

First record of the family Velocipedidae (Heteroptera: Cimicomorpha) from Nepal

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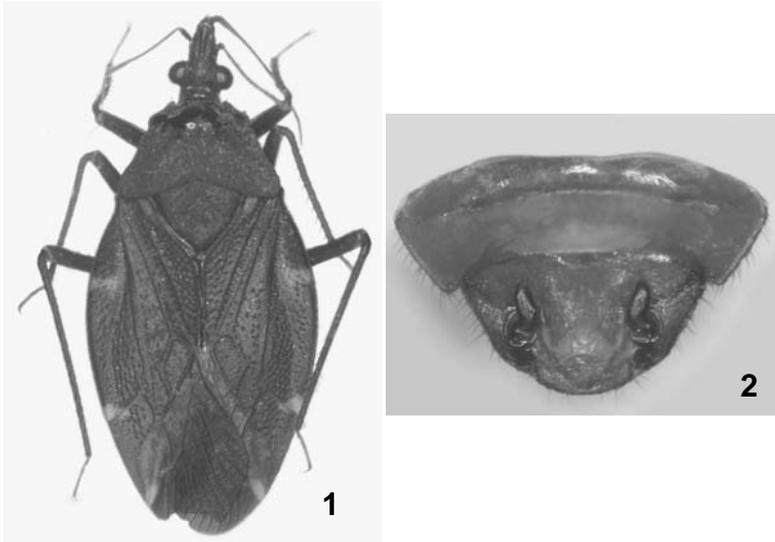
Abstract. *Scotomedes alienus sikkimensis* van Doesburg, 2004 was found in the Annapurna Himal region of Nepal. This is the first record of the family Velocipedidae from Nepal, and the westernmost locality of the family so far.

Key words. Heteroptera, Velocipedidae, *Scotomedes*, Nepal, faunistics, new record

Velocipedidae Bergroth, 1891 are a peculiar heteropteran family distributed in the tropics from eastern India, Nepal and southern China in the north and west to the Philippines, Indonesia, New Guinea and the Solomon Islands in the east and south (VAN DOESBURG 2004). In his comprehensive revision of the family, VAN DOESBURG (2004) recognized three genera (*Scotomedes* Stål, 1873 and *Bloeteomedes* van Doesburg, 1970 from the Oriental region and *Cos-tomedes* van Doesburg, 2004 from the Australian region) with 29 species and four subspecies, of which 19 species and all four subspecies were described as new. One additional species, *Scotomedes huangi* Ren, 2004, was described at the same time from the Guangxi province in southern China (REN 2004).

Two subspecies of *Scotomedes alienus* (Distant, 1904) have been described. The nominotypical subspecies is distributed in Myanmar (= Burma) and China (Yunnan province) at altitudes between 500-1200 m a.s.l. In addition, VAN DOESBURG (2004) mentioned two badly preserved females from Khasia Hills (India: Assam), which may also belong to this subspecies. The second subspecies, *S. a. sikkimensis* van Doesburg, 2004, occurs in north-eastern India (Sikkim; West Bengal: Darjiling and Kalimpong) and Bhutan. The specimens from Kalimpong were collected at an altitude of 1400 m a.s.l. (VAN DOESBURG 2004). Here we present the first record of *S. a. sikkimensis* from Nepal:

NEPAL centr.: Pokhara (28°13'N, 83°59'E) region, Annapurna Himal mts., Modi Khola river valley, environs of Chhomrong village, hotel, 17.ix.2002, 1♂, P. Šrámek lgt. et coll., P. Kment det.



Figs. 1-2. *Scotomedes alienus sikkimensis* van Doesburg, 2004. 1 – habitus of the ♂ from Nepal: Chhomrong (length 10.5 mm); 2 – pygophore of the same specimen, dorsal view.

The captured specimen was collected at the end of the rainy period on the wall of a hotel, being attracted to the hotel lights in an early evening. The hotel is situated in a deep river valley (2100 m a.s.l.) and surrounded by a humid forest. The locality is on the boundary of the subtropical and the temperate zones.

The collection circumstances agree with the scarce information on the habitats of the Velocipedidae available so far (VAN DOESBURG 2004). The Velocipedidae are known from forests and usually from higher altitudes. They are supposedly forest floor dwellers; several specimens were encountered on the moist upper side of dead wood lying on the forest floor. However, most of the known specimens have been taken at light. The biology of the Velocipedidae remains unknown, although they are supposed to be predatory given the structure of their mouthparts (COBBEN 1978, VAN DOESBURG 2004).

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