

New records of *Scotomedes alienus sikkimensis* (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Velocipedidae) from Nepal

Denise WYNIGER

Natur-Museum Luzern, Kasernenplatz 6, CH-6003 Luzern & Naturhistorisches Museum Basel,
Abteilung Biowissenschaften, Augustinergasse 2, CH-4001 Basel, Switzerland;
e-mail: denise.wyniger@lu.ch

Abstract. New records are given from Nepal for the scarce *Scotomedes alienus sikkimensis* van Doesburg, 2004 (Velocipedidae).

Key words. Heteroptera, Velocipedidae, new records, Nepal

Introduction

The Velocipedidae are a tropical family known from an area delimited by eastern India, Nepal and southern China in the north and west, and by the Philippines, Indonesia, New Guinea and the Solomon Islands in the east and south (VAN DOESBURG 2004). The family was revised by VAN DOESBURG (2004), who recognized three genera: *Scotomedes* Stål, 1873, *Bloeteomedes* van Doesburg, 1970, and *Costomedes* van Doesburg, 2004. Altogether 31 recent species are known (VAN DOESBURG 2004, REN 2004, VAN DOESBURG & ISHIKAWA 2008). The westernmost record of the Velocipedidae comes from the Pokhara region in the Annapurna Himalayan mountains at an altitude of 2,100 m a.s.l. (KMENT & ŠRÁMEK 2005). It was collected at light on a house wall.

The information on the biology of the Velocipedidae is very rare as most of the documented specimens were taken at light (VAN DOESBURG 2004). They are found in forests and it is assumed that they are forest floor dwellers. According to COBBEN (1978) and VAN DOESBURG (2004), the structure of the mouthparts suggests that they are predators.

In this paper I present additional data for *Scotomedes alienus sikkimensis* van Doesburg, 2004, from eastern Nepal; I dedicate it to Prof. Pavel Štys on the occasion of his 75th birthday and in recognition of his prominent contribution to the knowledge of the Heteroptera.

Results and discussion

Scotomedes alienus sikkimensis van Doesburg, 2004

Material examined. NEPAL (Fig. 1): Kosi, Num, 27°33'N 87°17'E, 1550 m a.s.l., 8/11.vi.2001, 1 ♀ (NHMB), det. D. Wyniger 2007; Kosi, Num Khola, 27°33'N 87°18'E, 900-1000 m a.s.l., 8/10.vi.2001, 1 ♂ (Fig. 2), 1 ♀ (NHMB), det. D. Wyniger 2007; Kosi, Chichila s/Ahale, 2200 m a.s.l., 24.iv.1984, 1 ♀ (MHNG), lgt. I. Löbl & A. Smetana, det. P. Kment 2007.

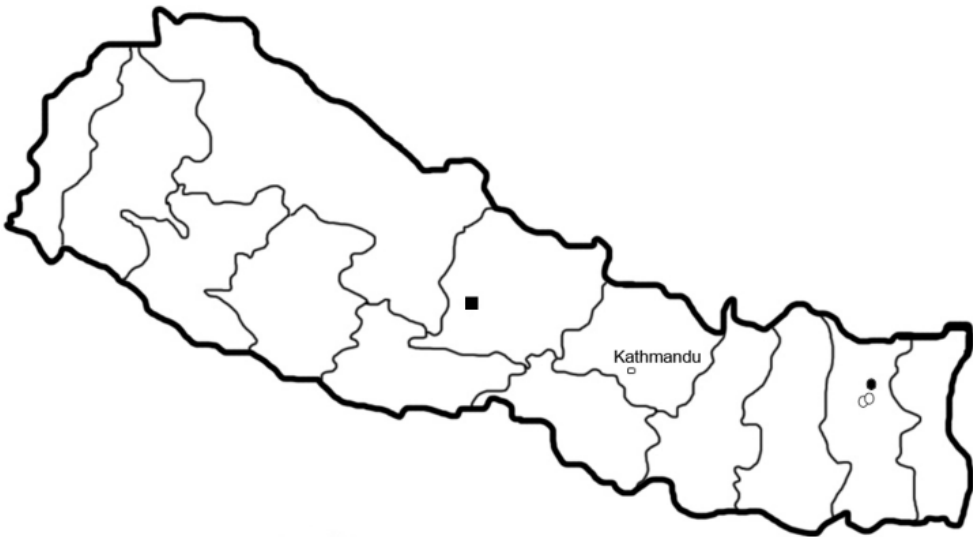


Fig. 1. Records of *Scotomedes alienus sikkimensis* from Nepal. Empty circles: specimens from NHMB; black circle: specimen from MHNG; black square: record in KMENT & ŠRÁMEK (2005).

