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# ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

## ARTHROPODA: INSECTA: PHASMIDA

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# FAUNA OF INDIA CHECKLIST



# ARTHROPODA: INSECTA: PHASMIDA

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**Introduction:** Phasmida are commonly known as stick insects including the leaf insects. This group of insects are nocturnal in habit and herbivorous. They easily camouflage in nature and have little measures for self defense. The elongate stick insects typically resemble twigs, and leaf insects (Phylliidae) look like broadened, flat leaves, providing one of the best camouflages in the animal world. Phasmids are smooth, scarcely or heavily granulated, and sometimes with extensive spines and tubercles. The legs are similar to one another. Wings are present in many species, but they may be shortened or even absent. While they frequently are green or brown to better match vegetation, phasmids sometimes are brightly colored or boldly striped. Species with colorful hind wings rank among the most spectacular of all insects.

They are also blessed by several peculiarities such as high fecundity, gregarious nature, polyphagy and power to regenerate lost body parts. Most species are apterous or with reduced wings particularly fore wings are strongly abbreviated. Extreme sexual dimorphism is the major problem in the identification of phasmids.

**Global diversity:** The order Phasmida is represented by 3,537 species belonging to 543 genera under 13 families globally (Brock *et al.*, 2024).

**Diversity in India:** In India there are 149 species of Phasmids belonging to 51 genera and 5 families. Among the 149 species 73 species are endemic to India.

Diversity in States (Table)

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	No. Species	No. Endemic Species
1	Andhra Pradesh	0	73
2	Arunachal Pradesh	7	
3	Assam	31	
4	Bihar	0	
5	Chhattisgarh	0	
6	Gujarat	0	
7	Goa	0	
8	Haryana	0	
9	Himachal Pradesh	1	
10	Jharkhand	3	



Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	No. Species	No. Endemic Species
11	Karnataka	6	
12	Kerala	24	
13	Madhya Pradesh	0	
14	Maharashtra	3	
15	Manipur	0	
16	Meghalaya	8	
17	Mizoram	0	
18	Nagaland	7	
19	Odisha	2	
20	Punjab	0	
21	Rajasthan	1	
22	Sikkim	16	
23	Tamil Nadu	49	
24	Telangana	0	
25	Tripura	0	
26	Uttar Pradesh	0	
27	Uttarakhand	0	
28	West Bengal	30	
29	Andaman & Nicobar	14	
30	Chandigarh	0	
31	Dadra Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu	0	
32	Delhi	0	
33	Jammu & Kashmir	0	
34	Ladakh	1	
35	Lakshadweep	0	
36	Puducherry	0	
37	State Unknown	11	

73

**Endemism:** Altogether, 73 species Phasmida are endemic to India.

**Habitat:** Found in a variety of habitats, phasmids can be abundant in wet and dry forests and in grasslands. In some countries they are common in gardens. Although they sometimes are found resting on or near their food plants in the daytime, they often are well hidden under leaves on the forest floor or in crevices. Phasmids feed on leaves, taking large, circular bites out of the edges. A few species also eat flowers or bark. Some species have very few host plants, whereas many others accept the

leaves of numerous different plants. Some species frequent treetops and hence are seen rarely. Mostly nocturnal and remaining motionless in the daytime, phasmids blend in with the background; hence procrystis (concealment from predators) is the primary defense. Some species even have the ability to change color to match their surroundings better, perhaps becoming a darker shade toward night time.

**Ecological Significance:** Phasmids are herbivorous, feeding mostly on the leaves of



trees and shrubs. Their role in the forest ecosystem is considered important in maintaining succession and resilience in forests, however occasionally they are also injurious to forests and shade trees by defoliation. In some parts of the world it has been reported that continuous defoliation over several years often results in the death of trees on which it feeds. Since Phasmids cannot fly the infestation caused by them are limited only to a restricted area, as they eat the entire leaf blade. In western part of the world researchers have investigated the feasibility of controlling stick insects using natural enemies such as parasitic wasps.

