

A NEW SPECIES OF *STETHORUS* WEISE FROM INDIA
(COLEOPTERA : COCCINELLIDAE).

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AN account of 21 old-world species of the genus *Stethorus* Weise was given by me some time ago (1948, *Bull. ent. Res.* 39 : 297-320). More recently I have found material of an undescribed species of this genus in the suburbs of Calcutta. This species was successfully reared on mites in the laboratory, and as its larva and pupa are shortly to be described elsewhere along with those of some other Coccinellids, I take this opportunity of naming and describing the adults.

***Stethorus indira* sp. n.**

Body shortly oval and moderately convex. Black, excepting the testaceous antennae, mouth-parts and legs; the latter sometimes having piceous femora. Dorsal surface with grey, moderately long, rather sparse and sub-erect pubescence. Head finely and sparsely

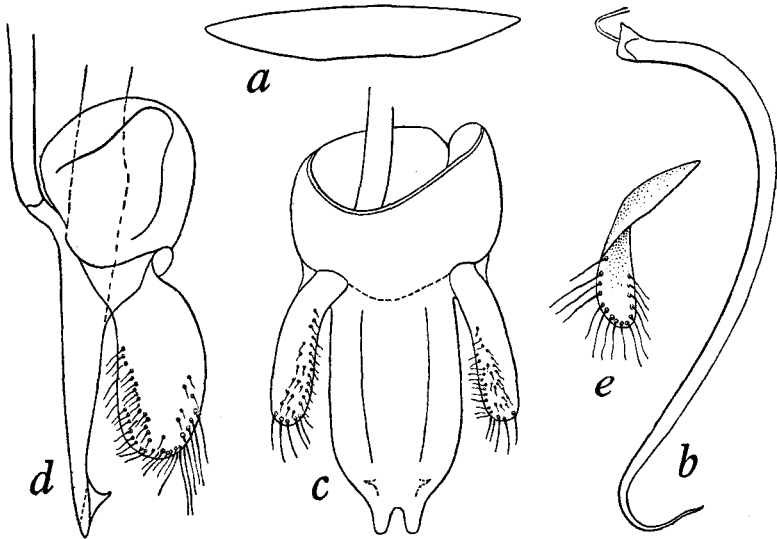


FIG. 1.—(a) Sixth abdominal sternite of the male ($\times 100$); (b) siphon ($\times 100$); (c) part of male genitalia as seen from the front ($\times 230$); (d) the same as seen from the side ($\times 230$); (e) half of the ninth sternite of female ($\times 230$).

punctate; pronotum with the punctures fairly close and rather fine in the middle and coarse and navel-like towards the lateral margins; elytral punctures rather coarse and moderately impressed except near the apex and almost uniformly close. The surface between the punctures on the head and the middle of pronotum smooth, rather rugose elsewhere. Underside with greyish, short, sparse and subdepressed pubescence and with rather coarse but less impressed and fairly close punctation, except on the elytral epipleurae

and legs where the punctures are finer. Femoral lines semicircular, complete and extending as far as three-fourths of the length of the first abdominal sternite; the last abdominal sternite rather straight at the apex (fig. 1a) in the male and rounded in the female. Male genitalia: siphon (fig. 1b) rather slender and gradually becoming thinner towards the apex, curved regularly in the basal one-third of its length, siphonal capsule short and dark; trapezium fairly long, nearly two-and-a-half times the lengths of penis, moderately stout and dark; basal plates blackish, large, nearly as long as wide; penis (fig. 1c) oblong in front view, with the apical part slightly produced and notched in the middle; on the dorsal side of the subapical region the penis is produced into a pair of small sub-conical projections; paramera short, about two-thirds the length of penis, flattened and appearing ovate in side-view (fig. 1d) with many short hairs on the inner and a few long hairs on the apical regions. Female genitalia: Each half of the ninth sternite (fig. 1e) well sclerotized, spatulate, a little curved in the middle and with a number of distinct setae along the margin, the tenth tergite broadly oval, sclerotized chiefly in the distal part and with the apical margin sparsely lined with very short setae.

Length: 1.1-1.3 mm.; width 0.78-0.9 mm.

Holotype.—A male, in the Indian Museum, Calcutta (Zoological Survey of India, Reg. No. 7887/H4). INDIA: Calcutta, predaceous on red spiders on Arum (*Colocasia antiquorum* Schott (AROIDAE), 9.iv.1950 (*A. P. Kapur*).

Allotype.—A female in the Indian Museum (Zoological Survey of India, Reg. No. 7888/H4) with the same data as the holotype.

Paratypes.—18, of both sexes, some with the same data as the type, others collected from the same environs on 18.iv.1950 (*A. P. Kapur*); in the Indian Museum, Calcutta, Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, British Museum (Natural History), London, and U.S. National Museum, Washington, D.C.

Remarks: This species seems to resemble *Stethorus pauperculus* Weise in most of the external characters and in the general outline of the male genitalia, but in structural detail the two species are very distinct. It is readily distinguished from *pauperculus* by the coarser punctuation on the metasternum and the rather truncate apex of the last abdominal sternite in the male. The slender siphon, broader and apically notched penis and the ovate paramera of the male genitalia are some of the distinctive features which help to distinguish it from any other known species of the genus. Similarly, in the female, the ninth sternite is also very characteristic in outline, and in being lined with long setae.