseul, 1857 (Fig. 16)

*hageni* Marseul, *quinquestriatum* Motschulsky


Distribution: The species is known from India (Arunachal Pradesh), China (Guandong, Hainan), Nepal, Oriental region.

**Platysoma brahmani** Lewis, 1910 (Fig. 17)

Material examined: Uttarakhand province: 2 spec.: left side of Kosi River, 5 km N Ramnagar, N29°43'2 E79°14", 7-11.06.2011, A. Anichtchenko (DUBC).
Subfamily Ontophilinae W.S. MacLeay, 1819

Epiechinus hispidus (Paykull, 1811) (Fig. 18)

birmanus Lewis

Material examined: Uttarakhand province: 2 spec.: left side of Kosi River, 5 km N Ramnagar, N29°432' E79°140', 7-11.06.2011, A. Anichtchenko (DUBC).

Distribution: Species described originally from "East India", known from Nepal, Burma, Sri Lanka and Indochina.
Subfamily Saprininae C.E. BLANCHARD, 1845

Saprinus (Saprinus) splendens (PAYKULL, 1811) (Fig. 19)

Material examined: Uttarakhand province; 12 spec.: left side of Kosi River, 5 km N Ramnagar, N29°43' E79°14', 7-11.06.2011, A. Anichtchenko & A. Shavrin (DUBC).
Distribution: The species is known from Capland, tropical Africa, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India (Kashmir), South Korea, Japan, Oriental region, Australia.

Subfamily Tribalinae BICKHARDT, 1914

Parepierus corticicola BICKHARDT, 1913 (Fig. 20)

Distribution: The species was known from India (Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam) and Nepal.

Tribalus (Eutribalus) colombius MARSEUL, 1864 (Fig. 21)

Distribution: The species is known from India (Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Assam, Andaman Is.), Sri Lanka, Burma, Taiwan, Vietnam.

T. (Eu.) koenigius MARSEUL, 1864 (Fig. 22)

Material examined: Uttarakhand province; 17 spec.: left side of Kosi River, 5 km N Ramnagar, N29°43' E79°14', 7-11.06.2011, A. Anichtchenko & A. Shavrin (DUBC).
Distribution: The species is known from India (Andaman Is.), China (Hainan), Vietnam, New Guinea, Aru Is., Tenasserim, Australia.

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Zusammenfassung

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