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Source: Florida Entomologist, 96(3) : 1193-1195

Published By: Florida Entomological Society

URL: <https://doi.org/10.1653/024.096.0365>

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FIRST RECORD OF *CLONACRIS KIRBYI* (ORTHOPTERA: ACRIDIDAE) IN MAHARASHTRA STATE, INDIA

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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*, *Hemiacris*, *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: Chhattisgarh (Chandra *et al.* 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 of Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Kolkata, and detailed characters given by the original author (Kirby 1914), i.e., body very stout, light brown with green spots and blotches. Head reddish brown, with green marking above, finely punctured; antennae slender, 23 jointed, shorter than the head and pronotum together, rusty brown, darkest in the middle. Pronotum short, constricted in the middle, brown, with the deflexed lobes more yellowish, impress-punctate, rugose behind and with a very slight median carina, hind border obtusely rounded; deflexed lobes with the lower margin nearly straight and strongly rounded at the hinder angle; the transverse sulci dark,

well-marked, the hind slucus placed beyond the middle. Tegmina nearly as long as the abdomen, grayish brown, with dense brown reticulation and sub-hyaline areolae; wings shorter than the tegmina, pale red at the base, with the tip and hind margin slightly clouded. Legs rather short; hind femora testaceous brown with greenish black spots; internally with a long black green-spotted space towards the base and a greenish black spot on the apical third; hind tibiae with ten black spines on each side. Prosternal tubercle broad and truncated. Abdomen brown above, paler below.

Chandra & Gupta (2012) have compiled the list of Orthoptera from Maharashtra, which is based on earlier records and fresh survey. The list contains 143 species/subspecies belonging to 98 genera and 8 families. Only 6 of them belonged to the Hemiacridinae and *Clonacris kirbyi* is not among the species mentioned therein. Hence, this is the first record of *C. kirbyi* for Maharashtra in the region of North Western Ghats.

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

RESUMEN

Se informa por primera vez la presencia de *Clonacris kirbyi* Finot (Orthoptera: Acrididae: Hemiacridinae) en Patgaon en el estado de Maharashtra, una región en el Noroeste de Ghats.

Palabras Clave: Hemiacridinae, Noroeste de Ghats, eco-región

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank the Dr. K. Venkataraman, Director 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.

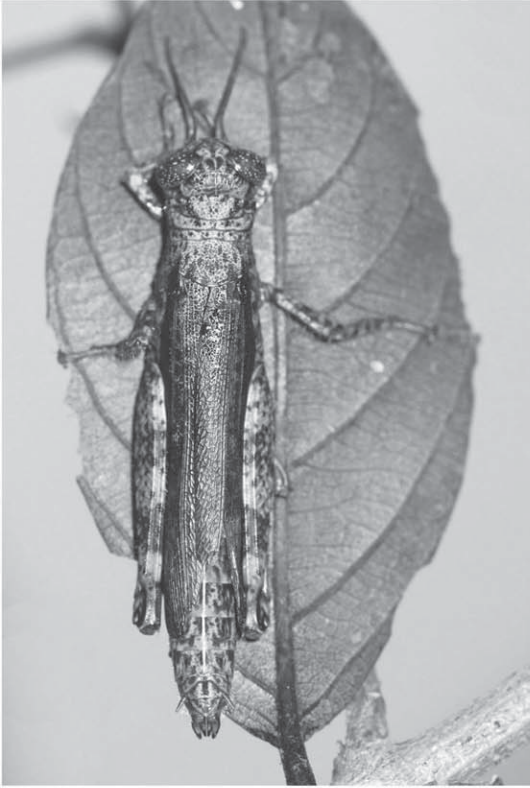


Image 1. *Clonacris kirbyi* Finot
Dorsal view (Male)



Image 2. *Clonacris kirbyi* Finot
Ventral view



Image 3. *Clonacris kirbyi* Finot
Lateral view



Image 4. *Clonacris kirbyi* Finot
Dorsal view of head

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.

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