

THE FIRST RECORD OF *GEOPHILOMORPH CENTIPEDES* (MECISTOCEPHALIDAE: MECISTOCEPHALINAE) FROM PAKISTAN

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One species belonging to genus *Mecistocephalus* Nwp. (Geophilomorpha: Mecistocephalidae: Mecistocephalinae) have been recorded for the first time from Pakistan. The specimens are studied with special reference to their mouth-parts and poison claws.

Key words: First record, *Geophilomorph centipedes*, Pakistan.

Introduction

Demange *et al.* [1] carried out taxonomic studies on *Geophilomorph centipedes* from Sri Lanka and different regions of the world other than Pakistan. Kheirallah [2] studied the ecology of centipedes and millipedes of Saudi Arabia. Matic [3,4] and Minolli [5] reported *Geophilomorph centipedes* from various parts of the world. Pocock [6] carried out taxonomic studies on the myriapod fauna of Ceylon and from various parts of southern India. Pocock in another study [7] recorded centipedes fauna of West Indies. No taxonomic work has been done on this group in Pakistan. The present work is an attempt to carry out similar studies on this group in Pakistan. Demange *et al.* [1] and Pocock [6,7] were consulted for identification.

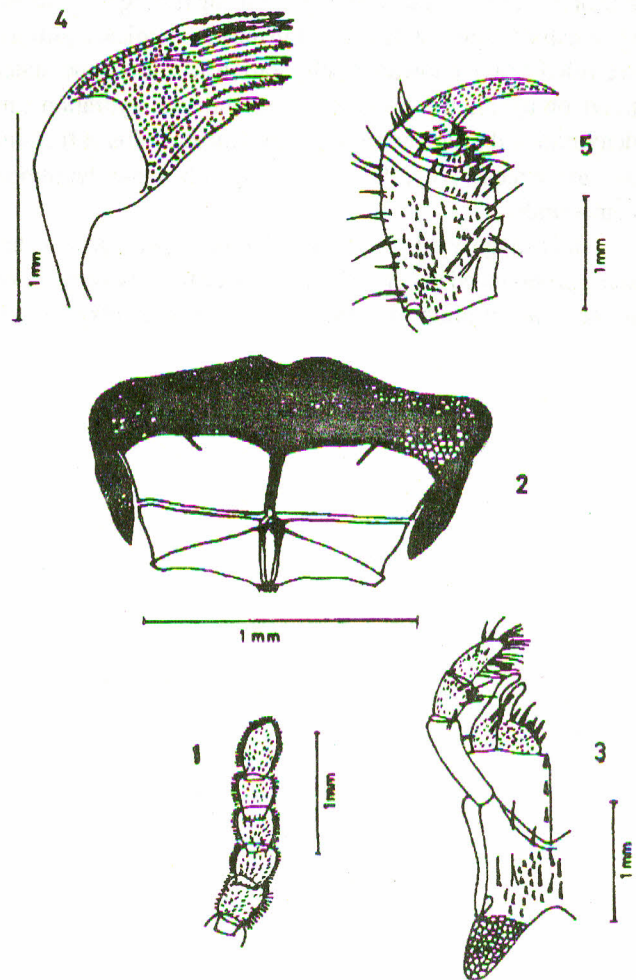
Materials and Methods

Live specimens from eight different localities were captured by digging the damp soil under the bushes, rotten wood or stones. Specimens were kept in the bottle, narcotized with chloroform and properly stretched. These were preserved in 10% formalin. These specimens were thoroughly examined under Zeiss binocular microscope and the drawings were prepared using camera-lucida.

Mecistocephalus newport, 1842. The basal plate very small, narrower than head and first tergite, and wedged in between the head and first tergite and the pleurae of the maxillipedes at the sides, the coxae of the maxillipedes largely uncovered by the pleurae; antenna 14-segmented.

Mecistocephalus maxillaris. Gervais, 1837 (Figs 1-5). Body size 25 mm-53mm long; head and first body segment reddish, rest of the body and legs yellow, body with 49 segments each bearing one pair of legs, head more than 2 times longer than broad, antennae 3 mm-5mm long, antennal segment except last broader than long, labrum 1.5x broader than long, median alae arc-shaped, coracious with long and short spines on each side, posterior lateral alae dentate edged, pectinated mandibular lamellae seven in number, 1st maxilla with a shaft and two blades, outer blade with 2 spines and

inner with 6 spines on the stippled area and shaft with 3 medial spines, apical segment of the palp of the 2nd maxilla with 19, middle segment with 5 and basal segment with 2 prominent bristles, basal piece with small and long spines together with coracious structures at the extreme base, distal tarsalia of poison claw acute, dentate on the inner margin, femur, tibia and proximal tarsalia covered with long and small spines.



Figs. 1-5. *Mecistocephalus maxillaris*. (1) Antenna, (2) Labrum, (3) 1st and 2nd Maxillae, (4) Mandible, (5) Maxillipede (poison claw).

Material examined. 4♀, 1♂, Punjab, Rawalpindi, 15-viii-1988, Leg. Khatoon, in PMNH, 1♀, 1♂ Khanpur, 6-viii-1988, Leg. S.R. Ali, in PMNH; 6♀, 10♂, Islamabad, 8-xii-1986, 8-viii-1987, 19-vii-1988, 21-vii-1988, 4-viii-1988, 9-viii-1988, Leg. Khatoon, in PMNH.

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