

Record of *Ulomimus indicus* Bates, 1873 (Coleoptera, Tenebrionidae) from south India

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ABSTRACT: *Ulomimus indicus* Bates, 1873 earlier known from east India and Sri Lanka in the Indian subcontinent is now recorded from south Indian states, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. In addition, a brief description of the species along with illustrations are also given.

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KEY WORDS: Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, darkling beetles, diagnosis, rediscovery

Ulomimus Bates, 1873 is a small genus of darkling beetles with only two described species. It belongs to the tribe Ulomini of the subfamily Tenebrioninae. Bates (1873) described the type species *Ulomimus indicus* Bates, 1873 (Coleoptera, Tenebrionidae) from east India, without mentioning any specific locality. Schawaller (2019) transferred a species of *Cneocnemis* Gebien, 1914 to *Ulomimus* which became the second species of the genus. Since description of *U. indicus*, there are no other reports of the species from India. Liu *et al.* (2013) redescribed and illustrated the species including male genitalia and reported it from China, Indonesia and Thailand. Along with the rediscovery of *U. indicus* from India, some new distribution records are also reported for the first time.

The specimens from various surveys studied for morphological characters using LEICA® INVESTA 3 microscope. Male genitalia structures were dissected and kept in KOH (10%) for clearing and examined under LEICA® M 205A stereo zoom

microscope and imaged using DFC 450 camera attached. Final illustrations were post-processed for contrast and brightness using Adobe® Photoshop CS6 software. Bouchard *et al.* (2021) was followed for classification. The specimens studied are deposited in the National Zoological Collections (NZC) of the Zoological Survey of India, Western Ghat Regional Centre, Kozhikode (ZSIK).

Systematic account

Subfamily Tenebrioninae Latreille, 1802;

Tribe Ulomini Blanchard, 1845;

