

# Bugs & All

Invertebrate Conservation & Information Network of South-Asia (ICINSA)

Newsletter of the

## First record of the Ornamental Cockroach from Barabar Hills, Bihar

Cockroaches of the order Blattodea with 181 species under 72 genera belonging to 17 subfamilies and 89 species are endemic to India and account to only 3.8% of the global species diversity of which family Corydiidae have three subfamilies and 17 species in India (Gupta & Chandra 2019).

The subfamily Corydiinae (Saussure, 1864) genus *Eucorydia* (Hebard, 1929) represents only four known species *Eucorydia ornata* (Saussure, 1864), *Eucorydia westwoodi* (Gerstaecker, 1861), *Eucorydia aenea aenea* (Brunervon Wattenwyl, 1865), and *Eucorydia aenea plagiata* (Walker, 1871) in India.

*Eucorydia* is one of the most remarkable genera in order Blattodea for its bright orange color pattern on



*Eucorydia ornata* resting on the leaf of *Ziziphus jujuba* plant in Barabar Hill area.

abdomen and tegmina which make its appearance more attractive.

*Eucorydia ornata* (Saussure 1864) is commonly known for bright orange color with black spots. This cockroach is a rarely observed forest cockroach with round black

mark on its tegmina and it is known to occur in Mumbai. We observed *Eucorydia ornata* in Barabar Hills area situated in Jehanabad District in Bihar for the first time during our field survey in September 2021. The study of related literatures revealed that *E. ornata* is not



# Bugzilla

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known to occur in Bihar. Further, we search for said species on citizen science platforms but no image was available from Bihar. In the context of Bihar, only seven species were known to occur in the order Blattodea (Gupta & Chandra 2019).

## Synonyms

*Melestora ornata* Saussure, 1864: 341 (Bombay, India); Walker 1868: 60.

*Corydia ornata*: Saussure 1869: 280; Walker 1870: 9; Kirby 1904: 167.

*Eucorydia ornata*: Hebard 1929: 98; Princis 1963: 83.

*Corydia plagiata* Walker, 1868: 58; Kirby 1904: 167; Hanitsch 1927: 41.

*Eucorydia plagiata*: Princis 1950: 203; Princis 1957: 90; Princis 1963: 83.

*Corydia elegans* Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1893: 39

**Distribution:** Mumbai, Bihar (25.0105° N, 85.0130° E; first record).

*E. ornata* is more identical to *E. westwoodi* but the yellow elongate spots laterally on both the sides of pronotum differ from the *E. westwoodi*.

Qiu et al. (2017) mentioned *E. ornata* as a species but commented that “*E. ornata* may be one variation of *E. westwoodi* or a subspecies”. Due to lack of information,

specimen and genitalia details, authors were unable to solve the problem. Gupta & Chandra (2019) mention *E. ornata* as a species in the checklist. On the basis of available literature, we are also considering it as a *E. ornata* and reporting it for the first time from Bihar. A detailed study will be needed to understand the bio-ecology and distribution dynamics of *E. ornata* in a new habitat. Present study will surely be helpful in future scientific work of the said species.

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**Citation:** Masroor, M.D. & Z. Masrroor (2022). First record of *Macrosiagon ferruginea* from Barabar Hills, Bihar, India. *Bugs R All* #230, In: *Zoo's Print* 37(2): 16–18.

### Acknowledgement

We are highly grateful to prof. Dr. S.N.P. Yadav, “DEEN” (Head, P.G. Department of Zoology, Magadh University) and DFO Gaya Forest Division, for his generosity to support us during the survey.

Bugs R All is a newsletter of the Invertebrate Conservation and Information Network of South Asia (ICINSA) published with the financial support of Zoological Society of London. For communication, Email: zp@zooreach.org

