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SOME NEW RECORDS OF PRAYING MANTIDS

N.M. Soomro, M.H. Soomro and N. Memon

Department of Zology, University of Sindh – Jamshoro, Sindh Pakistan.

ABSTRACT

Thirteen species of praying mantids have been studied, of these two species namely Eremiphilia persica Uvarov, and Empusa unicornis are recorded for the first time from this area. Thus the present and previous record in all eighteen species of praying mantids occur in Sindh.

Key Word: Mantodea: New Records. Sindh.

Introduction

Wagan et. al (1995) added seven species to the previously reported five species. In continuation of this some further visits were made to the explored and unexplored areas of Sindh. During the present study two more names are added to the known praying mantids of Sindh. Other papers dealing fully or partly with the praying mantids of Sindh are by Wood-Mason (1878, 1889), Murray (1880), Uvarov (1922, 1931), Giglo-tos (1927), Wagan & Mughal (1995).

Results and Discussion:

Mantidae

Microthespis demitrievi? Werner.

This species is characterized by the presence of black transverse band in front of its middle and large elongated black spot in front of the hind margin of prosternu. Our specimens closely resemble the description of M. demitrievi except that the prosternum has heart shaped black spot in front of the hind margin. Should this character prove to be distinct for a fair number of population, it would justify recognition of this phenon, as a distinct sub-species or species, but it is premature.

Material examined: Sindh, Jamshoro, 30-XI.1992 (M.H. Soomro), 2 males, 1 female; same data, but 15.VIII.1994, 1 male, Jamshoro, 19.IX.1995 (N.M.Soomro), 1 male, 1 female.

Mantis religiosa

Material examined: Multan, 7.X.1995 (N.M.Soomro), 1 male; same data, but Jamshoro, 5.X.1992, 1 male; Qasimabad, 30.VII.1997 (N.Memon), 1 male.

Hierodula coarctata

Material examined: Jamshoro, 23.IV.(N.M.Soomro), 2 males, 1 female; same data, but 1.V.1996 2 females; 1 male.

Tenodera ardifolia ardifolia

Material examined: Sindh Jamshoro, 31.VII.1994 (N.Memon), 1 male; same data, but 23.IV.1995, 1 female.

Iris oratoria

Material examined: Sindh, Jamshoro, 8.IV.1994 (N.M.Soomro), 2 males; same data, but 5.XI.1995, 1 female.

Iris splendida

Material examined: Sindh, Jamshoro, 10.X.1994 (M.H. Soomro), 1 male; same data, but 26.X.1995, 2 males.

Eremiaphilidae

Eremiaphilia arabica

Material examined: Sindh, Jamshoro, 4.X.1992 (M>H.Soomro), 1 male, 2 females; same data, but 11.IV.1993, 1 female.

E. laevifrons

Material examined: Sindh, Jamshoro, 4.X.1992 (M.H.Soomro), 1 female.

Humbertiella indica

Material examined: Mirpurkhas, 24.X.1996 (M.H.Soomro), 1 female.

Theopompula sp

Material examined: Nawabshah, 13.IV.1993 (M.S.Wagan), 1 male.

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Empusidae

Empusa unicornis

Material examined: Sindh, Jamshoro, 12.XII.1996 (N.M.Soomro), 1 male, 1 female; same data, but 22.VII.95, 2 females; Jamshoro, 22.XI.96 (M.H.Soomro), 1 female.

Blepharopsis mendica (Fabricuis)

Material examined: Sindh, Jamshoro, 4.X.1934 (N.Memon), 1 female.

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