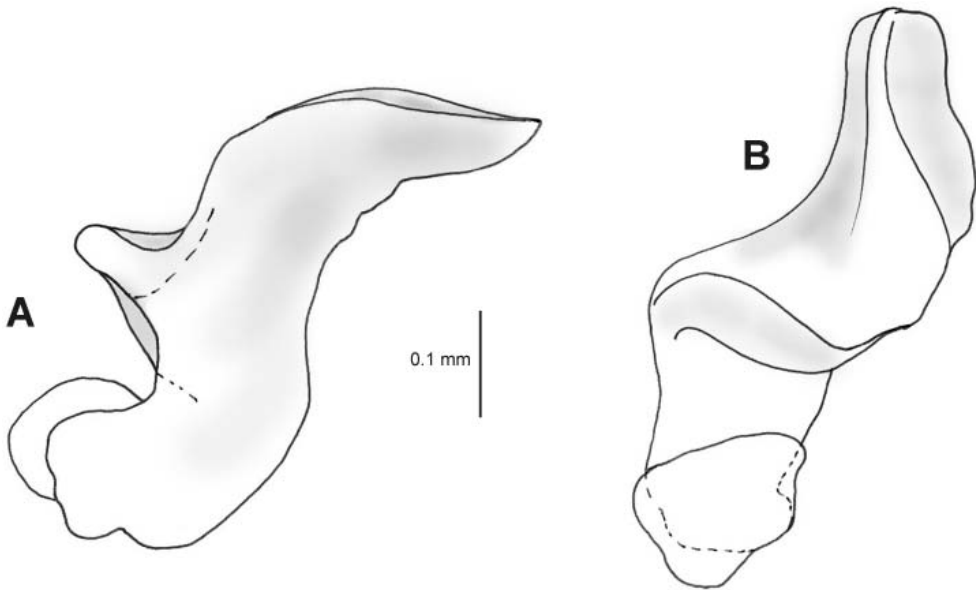


Fig. 2. Right paramere of *Scotomedes alienus sikkimensis* van Doesburg, 2004 from Nepal: Kosi env. A – lateral view; B – caudal view.

Three of the specimens were collected during the expedition of the Natural History Museum in Basel (NHMB) to eastern Nepal in 2001, and one was collected earlier in the same area by I. Löbl and A. Smetana; the latter specimen is deposited in the Muséum d'histoire naturelle, Genève (MHNG).

Scotomedes alienus sikkimensis is now known from north-east India (Sikkim; West Bengal: Darjiling, Kalimpong), Bhutan (VAN DOESBURG 2004), and from central and eastern Nepal (KMENT & ŠRÁMEK 2005, this paper) (Fig. 1).

The NHMB material was collected in an open secondary forest at a river bank. The specimens were taken with a sweep net from low herbaceous vegetation. The material discussed here therefore agrees with the current evidence that the Velocipedidae are forest floor dwellers found in forests at high altitudes (COBBEN 1978, VAN DOESBURG 2004).

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Petr Kment (National Museum, Praha) and Daniel Burckhardt (NHMB, Basel) for their help with the literature and comments on the manuscript. The 2001 trip to Nepal was generously sponsored by the Fritz Sarasin-Stiftung and Pro Entomologia, which are gratefully acknowledged.

References

- COBBEN R. H. 1978: Evolutionary trends in Heteroptera. Part II. Mouthpart-structures and feeding strategies. *Mededelingen Landbouwhogeschool (Wageningen)* **78**: 1-407.
- DOESBURG P. H. VAN 2004: A taxonomic revision of the family Velocipedidae Bergroth, 1891 (Insecta: Heteroptera). *Zoologische Verhandelingen (Leiden)* **347**: 5-100.
- DOESBURG P. H. VAN & ISHIKAWA T. 2008: A new species of *Scotomedes* from Taiwan (Insecta: Heteroptera: Velocipedidae). *Zoologische Mededelingen (Leiden)* **82**: 261-266.
- KMENT P. & ŠRÁMEK P. 2005: First record of the family Velocipedidae (Heteroptera: Cimicomorpha) from Nepal. *Acta Entomologica Musei Nationalis Pragae* **45**: 17-18.
- REN Sh.-Zh. 2004: (Hemiptera: Velocipedidae). Pp. 145-147. In: *Insects of Mt. Shiwandashan area of Guangxi*. China Forestry Publishing House, Beijing, 349 pp (in Chinese, English summary).