SHORT COMMUNICATION

A. Mazumdar, S. Mitra. A NEW SPECIES OF THE GENUS *MALAYAXENOS* KIFUNE, 1981 (STREPSIPTERA: CORIOXENIDAE) FROM INDIA. – Far Eastern Entomologist. 2011. N 229: 7-10.

Summary. New species *Malayaxenos capillipenis* **sp. n.** is described from India. Holotype and paratrype of a new species are deposited in the National Zoological Collections, Kolkata.

Key words: Strepsiptera, Corioxenidae, *Malayaxenos*, new species, India.

А. Мазумдар, С. Митра. Новый вид рода *Malayaxenos* Kifune, 1981 (Strepsiptera: Corioxenidae) из Индии // Дальневосточный энтомолог. 2011. N 229. С. 7-10.

Резюме. Из Индии описан *Malayaxenos capillipenis* **sp. n.** Голотип и паратип нового вида хранятся в Национальной зоологической коллекции, Калькутта.

INTRODUCTION

Strepsiptera is the group of insect parasitoids with wide range of hosts and unique host-parasitoid relationship. The hosts harboring parasitoids undergo various changes in morphology, disruption of development and life often deactivating immune system, liter of hormones and behavior (Beckage & Gelman, 2004). Up to now 21 species from eight genera of Strepsiptera were known from India (Kathirithamby, 1993; Chaudhuri & Mazumdar, 2000).

The genus *Malayaxenos* Kifune, 1981 was established for the type species *M. kitaokai* Kifune, 1981 from Malaysia (Kifune, 1981). *Malayaxenos* being closely related to *Triozocera* Pierce, 1909 is characterized by medium size, 6-segmented antenna with long flabella of 3rd and 4th segments, moderately long 5th and 6th segments, by simple maxillary palpus, by absence of mandible, by almost similar veins in hind wing like *Triozocera* (see Pierce, 1909), by 4-segmented tarsi without claw, by elongated elliptical IX segment, by tongue-like semielliptical X segment, and by more or less straight capillary-like aedeagus. The genus *Malayaxenos* includes two species, *M. kitaokai* and *M. trapezonti* Pohl et Melber, 1996 from Malaysia and Germany respectively (Pohl & Melber, 1996). A new species of this genus is described below from India.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The free-living adult males caught in the light trap operated in the university campus of Burdwan, India**.** The insects were mounted on micro slides following terminology and usages of Chaudhuri & Mazumdar (2000). All measurements are in millimeter (mm) with average values indicated in the text.

Type and paratype now retained with the Collection of insects at the Department of Zoology, University of Burdwan, India and will be deposited to the National Zoological Collections (NZC), Kolkata in due course.

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES

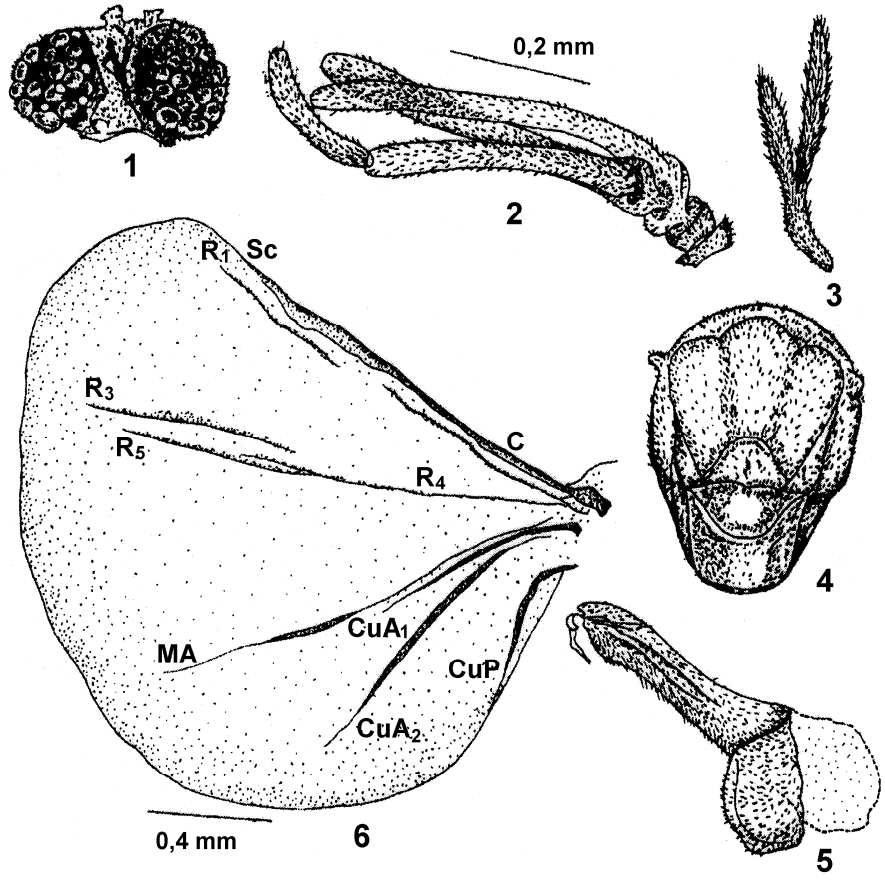
***Malayaxenos capillipenis* Mazumdar et Mitra, sp. n.**
Figs 1–10

MATERIAL. Holotype – ♂, India: Bangla, Burdwan, 23°14’N, 87°39’E, light trap, 23.VIII 2004 (coll. S. Mitra). Paratype – ♂, the data same as holotype.