**Human Significance:** Indirectly Phasmids cause injury to their host plants as they feed on the entire leaf blade, some species have been

known to defoliate forest trees and cause economic losses to shrubbery and shade trees.

**Threatened species:** Species from India are not assessed for IUCN threat categories.

**Protected Species as per WPA (2022):** Phasmida are not listed under any schedules of the Wildlife Protection Act (2022).

**Species under CITES:** Indian Phasmids are not listed under any appendices of CITES.

**Invasive alien species:** No Phasmida species are reported to be invasive in India.

**Gap areas:** Phasmida is poorly documented throughout the country.

### Systematic list:

Indian stick insects belong to the following major groups of families.

#### Order Phasmida

#### Suborder Euphasmatodea

#### Family Lonchodidae Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1893

- 1 *Asceles annandalei* Günther, 1938
- 2 *Asceles elongatus* Redtenbacher, 1908
- 3 *Calvisia (Conocalvisia) fuscoalata* Redtenbacher, 1908.
- 4 *Calvisia (Conocalvisia) hilaris* (Westwood, 1848)
- 5 *Carausius abdominalis* (Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1907).
- 6 *Carausius bolivari* (Brunner, 1907).
- 7 *Carausius burri* Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1907.
- 8 *Carausius debilis* Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1907.
- 9 *Carausius furcillatus* Pantel, 1917.
- 10 *Carausius hilaris* Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1907.
- 11 *Carausius imbellis* Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1907.
- 12 *Carausius insolens* Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1907.
- 13 *Carausius juvenilis* Brunner v. Wattenwyl, 1907.
- 14 *Carausius lobulatipes* Pantel, 1917.
- 15 *Carausius mancus* Brunner v. Wattenwyl, 1907.
- 16 *Carausius morosus* (Sinéty).
- 17 *Carausius nodosus* (Haan, 1842).
- 18 *Carausius patruclis* Brunner v. Wattenwyl, 1907.
- 19 *Carausius pustulosus* Pantel, 1917.



- 20 *Carausius rotundatolobatus* Brunner v. Wattenwyl, 1907.  
 21 *Carausius rudissimus* Brunner v. Wattenwyl, 1907  
 22 *Carausius sikkimensis* Brunner v. Wattenwyl, 1907.  
 23 *Carausius theiseni* Cap.Baill, Fave & de Vichet, 1934.  
 24 *Carausius vacillans* Brunner v. Wattenwyl, 1907.  
 25 *Diesbachia setosipes* Redtenbacher, 1908  
 26 *Eupromachus alienigenus* Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1907  
 27 *Korinnis errans* Günther, 1938  
 28 *Lonchodes brevipes* Gray, 1835.  
 29 *Lonchodes decolyanus* Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1907  
 30 *Lonchodes myrina* Westwood, 1859.  
 31 *Lonchodes normalis* Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1907.  
 32 *Lonchodes verrucifer* Wood–Mason, 1876.  
 33 *Lopaphus baucis* (Westwood, 1859)  
 34 *Lopaphus bootanicus* (Westwood, 1859).  
 35 *Lopaphus porus* (Westwood, 1859)  
 36 *Lopaphus trilineatus* (Carl, 1913).  
 37 *Maculonecrosia menaka* (Wood–Mason, 1877).  
 38 *Marmessoidea casignetus* (Westwood, 1859).  
 39 *Marmessoidea flavomarginata* Redtenbacher, 1908  
 40 *Marmessoidea rosea* (Westwood, 1859).  
 41 *Megalophasma asperatum* (Bates, 1865).  
 42 *Menexenus lacertinus* (Westwood, 1848).  
 43 *Menexenus nudiusculus* Hausleithner, 1992.  
 44 *Menexenus obtusespinosus* Sinéty, 1901.  
 45 *Menexenus quadrilobatus* Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1907.  
 46 *Menexenus rotunginus* Giglio–Tos, 1914.  
 47 *Menexenus semiarmatus* (Westwood, 1848).  
 48 *Menexenus tenmalainus* Günther, 1938.  
 49 *Necrosia affinis affinis* (Gray, 1835)  
 50 *Necrosia manicata* (Lichtenstein, 1802).  
 51 *Neohirasea obesus* (Brunner v. Wattenwyl, 1907).  
 52 *Orxines rugulosus* (Redtenbacher, 1908).  
 53 *Oxyartes cresphontes* (Westwood, 1859).  
 54 *Oxyartes despectus* (Westwood, 1848).  
 55 *Paramarmessoidea annulata* (Fabricius, 1798)  
 56 *Paranecrosia bimaculata* (Olivier, 1792).  
 57 *Paranecrosia marginata* (Gray, 1835).  
 58 *Parasipyloidea ficta* (Redtenbacher, 1908)  
 59 *Parasipyloidea montana* Redtenbacher, 1908.  
 60 *Parasipyloidea shiva* (Westwood, 1859).  
 61 *Parasosibia descendens* Redtenbacher, 1908.  
 62 *Parasosibia inferior* Redtenbacher, 1908.  
 63 *Parasosibia maculata* Redtenbacher, 1908  
 64 *Parasosibia parva* Redtenbacher, 1908.



