

ON A SMALL COLLECTION OF LEECHES FROM  
MAHARASHTRA STATE, INDIA

By

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INTRODUCTION

Harding and Moore (1927) have reported only four species of leeches, viz. *Placobdella emydae* Harding, *Hemiclepsis marginata marginata* (Müller), *Paraclepsis praedatrix* Harding and *Hirudo birmanica* (Blanchard) from Maharashtra. I have not come across any subsequent reference to leeches from this area in published literature.

The present paper is a report on a small collection of leeches made by Dr. K. K. Tiwari of the Zoological Survey of India during August-September, 1964, mostly from temporary rain-water ponds and tanks, on the Deccan plateau fringing the Western Ghats in Maharashtra. The material contains eight species adding five new records to the known leech fauna of this area.

I am thankful to Dr. A. P. Kapur, Director, Zoological Survey of India for facilities to work out the collection and to Shri K. K. Mahajan, Superintending Zoologist and Officer-in-Charge for helpful suggestions in the course of the preparation of this report.

SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNT

Family GLOSSIPHONIDAE

Genus *Glossiphonia* Johnson, 1816

This genus is not so far reported from Maharashtra.

1. *Glossiphonia reticulata* Kaburaki, 1921

1921. *Glossiphonia reticulata* Kaburaki, *Rec. Indian Mus.* 22 (5) : 65.

*Material.* —(i) 1 ex. from rain-water pond at Wahgaon, ca. 8 km. North of Karad (Satara District). 6.ix.1964.

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*Distribution.*—Maharashtra (first record); Elsewhere; India: Jullundhur.

## 2. *Glossiphonia annandalei* Oka, 1922

1922. *Glossiphonia annandalei* Oka. *Rec. Indian Mus.*, 24 (4) : 521.

*Material.*—(i) 12 exs. from a rain-water pond at Mahartara, Panhala Fort, ca. 19 km. West of Kolhapur. 9.ix.1964.

*Distribution.*—Maharashtra (first record); Elsewhere: India: Samal Island, (Chilka Lake—Orissa).

## Genus *Hemiclepsis* Vejdovsky, 1883

The nominate subspecies is represented in the material from Maharashtra.

## 3. *Hemiclepsis marginata marginata* (Müller), 1774

1774. *Hirudo marginata* Müller, *Vermium terrestrium et fluviatilium*, i, pars 2.4° Havniae, Lipsie.

1921. *Hemiclepsis marginata*, Kaburaki, *Rec. Indian Mus.* 22 (5) : 689.

*Material.*—(i) 4 exs. from a pond in village Godoli, 2 km. South East of I. Bungalow, Satara. 6.ix.1964. (ii) 2 exs. from a rain-water pond at Wahgaon, ca. 8 km. North of Karad, Satara District. 6.ix.1964

*Distribution.*—Maharashtra: Elsewhere: India: Western Himalayas, Orissa and Bengal.

## Genus *Paraclepsis* Harding, 1924

## 4. *Paraclepsis praedatrix* Harding, 1924

1924. *Paraclepsis praedatrix* Harding, *Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.* (9) 14 : 489, pls. ix-xiv.

*Material.*—(i) 3 exs. from a pond in village Godoli, 2 km. South-East of Inspection Bungalow, Satara District. 1.ix.1964. (ii) 1 ex. from a rain-water pond, Wai, (Satara District). 28.viii.1964. (iii) 4 exs. from a rain-water pond at Mahartara, Panhala Fort, Kolhapur District. 9.ix.1964.

*Distribution.*—Maharashtra: Elsewhere, Throughout India.

5. *Paraclepsis vulnifera* Harding, 1924

1924. *Paraclepsis vulnifera* Harding, *Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.*, (9) 14 : 489, pls. ix-xiv.

*Material*.—(i) 1 ex. from a rain-water pond at Wahgaon, ca. 8 km. North of Karad (Satara District). 9.ix.1964.

*Distribution*.—Maharashtra (first record) ; Elsewhere : India : Tanjore District, Madras.

## Family ERPOBDELLIDAE

This family is not so far recorded from Maharashtra. The present collection contains two species of the genus *Herpobdelloidea*.

Genus *Herpobdelloidea* Kaburaki, 19216. *Herpobdelloidea indica* (Kaburaki), 1921

1921. *Nematobdella indica* Kaburaki, *Rec. Indian Mus.*, 18 : 707, text-fig. 7.

*Material*.—(i) 1 ex. from rain-water pond at Alibagh, (Colaba District), ca. 56 km. West of Khopoli. 27.ix.1964.

*Distribution*.—Maharashtra (first record) ; Elsewhere : India : Simla Hills, Punjab and Madhya Pradesh.

7 *Herpobdelloidea lateroculata* Kaburaki, 1921

1921. *Herpobdelloidea lateroculata* Kaburaki, *Rec. Indian Mus.* 18 : 705-706, fig. 4.

*Material*.—(i) 8 exs. from a pond in village Godoli, 2 km. South East of Inspection Bungalow, Satara. 1. ix.1964.

*Distribution*.—Maharashtra (first record) ; Elsewhere : India : Saugar (Madhya Pradesh) and Manipur.

## Family HIRUDIDAE

## Subfamily HIRUDINAE

Genus *Hirudo* Linnaeus, 17588. *Hirudo birmanica* (Blanchard, 1894)

1894. *Haemopsis birmanica* Blanchard, *Ann. Mus. civico di Storia Naturale, Genova*, 2 : 113-118.

1924. *Hirudo nipponica fuscolineata* : Moore, *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci., Philadelphia*, 51, 373-374, pl. xxi, figs. 27, 28.

*Material.*—(i) 9 exs. from a rain-water pond on Vetal Hills, Poona. 17.ix.1964.

*Distribution.*—Maharashtra ; Elsewhere : India : Widely distributed.

#### SUMMARY

Eight species belonging to five genera and three families of leeches from Maharashtra are studied of which one family, two genera and five species are reported for the first time from Maharashtra.

#### REFERENCE

HARDING, W. A. and MOORE, J, P, 1927. *Fauna of British India, including Ceylon and Burma*—Hirudinea : XXXII+1-302, 9 pls., London (Taylor & Francis).