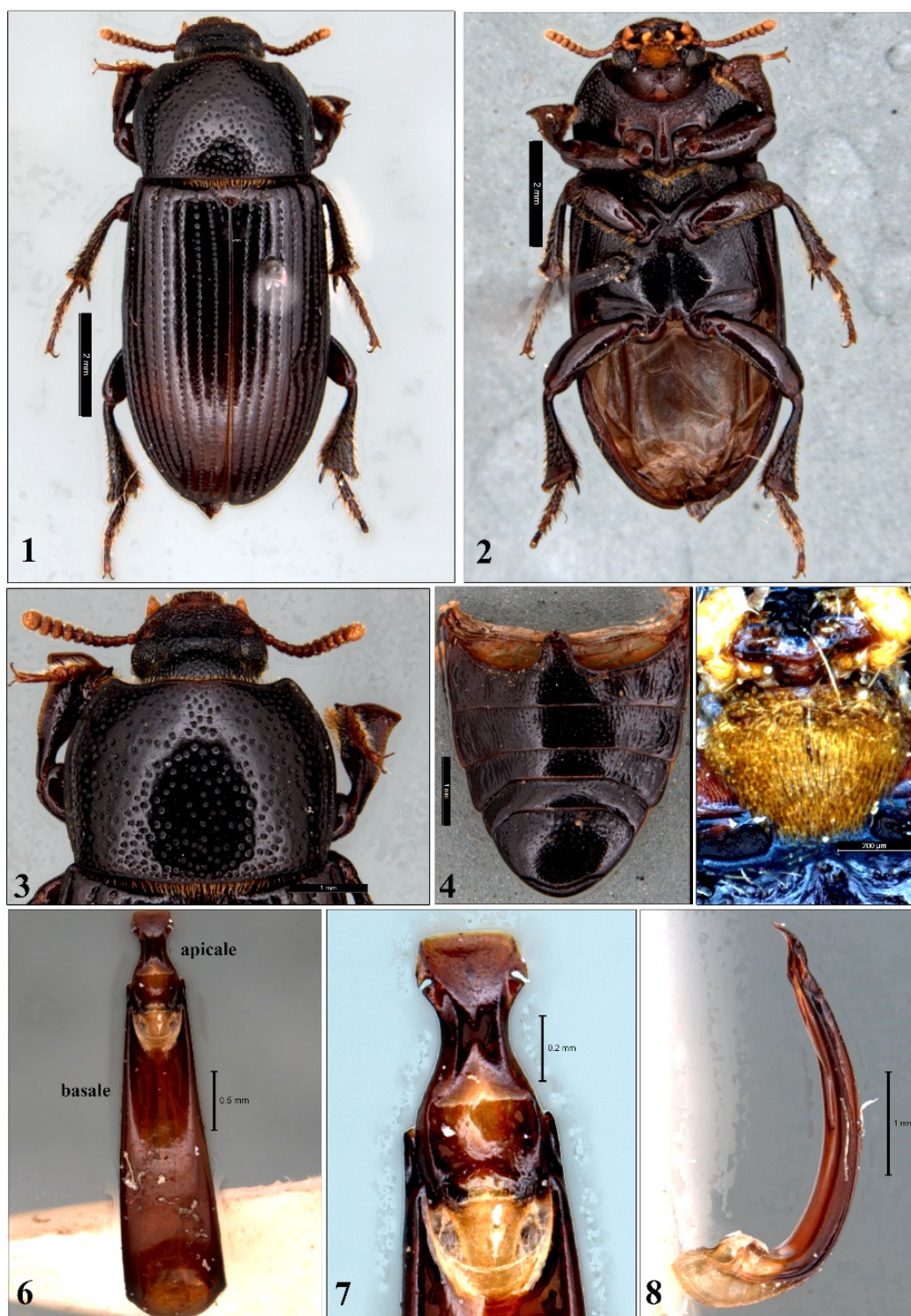
Genus *Ulomimus* Bates, 1873

Ulomimus indicus Bates, 1873 (Figs. 1–8)

Ulomimus indicus Bates, 1873. *The Entomologist's monthly magazine*, 9: 202.

U. indicus Gebien, 1911. *Coleopterorum Catalogus*, 18: 399.

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Figs. 1–8 *Ulomimus indicus*: 1. Habitus dorsal view, 2. Habitus ventral view, 3. Head and Pronotum, 4. Abdominal ventrites, 5. Mentum, 6. Aedeagus dorsal view, 7. Apicale showing oblique notch, 8. Aedeagus lateral view

Diagnosis. Male. Body length 8 mm. Body dorsally shining, black colored, subparallel sided, oblong, relatively convex (Fig. 1). Ventral side black shining, legs dark brownish, tarsi and antennae ferruginous (Fig. 2). Head coarsely punctured, transverse, clypeus coarsely rugopunctate, margin slightly emarginated in the middle. Labrum transverse, rectangular, rugose apically, sparse setae on the margins. Frons slightly raised with large punctures. Mentum heart shaped with dense yellow pubescence (Fig. 5). Antennae short with six-segmented club. Pronotum transverse, broad, 1.3 times as wide as long, coarsely punctured, punctures widely placed in middle, laterally becomes denser. Anterior margin emarginated, with dense hair fringes, anterior corner slightly raised, lateral margin rounded medially (Fig. 3). Elytra sub-parallel, striate-punctate, intervals slightly raised (Fig. 1). Protibiae expanded, outer edge sub apically with blunt angle, inner edge with dense hair fringes. Abdominal ventrites finely and sparsely punctated medially, laterally wrinkled, last ventrite apically grooved (Fig. 4). Aedeagus basale parallel sided but slightly diverging posteriorly, apicale broad constricted at the middle, oblique notch at posterior corner near the constriction (Figs. 6–8).

Materials examined: 1 Male, INDIA, Kerala, Wayanad, Punchavayal APC, 15.ii.2023, Coll. S. Sreejith & Party, ZSIK Regd. No. ZSI/WGRC/I.R.-INV.28493; 2 Females, INDIA, Kerala, Palakkad, Pattambi, 22.vi.2022, Coll. K.A. Sobhana, ZSIK Regd. Nos. ZSI/WGRC/I.R.-INV.28494–28495; 2 Males, 1 Female, INDIA, Andhra Pradesh, Srikakulam, 26.xi.2021, Coll. D. Gupta & Party, ZSIK Regd. Nos. ZSI/WGRC/I.R.-INV.28496–28498.

Distribution: India; East India (Bates, 1873); Kerala (New record), Andhra Pradesh (New record). *Elsewhere:* China, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam (Fairmaire, 1893; Kaszab, 1979; Liu *et al.*, 2013; Merkl, 1992).

Tenebrionidae is one of the poorly studied coleopteran families in India. One reason is their cryptic habits of the members of the family and lack of experts that currently work on this group.

Sometimes earlier literature lacks specific information on distribution of the species, as in case of *U. indicus*, in the original description the distribution range is East India only. Extensive studies are required to understand the species richness and distribution of darkling beetles in India.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors are grateful to the Director, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata, for providing facilities and encouragement. The authors thank the staff and research scholars of the Zoological Survey of India, Western Ghat Regional Centre, Kozhikode for their assistance. TKV thankfully acknowledges authorities of University of Calicut and MES Mampad College for PhD registration. The authors also thank reviewers for helping in improving the manuscript. TKV thanks Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata for the financial support by means of ZSI-SRF.

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(Received January 27, 2025; revised ms accepted May 15, 2025; published June 30, 2025)