ON A COLLECTION OF LADY-BIRD BEETLES (COCCINELLIDAE, COLEOPTERA) FROM BHUTAN

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ABSTRACT. Only one species Afissa pembertoni (Crotch) of the family Coccinellidae was hitherto recorded from Bhutan. In this paper five more species (Seymnus (Pullus) posticalis Sicard; Oenopia luteopustulata Mulsant; Oenopia sauzeti Mulsant; Menochilus sexmaculatus (Fabricius) and Coccinella septempunctata Linnaeus) are recorded for the first time from Bhutan.

Very little is known of the Lady-bird beetles (Coccinellidae) of Bhutan, the only species hitherto recorded in literature from this almost unexplored country being Epilachna pembertoni Crotch (1874)¹. The species is now referable to the genus Afissa Dieke. Of late the kingdom of Bhutan has been visited by a few zoologists from Zoological Survey of India and from elsewhere, and a number of examples of Lady-bird beetles have been collected. Those recorded here were collected in 1969 by Dr. S. K. Mitra, a member of the Zoological Survey party. These are of interest from the zoogeographical point of view. Although the number of examples collected are 116, these belong to only five species all of which are common in north-eastern India and elsewhere.

FAMILY COCCINELLIDAE

SUBFAMILY I -EPILACHNINAE

1. Afissa pembertoni (Crotch) (Figure 1, D)

Epilachna pembertoni Crotch, 1874, Revision of...Coccinellidae, p. 80 (Type loc.— "Bhootan").

Afissa pembertoni (Crotch): Dieke, 1947, Smithson. Misc. Coll., 106 (15): 157.

Remarks: According to Crotch, this species has six spots (1, 2, 2, 1) on each elytron; the basal one does not reach the scutellum, two are at two-thirds the length of elytron while further two are situated at three-fourths of the length; all these are free both from the margin and the suture but the last or the sixth spot touches both suture and the margin. Dieke (1947) while describing Afissa lugubris Dieke from a specimen from China stated that pembertoni comes close to it but differs in coloration and locality. On examination of the type of the former in Crotch's collection at Cambridge, and comparing it with the

^{1.} Скотсн, G.R. Revision of the Coleopterous family Coccinellidae, X+311 pp. London (B.W. Janson) 1874.

description given for *lugubris* by Dieke, it is quite evident that the two species are distinct.

Material: Besides examining the type-specimen at Cambridge, I have studied one example in the collection of the Zoological Survey of India having the following data: "Cherapunji, Assam, 4400 ft., 28.x.1914 (S.W. Kemp), Regd. No. 5381/44".

SUBFAMILY II COCCINELLINAE

Tribe 1. Scymnini

2. Scymnus (Pullus) posticalis Sicard (Figure 1, A)

Scymnus posticalis Sicard, 1912, Ann. Soc. Ent. France, 81:503 (Type 1oc.—Burma). Scymnus (Pullus) posticalis Sicard: Korschefsky, 1931, Coleopt. Cat. Bcrl., 16 (118): 144.

Material: 2 examples, Western Bhutan: Puthibir, 9.iii.1969 (S.K. Mitra Coll.).

Remarks: Originally described from Burma, this species has also been collected from Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal (Darjeeling District); Sikkim and Nepal. The pronotum is entirely black in the above two examples which is apparently the only difference, worth mentioning, from the typical form.

Tribe 2. Synonychini

3. Oenopia luteopustulata Mulsant (Figure 1, C)

Oenopia luteopustulata Mulsant, 1850, Ann. Soc. Agric. Lyon, (2) 2: 421 (Type loc.-Assam).

Oenopia luteopustulata Mulsant: Kapur, 1958, Rec. Indian Mus., 53: 329.

Material: 2 examples. Western Bhutan: Simtokha, Thimpu, 22.ii.1969 (1 ex.). Puthibir, 9.iii.1969 (1 ex.) (S.K. Mitra Coll.).

Remarks: The species has been recorded from India as follows: 'Himalayas' the plains of Uttar Pradesh, northern West Bengal, Assam and the Andaman Islands. Burma, Nepal, Sikkim and Tibet are other countries from where it has been recorded. This widely distributed species is variable in size and colour-pattern. The above mentioned two examples are different from each other both in size and pattern.

4. Oenopia sauzeti Mulsant (Figure 1, B)

Oenopia sauzeti Mulsant, 1866, Monogr... Coccinellidae, p. 281 (Type loc.—India). Oenopia sauzeti Mulsant: Kapur, 1958, Rec. Indian Mus., 53: 331.

Material: 31 examples. Western Bhutan: Wangdu, 25.ii.1969 (2 exs.); 27.ii.1969 (14 exs.); 28.ii.1969 (1 ex.); 3.iii.1969 (7 exs.). Puthibir, 9.iii.1969 (7 exs.) (S.K. Mitra Coll.).

