

Nota Científica
(*Short Communication*)

**TAXONOMIC NOTES ON THE TRIBE ACRIDINI LATREILLE
(ACRIDINAE: ACRIDIDAE: ORTHOPTERA) OF KASHMIR, INDIA**

Nayyar Azim, M. & S. A. Reshi. 2010. Taxonomic notes on the tribe Acridini Latreille (Acridinae: Acrididae: Orthoptera) of Kashmir, India. *Acta Zoológica Mexicana (n.s.)*, 26(1): 219-222.

ABSTRACT. The tribe Acridini Latreille is redefined. Keys to subtribes and species where necessary are given. The genera and species are redefined along with the list of synonyms.

Tribe Acridini Latreille

Diagnosis: Body usually slender; pronotum usually with median and lateral carinae; tegmina and wings fully developed; spurious median vein of tegmina usually absent; prosternal process usually absent; femoro-tegmina stridulatory mechanism absent; hind femur without row of modified peg like structures at lower edge of inner surface; male with epiphallus bridge shaped having ancorae and lophi, aedeagus with basal apical valves connected by flexure.

Members falling under two subtribes of Acridini are found in Kashmir.

Key to subtribes of Acridini found in Kashmir

1. Head strongly oblique; antennae ensiform; hind legs long and slender; epiphallus with bilobate lophiAcridina
- 1' Head slightly oblique; antennae usually filiform, rarely slightly ensiform; hind legs never very long and slender; epiphallus usually with unilobate lophiPhlaeobina

In Kashmir, the subtribe Acridina is represented by *Acrida*, while Phlaeobina is represented by *Phlaeoba*.

Genus *Acrida* Linnaeus.

Gryllus (Acrida) Linnaeus, 1758. *Syst. Nat.* (10th ed.), 1: 427.

Type-species: *Gryllus (Acrida) turritus* Linnaeus

The genus can be distinguished on the basis of the following characters: Large sized insects; body elongated, almost stick-like; head elongated, conical antennae ensiform, gradually tapering to the apex; fastigium of vertex projecting strongly in front of eyes; fastigial foveolae absent; frontal ridge narrow, shallowly sulcate; pronotum elongate, dorsum crossed by posterior transverse sulcus only, median and lateral carinae low, but

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distinct; tegmina and wings fully developed with acute or obtuse apex; lobes of hind knee with acute to obtuse apices, upper inner lobe slightly longer than external; arolium moderately large, shorter than claw; male with supra-anal plate triangular, cercus short, conical, subgenital plate conical, epiphallus with ancorae large, lophi bilobate; female with subgenital plate obtuse angular, weakly trilobite or almost truncate, ovipositor short, robust with robust and slightly curved valves.

The genus can easily be distinguished in having elongated stick-like body and conical head.

The genus is represented by three species in Kashmir.

Key to species of *Acrida* found in Kashmir

- 1. Body greenish, lateral carinae of pronotum not clear with a black line2
- 1' Body yellowish, lateral carinae of pronotum clear with a black line
..... *Acrida gigantea* Herbst
- 2. Tegmina without distinct colored margin *Acrida exaltata* Walker
- 2' Tegmina with edges pinkish brown *Acrida lugubris* Burr.

Acrida gigantea (Herbst)

Truxalis giganteus Herbst, 1794. *Fuessly Archiv.*, 173.

Acrida gigantea Kirby, 1910. *Syn. Cat. Orth.* 3(2):93.

The characters of the species are same as described by Kirby (1914) except color which is brownish.

Material examined: 3♀, 5♂, Kashmir, Baramulla, Uri, Chandanwari on Maize, 9.ix.2006 (Shabir A. Reshi).

Acrida exaltata (Walker)

Truxalis exaltata Walker, 1859. *Ann. mag. nat. Hist.*, 4(3):222.

Truxalis brevicollis Bolivar, 1893. *Feuille Jeunes nat.*, 27(8): 162.

Acrida lugubris Burr., 1902. *Trans. R. ent. Soc. Lond.*, 2:170.

Acrida curta Uvarov, 1936. *Linn. Journ. Zool.*, 39:536.

The characters are same as described by Kirby (1914). The genitalic characters are as follows: Male subgenital plate long and pointed; female subgenital plate with posterior margin setose, dorsal valve of ovipositor shorter than lateral apodeme, spermatheca with apical diverticulum well developed, pre-apical diverticulum sac like.

Material examined: 4 ♀, 7 ♂, Kashmir, Kupwara, Karnah, Gundi Gujran on grass, 6.ix.2005 (Shabir A. Reshi); 11♀, 7♂, Srinagar, Dachigam National Park on grass, 21.ix.2005 (Shabir A. Reshi); 11♀, 9♂, Baramulla, Uri, Chandanwari on maize, 9.ix.2006 (Shabir A. Reshi).

Acrida lugubris Burr. (Junior synonymy of *Acrida exaltata* (Walker, 1859)

Acrida ligubris Burr., 1902. *Trans. ent. soc. Lond.*, 157, 170.

It is a junior synonymy of *Acrida exaltata* Walker. However Kirby (1914) and Sharma & Gupta (1997) did not treat this as a synonymy of *A. exaltata*.

The species was recorded from Kashmir by Kirby (1914) and Sharma and Gupta (1997) recently recorded it from Jammu region of the state. However, the present authors could not collect any specimen of the species.

Genus *Phlaeoba* Stal

Phlaeoba Stal, 1860. *Eugenie's Res. Orth.*, 360.

Kirbyella Bolivar, 1909. *Bol.soc.Esp.hist.nat.*,9:289.

Type-species: *Gomphocerus rusticus* Stal.

The genus can be distinguished on the basis of the following characters: Smaller insects; head short; antennae shorter as long as or longer than the combined length of head and pronotum together, basal half widened and flattened; fastigium of vertex short, slightly projecting forward, widely angular, wider than long with distinct median carinula; fastigial foveolae absent; frontal ridge shallowly sulcate from base of antennae; pronotum with posterior margin rounded, median and lateral carinae distinct, lateral carinae parallel, median carina intersected by posterior transverse sulcus only, metazona shorter than prozona; tegmina and wings fully developed, as long as or longer than abdomen or lobiform; hind femur as long as or slightly exceeding tip of abdomen; arolium large; male with supra-anal plate angular, cerci short, conical, subgenital plate short, subconical with obtuse apex, epiphallus bridge shaped, ancorae short, lophi bilobate; female with ovipositor valves long and slightly curved.

The genus is represented by a single species in Kashmir.

Phlaeoba tenebrosa (Walker)

Opomala tenebrosa Walker, 1871. *Cat. Derm. Salt. Brit. Mus. Lond.*,5:53.

Phlaeoba tenebrosa (Walker), Uvarov, 1924. *J. Asiatic Soc. Bengal*, 20:318.

The species was recorded from Kashmir by Bei-Bienko and Mishchenko (1951). The present authors could not collect any specimen of the species from the region.

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M. NAYYAR AZIM and Shabir A. RESHI

Section of Entomology, P.G. Department of Zoology,
University of Kashmir, Srinagar-190006 (J & K), INDIA.
E-mail: mnayyarazim@yahoo.com