



New records of two species of the genus *Endochus* Stål (Hemiptera: Reduviidae: Harpactorinae) from India, with specific and generic redescriptions

SIVARAMA KRISHNAN. S & DUNSTON P. AMBROSE¹

Entomology Research Unit, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Palayankottai-627 002, Tamil Nadu, India.

E- mail: eruxavier@gmail.com

¹Corresponding author

Abstract

Two species of *Endochus* Stål, 1859, *E. albomaculatus* Stål and *E. merula* Distant, were recorded for the first time from India. They are redescribed, together with the genus, with additional taxonomic details and illustrations.

Key words: Reduviidae, Harpactorinae, *Endochus*, India, new record

Introduction

This paper presents new records of two harpactorine assassin bugs belonging to the genus *Endochus* Stål, 1859 from India, together with their redescriptions with additional taxonomic details and illustrations; the genus is also redescribed.

The large and diverse genus *Endochus* in the subfamily Harpactorinae was erected by Stål in 1859, with *Endochus nigricornis* Stål, 1859 as the type species. It currently contains more than 60 species and is widely distributed in the Afrotropical and Oriental regions (Putshkov & Putshkov 1988, 1996; Maldonado 1990). Maldonado (1990) included eleven species of *Endochus* from India in his catalogue. Ambrose (1999, 2003, 2006) also reported 11 *Endochus* species from the Indian faunal limits in his catalogue of Indian reduviids.

Material and methods

This study is based on a recent field study, and the specimens of reduviids are deposited in the Entomology Research Unit, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Palayankottai, Tamil Nadu, South India. Among the specimens are about eleven *Endochus* species reported in the India (by Distant 1904), and some undetermined species of *Endochus*. Two species, *Endochus albomaculatus* Stål and *E. merula* Distant, are new records to the Indian faunal limits. We describe these here, as well as the genus *Endochus*.

Drawings were made with the aid of a camera lucida. Measurements were made with a calibrated micrometer. Body length was measured from the apex of the head to the tip of the hemelytron. Maximal width of the pronotum was measured across the humeral angles. All measurements are in millimeters.

Taxonomy

Harpactorinae Amyot & Serville, 1843

Endochus Stål, 1859: 194; Distant, 1904: 365.

The genus *Endochus* is redescribed with additional characters collected from the observation of twenty