

DIVERSITY OF ROVE BEETLES FROM KANGRA, HIMACHAL PRADESH (COLEOPTERA : STAPHYLINIDAE)

ABHA SAR

Zoological Survey of India,
M-Block, New Alipore,
Kolkata-700053.

E-mail : abhasar@gmail.com

Kangra is a popular district of the state Himachal Pradesh, India. Dharmshala is the administrative headquarters of the district. It is home of Masroor Rock Cut Temple, also known as Himalayan Pyramids, a wonder of the world. The Kangra District of Himachal Pradesh is situated in the Western Himalaya, between 31°2 to 32°5 N and 75° to 77°45 E. The district has a geographical area of 5,739 km. which constitutes 10.31% of the geographical area of the State.

The members of the family Staphylinidae are commonly known as rove beetles. It is one of the largest family of the superfamily Staphylinoidea distributed throughout the world. 30,000 species are known from the world, of which more than 3000 species are recorded so far from India.

The present work is based on the collections brought from district Kangra by different survey parties of the Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta. The study is based on 22 examples, comprising 4 species under 2 genera.

Order : Coleoptera

Family : Staphylinidae

Subfamily : Paederinae

Tribe : Paederini

1. *Paederus kuluensis* Bernhauer

1914. *Paederus kuluensis* Bernhauer, W.Z.B., 64 : 99.

1931. *Paederus kuluensis* : Cameron, *Fauna Br. India, Col.: Staph.*, 2: 55.

Material examined: India: Himachal Pradesh, Kangra, Gaggal, 12 exs., 27.iii.2011, Animesh Bal & party coll.

Diagnostic characters: Head and elytra blue, thorax and abdomen red, head is narrow and strongly retracted behind and longer. The elytra finely and equally punctured. Length 9.5 mm.

Distribution: India: Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand.

2. *Paederus basalis* Bernhauer

1914. *Paederus basalis* Bernhauer., W.Z.B., 64: 98.

1931. *Paederus basalis*: Cameron, *Fauna Br. India, Col.: Staph.*, 2: 54.

Material examined: 34 exs., India: Himachal Pradesh, Kangra, Gaggal, 2 exs., 27.iii.2011, Animesh Bal & party coll.

Diagnostic characters: Head and elytra blue, thorax and ab-

domen red, the base of the 1st segment visible and last two segments black. Antennae, palpi, and legs black. Length 9.5 mm.

Distribution: India: Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand.

3. *Cryptobium rosti* Schub.

1908. *Cryptobium rosti* Schub., D.E.Z., 622.

1931. *Cryptobium rosti* : Cameron, *Fauna Br. India, Col.: Staph.*, 2: 249-250.

Material examined: 2 exs, India: Himachal Pradesh, Kangra, Dharmshala, 1 ex., 15.vii.2014, V.D. Hegde & party coll.

Diagnostic characters: Black, head oval, antennae red. Femora yellow, the tibiae and tarsi reddish. Length 8 - 9 mm.

Distribution: India: Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand.

4. *Cryptobium spectabile* Kraatz

1859. *Cryptobium spectabile* Kraatz, *Arch. Naturg.* 25, I.: 118.

1931. *Cryptobium spectabile*: Cameron, *Fauna Br. India, Col.: Staph.*, 2: 233-234.

Material examined: 5 ex, India: Himachal Pradesh, Kangra, Palanpur, 2 exs., 16.vii.2014, V.D. Hegde & party coll.

Diagnostic characters: Larger, with broader head and more coarsely punctured thorax, elytra, and abdomen. The punctuation of head more or less umbilicate.

Distribution: India: Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Uttarakhand, Northern India.

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Reference

Cameron, M. 1931. *The Fauna of British India, including Ceylon and Burma (Col.: Staphylinidae)*. Taylor & Francis, London, 2: iii + 257 pp., 2 pl.

'Parwal' to Control Diabetes

If you are a diabetic, don't worry as leaves of "*Trichosanthes dioica*" or parwal or 'paatal' can rescue you.

Researchers at the Department of Chemistry, Allahabad University, have shown that the extract prepared by the leaves of parwal brings down the blood glucose level (BGL) by over 32%.

The findings have been published in an international journal, *Pharmaceutical Biology*, in England.

The aim of the study was to screen the glycemic attributes of an aqueous extract of leaves of parwal. This evidence indicates that extract of "*Trichosanthes dioica*" leaves has good hypoglycemic potential along with a high anti-diabetic profile.