The genus *Catapiestus* Perty, 1831 (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae: Cnodalonini) from Arunachal Pradesh with one new record to India

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The genus *Catapiestus* Perty, 1831 belongs to the tribe Cnodalonini (Tenebrionidae: Stenochiinae), and has at present 12 species in the Oriental and Palaearctic regions, including four species already reported from various parts of India, viz, *Catapiestus bourgoini* Pic, 1912 from Malabar-Mahe, *Catapiestus piceiventris* Fairmaire, 1889 from Andaman Island, *Catapiestus indicus* Fairmaire, 1896 from Kanara & Sikkim, and *Catapiestus subrufescens* Pic, 1911 from Dudhwa National Park, Uttar Pradesh (Lang & Ren 2009; Hegde & Lal 2014). The species of this genus have quite uniform characters – strongly flattened body form and coloration and scarce or no apparent external sexual dimorphism (Lang & Ren 2009). Morphological differentiation of the species mainly depends on features of the pronotum and number of teeth or denticles of profemora (Lang & Ren 2009). In the check-list of Tenebrionidae of Arunachal Pradesh, Hegde (2019) reported only one species *C. indicus*. Examination of the collection at North Eastern Regional Centre (NERC), Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Shillong, revealed that there are three species *C. subrufescens*, *C. piceiventris*, and *C. rugipennis* collected from Arunachal Pradesh in 1982. These three species are new records for Arunachal Pradesh while *C. rugipennis* (originally described from Japan) is the first report from India.

Material and Methods: The specimens were in the unidentified collection of NERC, ZSI, Shillong, Meghalaya, which were identified up to species level by their morphological characters following Lang & Ren (2009). The identified specimens were registered and deposited in the national zoological collections of ZSI, Shillong. The images were taken with binocular microscope using Leica DFC 450 camera.

**Genus Catapiestus Perty, 1831**

*Diagnostic features:* The genus *Catapiestus* was proposed by Perty (1831) with *C. Piceus* Perty, 1831 as type species. Subsequently, one species was described by Guèrin-Ménèville (1841), four species by Fairmaire (1888, 1893, 1896), three species by Pic (1911, 1912), and one species by Chûjȏ (1984).

Body elongate, parallel sided, strongly depressed, Body dark brown, with dense punctures. Head broad, space between eyes broad, neck slender, and nearly cylindrical. Distal six segments of antenna dilated. Maxillary palpus with apical segments strongly secundiforme. The lateral margins of pronotum with serrations, and the middle and/or lateral with depression. Elytra with distinct punctures and striae.
Legs slender, femur with or without tooth, tibial spurs extremely underdeveloped, tarsi with hairs. There is no distinct sexual dimorphism.

1. *Catapiestus subrufescens* Pic, 1911


Diagnostic characters: Body length: 16 mm, body blackish-brown, strongly depressed and with dense punctures. Pronotum lateral margins curved with small radius, with more acute serrations than upper, front, corner acute, hinder corner rounded, elytra punctate striate, distal six segments of the antenna dilated (Image 1).

Distribution: India (Uttar Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh (New Record)), China, Taiwan (Type locality, Pic 1911; Lang & Ren 2009).

2. *Catapiestus piceiventris* Fairmaire, 1893


Diagnostic characters: Body length: 14 mm, body blackish-brown, strongly depressed and with dense punctures. Pronotum almost flat, middle with shallow depression with dense puncture (Image 2).

Distribution: India (Andaman Island (Type locality: Fairmaire 1893; Lang & Ren 2009) and Arunachal Pradesh (New Record)).

3. *Catapiestus rugipennis* Chûjô, 1984


Diagnostic characters: Body length: 14 mm. Body uniformly shining dark brown, strongly depressed. Elytra punctuate striate with sparse, small punctures, punctures laterally connected with fine reticulate. Profemur with one small tooth on front ridge (Image 3).

Distribution: India (Arunachal Pradesh (new India record)), Japan (Amami-Oshima Island and Okinawa Honto Island (Type locality: Chûjô, 1984; Lang & Ren 2009)).
Discussion: The species of the genus *Catapiestus* are mainly distributed in the subtropical forests of southeastern Asia (Hegde & Lal 2014). Till now only four species of *Catapiestus* are reported from India. With the report of *C. rugipennis* in this paper, the total number of known *Catapiestus* species from India now stands at five.

From Arunachal Pradesh, only *C. indicus* was previously reported (Hegde 2019). The report of *C. subrufescens*, *C. Piceiventris*, and *C. rugipennis* constitutes the first record from the state, thus raising the total number of *Catapiestus* to four species for Arunachal Pradesh.

The known diversity of *Catapiestus* populations in India is disjunct and largely known from the northeastern states of Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim, along with Uttar Pradesh and the southern state of Karnataka and Puducherry from the Malabar Coast as well as Andaman Islands (Fairmaire 1893, 1896; Pic 1911; Hegde & Lal 2014; Hegde 2019). The current report of this group from Arunachal Pradesh (in Tirap) is from the lower altitudinal areas which suggest that the other hill states of northeastern India might harbour yet unknown populations of this genus, as the entire area comes under the confluence of the eastern Himalaya and the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspots. As the hilly states of northeastern India are still largely inaccessible and poorly surveyed, there is a dearth of documentation of insect fauna from the region, which is probably the reason why the known diversity of *Catapiestus* is still low.

**References**


**A key to the India *Catapiestus* fauna is provided for the benefit of easy taxonomic identification**

1. The middle longitudinal groove on pronotum distinct .......... 2
   The middle longitudinal groove on pronotum indistinct ..........  
   ........................................................................................................  *C. indicus*

2. Transverse groove on the anterior pronotum absent .......... 3
   Transverse groove on the anterior pronotum present ..........  
   ........................................................................................................  *C. subrufescens*

3. Pronotum without puncture posteriorly ............................. 4
   Pronotum with puncture posteriorly .................................  *C. bourgoini*

4. Anterior pronotum lifted ........................................  *C. rugipennis*
   Anterior pronotum depressed ................................  *C. piceiventris*
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