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Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

## ARTHROPODA: INSECTA: RAPHIDOPTERA Martynov, 1925

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### Comments on the checklist:

E-mail your comments and suggestions to improve the checklist to [zsifaunachecklists@gmail.com](mailto:zsifaunachecklists@gmail.com); [subbuka.zsi@gmail.com](mailto:subbuka.zsi@gmail.com)

# FAUNA OF INDIA CHECKLIST



# ARTHROPODA: INSECTA: RAPHDIOPTERA, Martynov, 1925

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**Introduction:** The order Raphidioptera are commonly known as snake flies. The name Raphidioptera is derived from *Raphis* (needle) and *Pteron* (wings). They are holometabolous living fossils, largely restricted to palearctic region. The body is long, slender with elongated prothorax with movable head. They resemble lacewings but can be separated from the lacewings by their long prothorax. The larvae develop under the bark of trees. They are diurnal and adults and larvae feed on soft bodied

arthropods such as mites and aphids.

**Global diversity:** Globally 372 species under 81 genera and 8 families are known. Most of the species are restricted to temperate forests.

**Diversity in India:** In India 5 species (two subspecies), 2 genera and two families are known to occur in the Western Himalaya and Eastern Himalaya.

## Diversity in States

Table 1: Diversity of Raphidioptera across states

Sl. No.	State / Union Territory	No. of Species	No. of Endemic Species
1	Andhra Pradesh	0	0
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0
3	Assam	0	0
4	Bihar	0	0
5	Chhattisgarh	0	0
6	Gujarat	0	0
7	Goa	0	0
8	Haryana	0	0
9	Himachal Pradesh	0	0
10	Jharkhand	0	0
11	Karnataka	0	0
12	Kerala	0	0
13	Madhya Pradesh	0	0
14	Maharashtra	0	0
15	Manipur	0	0
16	Meghalaya	1	1
17	Mizoram	0	0
18	Nagaland	0	0
19	Odisha	0	0
20	Punjab	0	0
21	Rajasthan	0	0



Sl. No.	State / Union Territory	No. of Species	No. of Endemic Species
22	Sikkim	0	0
23	Tamil Nadu	0	0
24	Telangana	0	0
25	Tripura	0	0
26	Uttar Pradesh	0	0
27	Uttarakhand	1	1
28	West Bengal	0	0
29	Andaman & Nicobar	0	0
30	Chandigarh	0	0
31	Dadra Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu	0	0
32	Delhi	0	0
33	Jammu & Kashmir	3	2(1 species
		(2 sub species)	and 1 sub
		and 2 species	species)
34	Ladakh	0	0
35	Lakshadweep	0	0
36	Puducherry	0	0
37	State Unknown	0	0
	<b>INDIA TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>

**Endemism:** Four species are endemic to India including one sub species.

**Habitat:** They are found in coniferous forests among bark, leaf litter, tree trunk.

**Ecological Significance:** They are diurnal predators of soft bodied arthropods such as mites, springtails, spiders, aphids, eggs, larvae etc.

**Human Significance:** They are considered as potential biological control agents.

**Threatened species:** No species are assessed as threatened in India.

**Protected Species as per WPA (2022):** Species

reported from India are not listed under any Schedules of the Wildlife Protection Act.

**Species under CITES:** Species reported from India are not listed under CITES.

**Invasive alien species:** No invasive alien species are reported from this order.

**Gap areas:** Currently, Raphidioptera is reported only from Jammu & Kashmir and Meghalaya. However, no systematic surveys have been carried out to understand the distribution of this rare insects in other parts of Indian Himalaya. They are expected to be found in the entire Himalayan region and its contiguous states such as Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Mizoram



**Checklist of Raphidioptera Martynov, 1925 of India****Family: Inocelliidae Navás, 1913**

1. *Inocellia fulvostigmata fulvostigmata* Aspöck, U. & Aspöck, H., 1968
2. *Inocellia fulvostigmata nigrostigmata* Aspöck, H., Aspöck, U. & Rausch, H., 1982
3. *Inocellia indica* Liu & Hajong, 2015

**Family: Raphidiidae Latreille, 1810**

4. *Mongoloraphidia christophi* Aspöck, H., Aspöck, U. & Rausch, H., 1982
5. *Mongoloraphidia indica* Aspöck, H., Aspöck, U. & Rausch, H., 1982
6. *Mongoloraphidia kashmirica* Aspöck, H., Aspöck, U. & Rausch, H., 1982

**References:**

Wachkoo, A.A., Kaur, S., Akbar, S.A., Hassan, M.A., Pandher, M.S. & Oswald, J.D. 2024. Catalog of the Neuropterida of India (Insecta: Neuroptera, Megaloptera, Raphidioptera). *Zootaxa* 5544 (1): 001–128.

