

*Bull. zool. Surv. India*, 3 (3) : 269-270, 1981

NEW RECORDS OF NEUROPTERA : PLANIPENNIA FROM THE LACCADIVE ISLAND, INDIA, COUPLED WITH A SHORT NOTE ON THE TAXONOMIC VARIATION OF *CENTROCLISIS EUSTALACTA* (GERST.)

The paper communicates an important observation of zoo-geographical interest on two species, *Ankylopteryx octopunctata* (Fabricius) of the family *Chrysopidae* and *Centroclisis eustalacta* (Gerstaecker) of the family *Myrmeleonidae*, together with a brief taxonomical note on the latter. Of these, the first species is hitherto known to be rather wide spread from China and Rhotung to Maharashtra, South India and also the Andaman, Malayan and Papuan groups of islands, while the second one is confined in the Indian subregion including Uttar Pradesh and Sri Lanka.

The material have been collected by Sri B. P. Halder of Zoological Survey of India (Z. S. I.) from the Androth Island, Laccadive, 'at light'—on 21st December, 1979. The collections seem to be rather stray from the hitherto unexplored Island as a whole. Majority of the elements belonging to the genera *Ankylopteryx* Brauer and *Centroclisis* Navas were described by various workers from the Old World and only 3 species of each genus were known so far from India. The former genus is known to extend from the Ethiopian Region in the west as far as upto the Malayan and Papuan groups of

Islands in the east through India and the latter, from part of the Palaearctic region including Arab and also Ethiopian upto the Indian subregion of the Oriental Region proper.

Presently, both the species under study constitute new locality records for the aforesaid Island which is located in the Arabian sea within the jurisdiction of India.

Taxonomically, *Centroclisis eustalacta* (Gerstaecker) shows an interesting variation at the generic level. Holzel (1972) distinguished 3 genera, viz., *Acanthaclisis* Rambur, *Centroclisis* Navas and *Syngenes* Kolbe, by the presence of double and single series of cells in the costal field throughout, and double series of them only in the distal half of forewing respectively. As to the disposition of cells in the costal field on forewing of the first genus, as mentioned by Holzel (*loc. cit.*), the author is fully agreeable. But, regarding the foregone character particularly for the last genus, the specimens of which have not been seen by the author, it is, however, not clear to him about the exact range of "distal half". Also in the second genus, the author has come across certain deviations of this character, for example, two series of variable number

of cells in the distal half near the pterostigma not only in some of the specimens available in the National Collections at Z. S. I., but also on each of the forewings of the individual specimens from Laccadive and other areas of India, though a few others of the species exhibit the character as given by Holzel (*loc. cit.*). The reasons for such variations being not yet known, the author, however, has considered the species under the genus *Centroclysis* Navas at least from the view point of the other identical characters.

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#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The author is grateful to the Director, Zoological Survey of India for rendering laboratory facilities in the work and to Dr. H. Holzel, Austria, for critically reviewing the paper.

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