- 65 *Parasosibia villosa* Redtenbacher, 1908  
 66 *Pericentrus bicoronatus* (Westwood, 1848  
 67 *Pericentrus pinnatus* Redtenbacher, 1908  
 68 *Phraortes curvithorax* (Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1907)  
 69 *Prisomera asperum* (Brunner v. Wattenwyl, 1907).  
 70 *Pseudososibia albidotarsi* Srinivasan, Mukherjee and Chatterjee, 2018.  
 71 *Pseudostheneboea minor* Carl, 1913.  
 72 *Pseudostheneboea segregata* Carl, 1913  
 73 *Sipyloidea acutipennis* (Bates, 1865)  
 74 *Sipyloidea atricoxis* (Westwood, 1859).  
 75 *Sipyloidea breviaalata* Redtenbacher, 1908  
 76 *Sipyloidea fontanesina* Giglio-Tos, 1910.  
 77 *Sipyloidea inscia* Redtenbacher, 1908.  
 78 *Sipyloidea nitida* Günther, 1938  
 79 *Sipyloidea sipylus* (Westwood, 1859).  
 80 *Sipyloidea stigmata* Redtenbacher, 1908.  
 81 *Sosibia pholidotus* (Westwood, 1859).  
 82 *Tagesoidea tages* (Westwood, 1859).  
 83 *Trachythorax conspersus* (Redtenbacher, 1908)  
 84 *Trachythorax illaesa* (Redtenbacher, 1908)  
 85 *Trachythorax maculicollis* (Westwood, 1848).  
 86 *Trachythorax planiceps* Redtenbacher, 1908  
 87 *Trachythorax sparaxes* (Westwood, 1859).

#### Family Phasmatidae Leach, 1815

- 88 *Cuniculina cuniculus* (Westwood, 1859)  
 89 *Cuniculina insignis* (Wood-Mason, 1873).  
 90 *Cuniculina stilpna* (Westwood, 1859)  
 91 *Medaura austeni* (Wood-Mason, 1875).  
 92 *Medaura scabriuscula* (Wood-Mason, 1873).  
 93 *Metentoria regulus* (Westwood, 1859).  
 94 *Phobaeticus annamallayanus* (Wood-Mason, 1877).  
 95 *Phobaeticus ingens* (Redtenbacher, 1908).  
 96 *Phobaeticus sinetyi* Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1907.  
 97 *Phryganistria virgea* (Westwood, 1848).  
 98 *Ramulus aboricus* (Giglio-Tos, 1914).  
 99 *Ramulus alauna* (Westwood, 1859).  
 100 *Ramulus alienus* (Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1907).  
 101 *Ramulus amathia* (Westwood, 1859)  
 102 *Ramulus angustior* (Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1907).  
 103 *Ramulus anterior* (Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1907).  
 104 *Ramulus arrogans* (Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1907).  
 105 *Ramulus artemis* (Westwood, 1859).  
 106 *Ramulus ceylonensis* Otte & Brock, 2005  
 107 *Ramulus cylindriceps* (Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1907).  
 108 *Ramulus decolyi* (Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1907).



