

Taxonomic notes on *Sarju* Ghauri, 1977 (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Pentatomidae) with description of a new species from India

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Abstract

The genus *Sarju* Ghauri, 1977 (Hemiptera: Pentatomidae: Pentatominae: Halyini) is redescribed along with the description of a new species, *Sarju brevirostrata* sp. nov. *S. farida* Ghauri, 1977 and *S. nigricollis* (Westwood, 1837) are redescribed based on the availability of specimens and the species *Cahara nodula* Fan and Liu, 2013 was transferred from *Cahara* to *Sarju* and proposed *Sarju nodula* comb.nov. Therefore, at present *Sarju* comprises 11 species worldwide. A key to the eight species of *Sarju* occurring in India is also provided.

Key words: *Cahara*, *Dalpada*, Halyini, setose process, *farida*, *nigricollis*

Introduction

The genus *Sarju* Ghauri, 1977 is primarily Oriental with its species distributed in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, Bhutan, India, Iran, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Vietnam (Ghauri 1977, Ahmad & Afzal 1984, Memon & Ahmad 2009). So far, a total of nine species are described under this genus, of which seven are known from India (Ghauri 1977, Ahmad & Afzal 1984). Ghauri (1977) described eight species in *Sarju* along with three subspecies and divided them into four groups, viz, group I, group II, group III and group IV, based on the structure of antennae, head, male and female genitalia. Out of these four groups, group IV is characteristic for their straight second antennal segment unlike the geniculate antennal segment possessed by other groups. Later on, Ahmad and Afzal (1984) described *S. angulata* from a couple of specimens collected on *Salix* sp. and *Populus* sp. from Gilgit, Pakistan. Rider *et al.* (2002) dealt with a few nomenclatural changes and distribution records for *S. burmana* Ghauri, *S. nigricollis* (Westwood) and *S. taungyiana* Ghauri. Later, Rider (2006) listed six species along with notes on nomenclatural changes and distribution in the catalogue of the Heteroptera of Palaearctic region. Memon and Ahmad (2009) revised *Sarju* along with all the 9 included species and 3 subspecies and examined the relationships among them based on various morphological characters. In addition, a key and a preliminary cladogram to all the included species were also provided. Fan (2011) dealt with 3 species of *S. nigricollis*, *S. burmana* and *S. taungyiana* from China.

Like most of the taxa of Halyini, members of *Sarju* are also bark dwellers of various tree species and most of its members possess the external colouration similar to that of the bark on which they reside, probably a form of crypsis to hide from natural enemies (Salini 2019). They are dull coloured and are moderately large bugs (12–15 mm). The genus is closely related to *Cahara* Ghauri, 1978, but, *Sarju* can definitely be separated from the former by the absence of median lobes in the concave ventral margin of genital capsule (Ghauri 1977). The various species of *Sarju* are superficially similar and examination of male and female genitalia is crucial to identify species, like in most of the genera of Halyini.

The genus *Sarju* can be defined by the following set of characters: Head elongate with mandibular plates longer or as long as clypeus, mandibular plates meeting or not meeting in front of clypeus; lateral margins of head with one or two pairs of tooth, humeri nodulose, or produced into spinous structure; peritreme typical ‘Halyini type’ (Salini