TRANSACTIONS AMERICAN ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

RESEARCH ARTICLE

TAES 144: 239 - 261
ISSO 0002-8320
http://taes.entomology-aes.org/

Representative species of the tribe Catantopini (Orthoptera: Acrididae) from India

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ABSTRACT

In India, the grasshopper subfamily Catantopinae in Acrididae is easily distinguished on the basis of the conical prosternal tubercle. Grasshoppers of this family are well represented in the tropics and subtropics; among them, representatives of the tribe Catantopini are moremore commonly encountered. Although the subfamily Catantopidae is a well-known group, whose members include some of the most notorious agricultural pests; members of the tribe Catantopini do not happen attain pestif status in agroecosystems. Seven commonly encountered species viz., *Xenocatantops humilis* (Serville), *Xenocatantops karnyi* (Kirby), *Xenocatantops henryi* (Bolivar), *Stenocatantops splendens* (Thunberg), *Diabolocatantops innotabilis* (Walker), *Diabolocatantops pinguis* (Stal), *Catantops erubescens* (Walker) collected from different parts of India have been described; and the occurrence of a new species *Stenocatantops pasighatinensis* sp. nov., is proposed.

Key words: Orthoptera, Acrididae, Catantopini, New species, India.

INTRODUCTION

For many years, the work of Kirby (1914) was the standard for the Indian grasshopper fauna (Acridoidea). More recently, several publications dealing with the taxonomy, distribution and ecology of the grasshoppers of India (e.g. Bhowmik 1985, 1986, 1993, Tandon 1976, 1988) and numerous papers dealing with single taxa or local areas are available; however, grasshoppers of economic importance happen to be among the best studied (Mondal *et al*., 1999). For India, the systematics of the family Acrididae is still far from resolved. The Catantopinae, as understood since the time of Mishchenko (1952) and Willemse (1956, 1957) was later split in nearly twenty sub-families; most of them comprise distinct forms and contain only between three and less than 14 genera, an exception are the Holarctic Melanoplinae with nearly 130 genera. The majority of genera however were left in the Catantopinae; currently 380 genera are listed under this subfamily (Cigliano *et al*., 2017). The Catantopinae are further divided into 17 tribes and 16 of these tribes contain only one to four genera. The tribe Catantopini comprises 142 genera, but this number is exceeded by the 210 genera in Catantopinae that are not assigned to a tribe (Cigliano *et al*., 2017). The annotated checklist of orthopteran fauna includes 6 genera and 15 species in the tribe Catantopini and the sub-tribe Catantopina from China (Shishodia *et al*. 2010).

Li *et al*. (2011) provided a possible scheme of classification of Catantopidae from China based on parsimony phylogenetic analysis of 86 genera and 79 phylogeny–informative morphological characters. Accordingly, the Chinese Catantopidae are placed into seven subfamilies: Habrocneminae, Catantopinae, Cyrtacanthacrinae, Calliptaminae, Coptacridinae, Oxyinae, and Podisminae; among these, Habrocneminae, Catantopinae, Cyrtacanthacrinae and Calliptaminae are unambiguously supported as monophyletic clades with the subfamily Catantopinae comprising the genera: *Catantops*, *Stenocatantops* and *Xenocatantops*.

Publication date: 25 April 2018 urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:9172CAD0-8F39-4070-A2EF-