First Record of Clonacris kirbyi (Orthoptera: Acrididae) in Maharashtra State, India

Authors: Sunil M. Gaikwad, and Yogesh J. Koli
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The genus *Clonacris* was established by Uvarov in 1943, which belongs to the subfamily Hemiacridinae of the family Acrididae. The characteristic features of this genus suggest affinity with genus *Pareuthymia*. In addition, it shows more intimate relationship with the genera *Phalinus*, *Hemacris*, *Diademacris* and *Pristocorypha* (Rehn 1944). The genus *Clonacris* is characterized by its non-strumose ventral genal margins. The pronotum is short and transverse. The lateral lobes with more vertical and not all longitudinally oblique axis. The narrower and more elongate tegmina, wings more attenuate and the moderately compressed. The male has the subgenital plate rostrately produced and the cerci elongate, tapering, aciculate and subfalciform.

There are 4 species of *Clonacris* distributed in the India, viz: *C. finoti*, *C. grenni*, *C. kirbyi* and *C. sila* (Tandon 1976). The species *Clonacris kirbyi* was described by Finot (1903) and then by Kirby (1914) as *Euthymia kirbyi*. Later Uvarov (1943) and Rehn (1944) placed this species under the genus *Clonacris*. This species is known from different states of India, viz: Chhattisgarh (Chandra & Gupta 2007), Madhya Pradesh (Chandra et al. 2007; Gupta & Chandra 2009), Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh (Shishodia et al. 2010). The other species *Clonacris sila* Rehan, 1944 was described from Bihar and Tamil Nadu (Shishodia et al. 2010).

In Maharashtra state the species *C. kirbyi* is recorded for the first time from evergreen forested area of Patgaon, Taluka Chandgad, Dist., Kolhapur [N 16° 07' 40.66" E 73° 56' 04.15", 2098 ft (639.5 m) asl], which is part of the North Western Ghats ecoregion. The specimen (Fig. 1) was collected in winter on 1 Dec 2012. The identification was confirmed with the help of reference collection available at the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Kolkata and Dr. G. Shrinivasan for permission to examine the Orthoptera reference collection available at the ZSI Kolkata. We thank Shivaji University Kolhapur for providing the laboratory facility and financial support for publication and the Kolhapur Forestry office for giving permission to collect specimens. We are also thankful to the University Grant Commission (UGC) New Delhi for providing financial support during work.

**SUMMARY**

*Clonacris kirbyi* Finot (Orthoptera: Acrididae: Hemiacridinae) is reported for the first time from the Patgaon of Maharashtra state, a region of North Western Ghats.

Key Words: Hemiacridinae, North Western Ghats ecoregion

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Fig. 1. Clonacris kirbyi Finot collected at Patgaon, Taluka Chandgad, Dist., Kolhapur [N 16° 07' 40.66" E 73° 56' 04.15", 2098 ft (639.5 m) asl], northwestern Ghats, Maharashtra, India.