DESCRIPTION. MALE. Medium sized insect. Head breadth 0.66, length of head and thorax together 1.35, length of antenna 0.87, maxilla 0.18, palp 0.42, scutellum length 0.26, breadth 0.45, postscutellum length 0.45; wing 2.06; length of aedeagus 0.72.

Head. Elliptical, broader, frontal area produced. Eyes (Fig. 1) hemispherical with rounded ommatidia, each having more than 25 visible facets. Antenna (Fig. 2) 6-segmented, 1st and 2nd segments little broader and cup-like, 3rd and 4th segments with long and almost equal flabella, 5th segment long, 6th segment shorter than 5th one; length ratio of antennal segments 0.05 : 0.07 : 0.09 : 0.07 : 0.04 : 0.32. Maxilla (Fig. 3) darker, with longer cylindrical hairy basal segment; maxilla spear headed; maxillary palpus smaller in length, arising from the middle of basal segment. Mandible absent.

Thorax brown. Prothorax girdle-like; mesothorax broad, more or less crown shaped, flanked by lateral elongated sclerite; scutellum equilaterally triangular; postlubium spindle-like, elongated transversely; postscutellum longer and pouch-like with a median constriction (Fig. 4). Pseudohaltere club-like with long stem and dark brown knob (Fig. 5).



Figs. 1–6. *Malayaxenos capillipenis* sp. n. 1) eyes, dorsal view; 2) antenna; 3) maxilla; 4) thorax; 5) pseudohaltere; 6) hind wing.

Hind wing (Fig. 6) pale brown, *C* and *Sc* proximally far apart; *Sc* extended almost 3/4 of wing; *R* at the base; R_1 arising near the base of *C+Sc* running parallel; *Sc* and R_1 very closer; R_2 absent; R_3 little away from R_1 and slightly bent, reaching tip of wing; R_5 long, appearing as a branch of vein R_4; vein *MA* long and straight, ending before wing margin; vein CuA_1 almost half of CuA_2; *CuP* reduced to a small pigmented strip.

Legs (Figs. 7–9). Dark brown, long and slender; fore coxa and fore femur more or less equal, tibia little shorter; hind coxa shorter than hind femur; tibia long and broad distally; tarsi 4-segmented, without claw,1st and 2nd tarsal segments each bearing a bent apical projection.

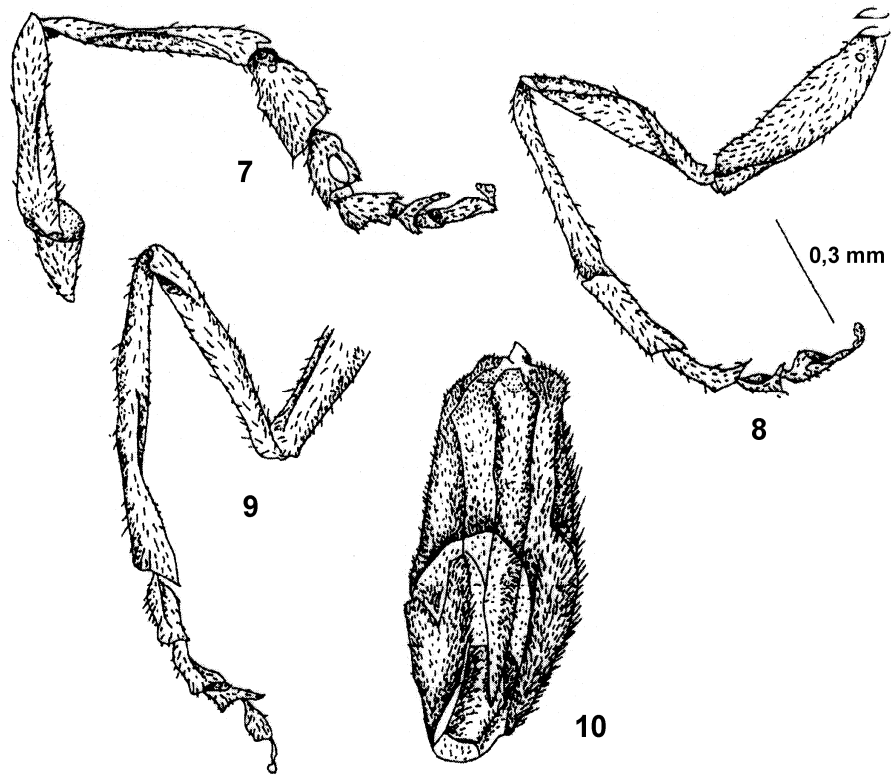
Abdomen brown. Genital capsule elliptical, proctiger rectangular, aedeagus long and capillary tube-like (Fig. 10).

FEMALE. Unknown.

HOST. Unknown.

ETYMOLOGY. The name '*capillipenis'* derives from capillary tube-like aedeagus.

REMARKS. The new species looks similar to *Malayaxenos kitaokai* in general structure of antennal segments, wing venation, abdominal tergites and aedeagus. It also closer to *M. trapezonti* in structure of maxilla, wing venation, legs and aedeagus. But the following distinguishing features are quite different from the known species of genus and do favor for



Figs. 7–10. *Malayaxenos capillipenis* sp. n. 7) for leg; 8) mid lrg; 9) hind leg; 10) genital pouch and aedeagus.

treating the species from India as new: 1) antennal segments 5 and 6 together evidently longer than flabellum of 4th segment, 2) maxillary palpus long and spear headed, 3) veins *MA* and CuA_2 ending before wing margin, 4) vein CuA_1 almost half of CuA_2, 5) vein *CuP* reduced to a narrow strip and 6) aedeagus long and capillary tube-like.

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