

University of Jammu & Kashmir
Department of Zoology
Amarsingh Bagh,
Srinagar, Kashmir (India)

P. L. DUDA & Y. R. MALHOTRA

On a new species of *Diplatys* SERVILE, 1931, from Kashmir

(Dermaptera: Pygidicranidae: Diplatyniidae)

With 1 text figure

Dermapterans in India have been studied by BURR (1910), BAIJAL & SINGH (1954), SINGH (1955), KAPOOR (1965, 1966) and RAMAMURTHI (1965). But the ear-wigs from Kashmir appear to have escaped the notice of these entomologists. The present paper deals with an apterous species of *Diplatys*. The only other apterous species of *Diplatys*, (*D. himalayanus*), has been reported by BAIJAL and SINGH (1954) from Nainital District. The present form from Kashmir Valley, although like *Diplatys himalayanus* conforms in its distribution to the himalayan ranges, yet shows distinct morphological differences from the latter.

The present description is based on the studies of both males and females, collected in the month of May, when the post-winter insect emergence is fairly high in Kashmir. The number of females available at the time of collection was greater than that of males, almost in the ratio of 5 females to every 2 males.

Diplatys baijali spec. nov.

(Text fig.)

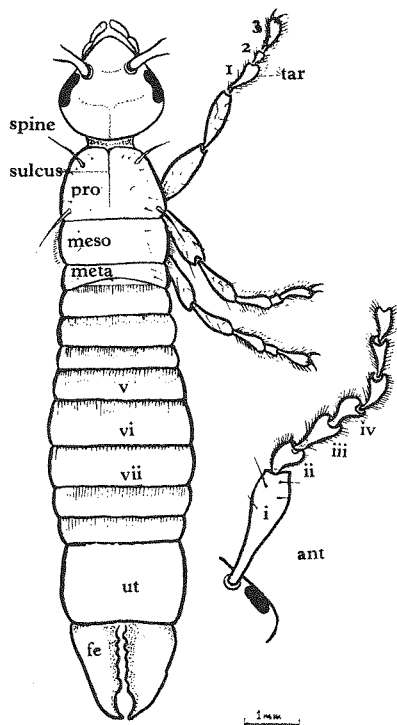
Male. Colour deep brown above, light below; legs yellowish.

Head. Small spinous, tumid between the eyes, depressed posteriorly; sutures indistinct; eyes small, nearly equal to the genae, antennae 15 segmented, almost cylindrical, basal segment (scape) the longest, stout at apex and equal to 3 succeeding segments, the remaining antennal segments nearly equal in size and profusely setose.

Pronotum. Small, a little longer than broad, the posterior broadest portion equals the breadth of head; sides slightly slanting outwards; its four corners provided with one long and a few short spines each, directed anteriorly at forecorners and posteriorly at hind corners; sulcus median and prominent anteriorly.

Mesonotum. More or less rectangular, laterally setose and overlapped anteriorly by pronotum, Posterior margin straight.

Metanotum. Almost half the length of mesonotum, posterior margin inflected; smooth. Wings. Absent.

*Diplatys baijali* spec. nov.

Ant. — antenna; *fc.* — forceps; *meso.* — mesonotum; *meta.* — metanotum; *pro.* — pronotum; *ut.* — ultimate tergum

Legs. Moderately long and stout; I and III tarsals equal in length II tarsal small.

Abdomen. More or less fusiform with 10 distinct segments; 5th, 6th, and 7th segments the broadest, 9th segment smallest, last tergite the longest. Excepting the last tergite, all the rest bear backwardly directed row of setae at their posterior margin. Some segments beset with setae laterally.

Penultimate sternite. Broad and nearly convex.

Pygidium. Not visible.

Forceps. Stout at the base gradually tapering posteriorly; curved near the tips; inner margin crenulate and sparsely setose.

Length. 11 mm. (Forceps, 2 mm. included).

Female. Agrees well with male, but with the following differences.

Metanotum. Equal in length to mesonotum.

Abdomen. Not much depressed in the middle.

Length. 12 mm. (Forceps 2 mm. included).

Holotype. One male and allotype one female in spirit, paratypes four females in spirit. At present in authors' personal collection to be ultimately deposited in the Zoology Deptt. Museum, J. & K. University, Srinagar (Kashmir).

The apterous forms described in the present communication agree in their general morphological details with *Diplatys himalayanus* BALJAL & SINGH, 1954; but differ from it in having only 15 segmented antenna in place of 24 segmented

antenna (BAIJAL et al 1954). The terminal antennal segments also do not agree with those of *Diplatys himalayanus*, because they do not lengthen gradually.

The prominence of a sulcus and the presence of the corner spines on the pronotum in the present forms appears to be another contrasting feature. Though BAIJAL et al (1954) are silent about the presence or otherwise of such spines, yet their absence in *Diplatys himalayanus* is indicated by their drawing (text fig. 2, pp. 456, year, 1954).

Further, the forceps in the present form are proportionately smaller (2 in 11 in males and 2 in 12 in females) than those in *Diplatys himalayanus*.

In conclusion, it may be summed up, that despite its resemblance with *Diplatys himalayanus*, in its apterous condition and in its restriction in distribution to the Himalayas, the present form is a species distinct from *Diplatys himalayanus* on account of differences enumerated earlier. For the present form, the name, *Diplatys baijali* spec. nov. is proposed.

Summary

A new apterous species of *Diplatys* SERVILE, 1931, is described from Kashmir. It differs from only other apterous Indian species (*Diplatys himalayanus*) of the genus in the number of antennal segments, prominence of pronotal sulcus, presence of pronotal corner spines, and shape size and thickness of the forceps. The name *Diplatys baijali* spec. nov. is proposed.

Zusammenfassung

Eine neue ungeflügelte Art von *Diplatys* SERVILE, 1931, wird aus Kaschmir beschrieben. Sie unterscheidet sich von der einzigen anderen ungeflügelten Art (*Diplatys himalayanus*) dieser Gattung in Indien durch die Zahl der Fühlersegmente, einen auffälligen pronotalen Sulcus, das Vorhandensein von pronotalen Eckdornen und durch Form, Größe und Dicke des Forceps. Es wird der Name *Diplatys baijali* spec. nov. vorgeschlagen.

Резюме

Описывается новый безкрылый вид рода *Diplatys* SERVILE, 1931, из Кашмира. Он отличается от единственного другого безкрылого вида (*Diplatys himalayanus*) этого рода в Индии в числе сегментов усиков, заметным пронотальным sulcus, присутствием пронотальных щипов и формой, величиной и толстотой forceps. Предлагается имя *Diplatys baijali* spec. nov.

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