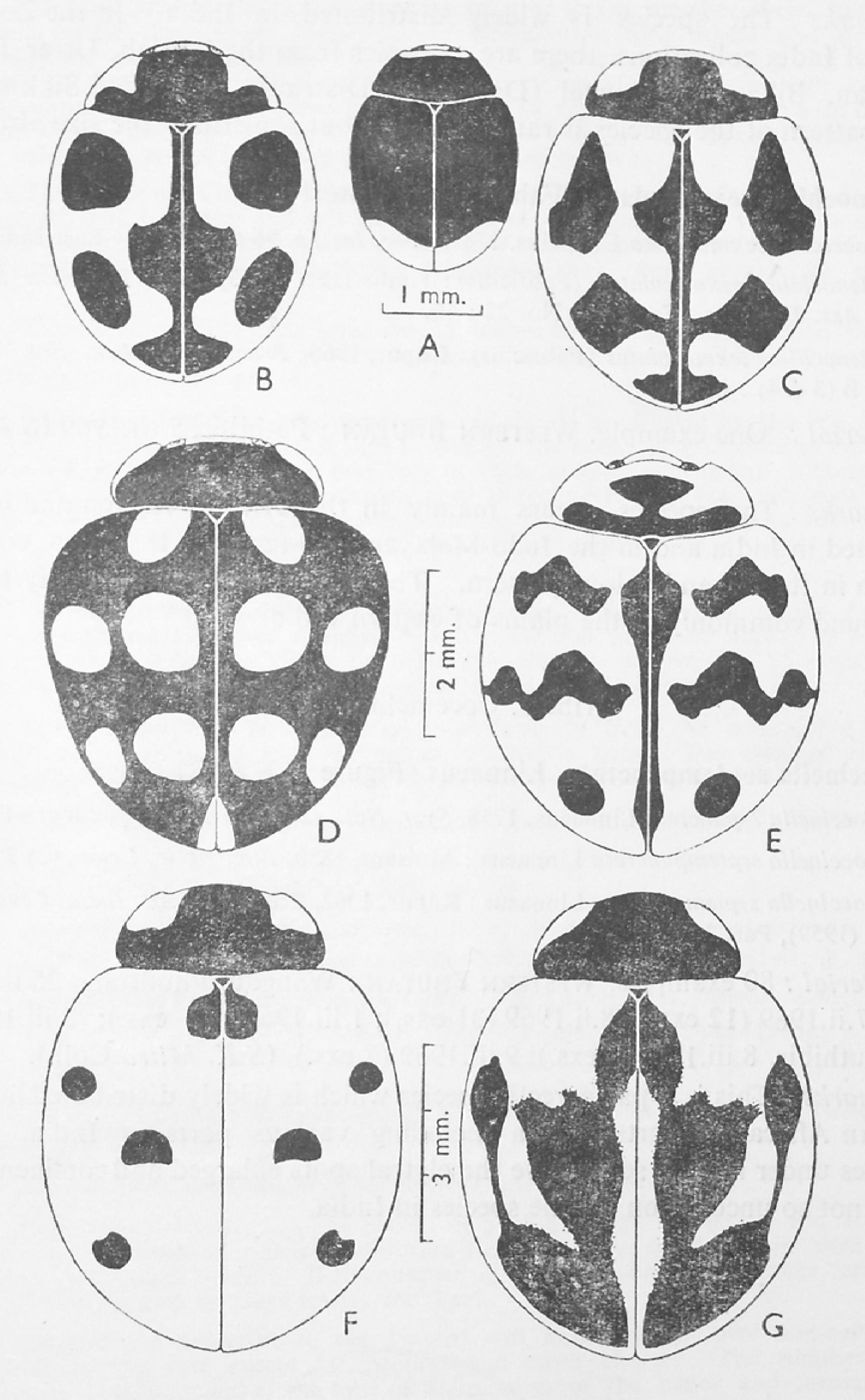


Figure 1. Outline and pattern: (A) Scymnus (Pullus) posticalis Sicard; (B) Oenopia sauzeti Mulsant; (C) Oeuopia luteopnstulata Mulsant; (D) Afissa pembertoni (Crotch); (E) Menochilus sexmaculata (F & G) Coccinella septempunctata (L.). [1 m.m. scale for fig. A; 2 mm. scale for figs. B and E; 3mm. scale for figs. C, D, F and G.)

Remarks: The species is widely distributed in India. In the Zoological Survey of India collections, there are examples from the Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, W. Bengal (Darjeeling District); Nepal and Sikkim. The colour pattern of the species is rather uniform but sometimes the size also varies.

5. Menochilus sexmaculata (Fabricius) (Figure 1, E)

Coccinella sexmaculata Fabricius, 1781, Spec. Ins., p. 96 (Type loc.-East Indies).

Menochilus sexmaculatus (Fabricius): Timberlake, 1943, Bull. Hawaiian Sug. Plrs. Ass. Exp. Stn. (Ent. ser.) No. 22:40.

Menochilus sexmaculatus (Fabricius): Kapur, 1966, Proc. Natl. Inst. Sci. India, 32 B (3 & 4): p. 176

Material: One example. Western Bhutan: Puthibir, 9.iii.1969 (S.K. Mitra Coll.).

Remarks: The species occurs mainly in the Oriental Region and is widely distributed in India and in the Indo-Malayan sub-region. It varies considerably both in its size and colour pattern, The only example under study resemble those found commonly in the plains of eastern India.

Tribe 3. Coccinellini

6. Coccinella septempunctata Linnaeus (Figure 1, F & G)

Coccinella 7-punctata Linnaeus, 1758, Syst. Nat., ed 10, p. 365. (Type loc.-Europe).

Coccinella septempunctata Linnaeus: Mulsant, 1850, Ann. Agric. Lyon., (2) 2:115.

Coccinella septempunctata Linnaeus: Kapur, 1962, Proc. 1st. All India Congr. Zool., (1959), Part 2: 481.

Material: 80 examples. Western Bhutan: Wangdu, Phudrung, 25.ii.1969 (2 exs.); 27.ii.1969 (12 exs.) 28.ii.1969 (31 exs.); 1.iii.1969. (2 exs.); 3.iii.1969 (24 exs.); Puthibir, 8.iii.1969 (2 exs.); 9.iii.1969 (7 exs.), (S.K. Mitra Coll.).

Remarks: This is a palaearectic species which is widely distributed in Europe, northern Africa and parts of Asia including various parts of India. In the examples under report, some have the elytral spots enlarged and confluent, which state is not so uncommon for the species in India.



