

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

A. P. Kapur

Zoological Survey of India, 34 Chittaranjan Avenue, Calcutta-12, India

ABSTRACT. Only one species *Afissa pambertoni* (Crotch) of the family Coccinellidae was hitherto recorded from Bhutan. In this paper five more species (*Scymnus* (*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 pambertoni* 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 pambertoni* (Crotch) (Figure 1, D)

Epilachna pambertoni Crotch, 1874, *Revision of...Coccinellidae*, p. 80 (Type loc.—“Bhootan”).

Afissa pambertoni (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 *pambertoni* 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. CROUCH, 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 loc.—Burma).

Scymnus (Pullus) posticalis Sicard : Korschefsky, 1931, *Coleopt. Cat. Berl.*, **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.).

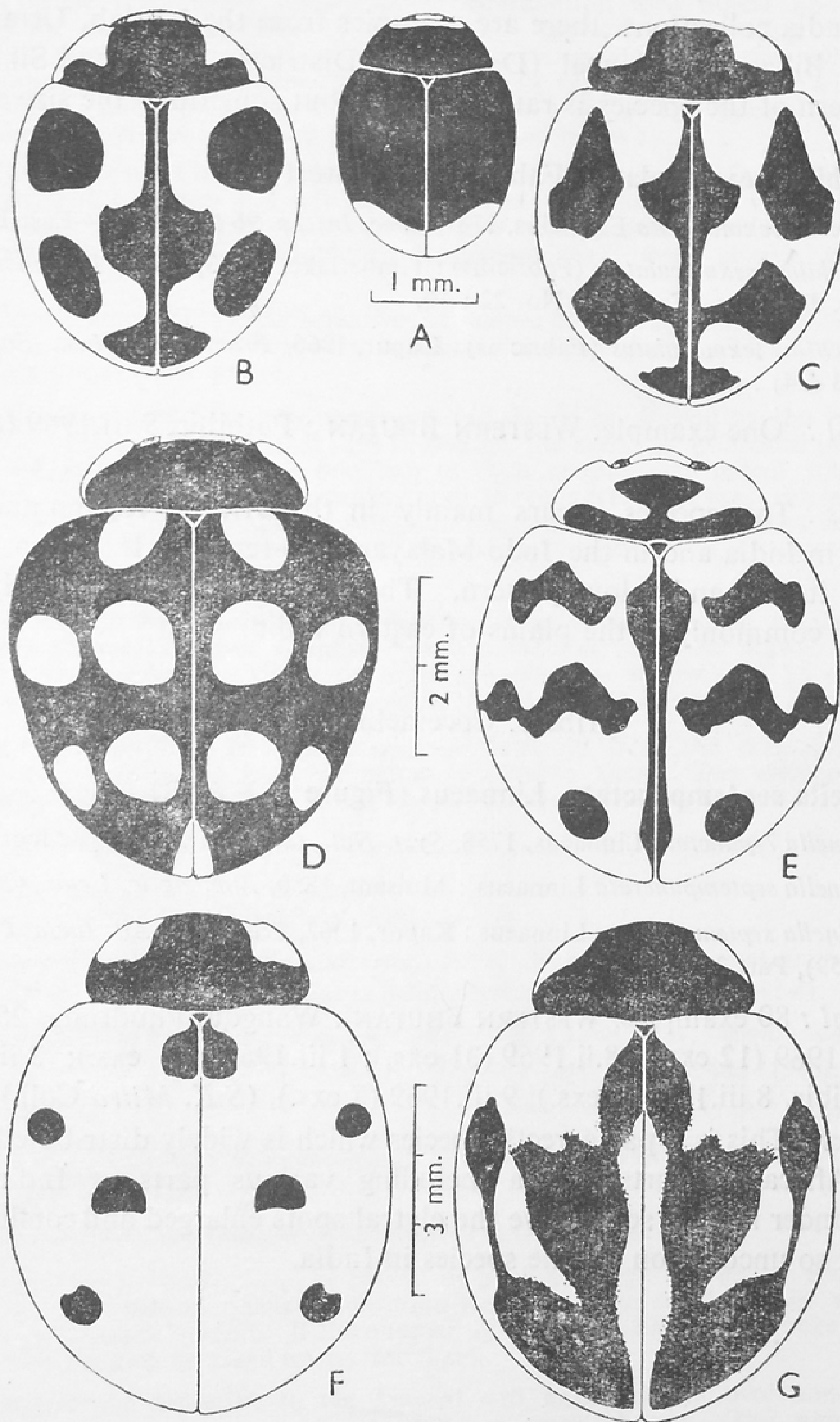


Figure 1. Outline and pattern: (A) *Scymnus (Pullus) posticalis* Sicard; (B) *Oenopia sauzeti* Mulsant; (C) *Oeuopia luteopnstulata* Mulsant; (D) *Afissa pembertoni* (Crotch); (E) *Menochilus sexmaculata* (F & G) *Coccinella septempunctata* (L.). [1 m.m. scale for fig. A; 2 mm. scale for figs. B and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