- 109 *Ramulus emendatus* Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1907  
 110 *Ramulus filiformis* (Herbst, 1786).  
 111 *Ramulus frustrans* (Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1907).  
 112 *Ramulus hydrocephalus* (Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1907).  
 113 *Ramulus laevigatus* (Wood–Mason, 1873).  
 114 *Ramulus neomodestus* Otte & Brock, 2005.  
 115 *Ramulus oberthuri* (Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1907).  
 116 *Ramulus operculatus* (Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1907).  
 117 *Ramulus penthesilea* (Wood–Mason, 1873).  
 118 *Ramulus perfidus* (Giglio–Tos, 1914).  
 119 *Ramulus rotunginus* (Giglio–Tos, 1914).  
 120 *Ramulus russellii* (Bates, 1865).  
 121 *Ramulus westwoodii* (Wood–Mason, 1873).  
 122 *Rhamphophasma mallati* Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1907.  
 123 *Rhamphophasma spinicorne* (Stål, 1875).  
 124 *Tirachoidea biceps* (Redtenbacher, 1908).  
 125 *Tirachoidea westwoodii* (Wood–Mason, 1875).

**Superfamily Aschiphasmatoidea Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1893**

**Family Aschiphmatidae Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1893**

- 126 *Abrosoma apterum* Redtenbacher, 1906  
 127 *Abrosoma carinulatum* Redtenbacher, 1906.  
 128 *Abrosoma flavoguttatum* Redtenbacher, 1906  
 129 *Abrosoma integerum* (Redtenbacher, 1908).  
 130 *Abrosoma sericeum* Redtenbacher, 1906  
 131 *Abrosoma simplex* Giglio–Tos, 1910.  
 132 *Abrosoma singulare* Redtenbacher, 1906.  
 133 *Aschiphasma annulipes* Westwood, 1834  
 134 *Coloratobistus villosus* (Redtenbacher, 1908).  
 135 *Chlorobistus virescens* (Redtenbacher, 1906)  
 136 *Dajaca nigrolineata* Hennemann, Conle & Bruckner, 1996  
 137 *Dinophasma nathani* Bragg, 2001.  
 138 *Kerabistus (Kerabistus) fulvescens* (Redtenbacher, 1906)  
 139 *Pectodajaca modestum* (Redtenbacher, 1906)  
 140 *Presbistus peleus* (Gray, 1835)

**Superfamily Bacilloidea Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1893**

**Family Bacillidae Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1893**

- 141 *Clonaria beroe* (Westwood, 1859).  
 142 *Clonaria indica* (Gray, 1835).  
 143 *Ladakhomorpha longipes* Hennemann & Conle, 1999.  
 144 *Sceptrophasma hispidulum* (Wood–Mason, 1873).  
 145 *Sceptrophasma humilis* (Westwood, 1859).

**Superfamily Phyllioidea Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1893**

**Family Phyllidae Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1893**

- 146 *Phyllium (Phyllium) westwoodii* Wood–Mason, 1875.  
 147 *Phyllium (Pulchriphyllium) bioculatum* Gray, 1832



148 *Phyllium siccifolium* (Linnaeus, 1758)

149 *Pulchriphyllium anangu* Cumming, Le Tirant, Linde, Solan, Foley, Eulin, Lavado, Whiting, Bradler & Bank, 2023.

**Summary:** The order Phasmida is represented by 3,537 species belonging to 543 genera under 13 families globally, where as in India, there are

149 species belonging to 51 genera and 5 families. 73 species of Phasmida are endemic to India.

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