



## Notes on the Coccinellidae (Coleoptera) of the Indian subcontinent, including new synonymies

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**ABSTRACT:** Additions to and changes in the checklist of Coccinellidae of the Indian subcontinent, including new synonymies and distribution records, are listed. The following new synonymies are established (valid name first): *Brumoides suturalis* (Fabricius) = *Brumoides kolhapurensis* Sathe and Bhosale; *Coccinella transversalis* Fabricius = *Coccinella madhuri* Sathe and Bhosale = *Coccinella bhuimungi* Sathe and Bhosale = *Coccinella yaminii* Sathe and Bhosale; *Coelophora bissellata* Mulsant = *Coelophora orientalis* Sathe and Bhosale; *Harmonia octomaculata* (Fabricius) = *Harmonia soyabini* Sathe and Bhosale; *Propylea dissecta* (Mulsant) = *Horniolus mirajensis* Sathe and Bhosale; *Illeis cincta* (Fabricius) = *Illeis darbarii* Sathe and Bhosale; *Cheilomenes sexmaculata* (Fabricius) = *Menochilus tuljapurensis* Sathe and Bhosale = *Menochilus shivajensis* Sathe and Bhosale = *Menochilus kharipi* Sathe and Bhosale; *Synonycha grandis* (Thunberg) = *Coccinella yogini* Sathe and Bhosale; *Scymnus (Pullus) castaneus* Sicard = *Scymnus (Pullus) marathi* Sathe and Bhosale; *Scymnus (Scymnus) indica* Sathe and Bhosale (not *Scymnus indicus* Weise, 1908) = *Scymnus (Scymnus) nubilus* Mulsant; *Stethorus indira* Kapur = *Stethorus guangxiensis* Pang and Mao; and *Platynaspis bimaculata* Pang and Mao = *Platynaspis kapuri* Chakraborty and Biswas.

**KEY WORDS:** Checklist, Coccinellidae, distribution, Indian subcontinent, new synonymies

An annotated checklist of the Coccinellidae (excluding Epilachninae) of the Indian subcontinent was recently published (Poorani, 2002). The gap in the knowledge of the subfamily Epilachninae in this checklist has been filled with the publication of the first part of the World Catalogue of Coccinellidae covering Epilachninae (Jadwiszczak and Wegrzynowicz, 2003). This is a very significant development for coccinellid taxonomists as it comes nearly 75 years after the last world catalogue of Coccinellidae (Korschefskey, 1931; 1932). Efforts are on to catalogue the other subfamilies of the world fauna in three more volumes.

The Epilachninae fauna of the Indian region, as per the latest catalogue, comprises 114 species belonging to six genera and a single tribe, Epilachnini. Other additions to and changes in the checklist of the Indian Coccinellidae, including new synonymies, are summarised in this paper. Including these, the Coccinellidae fauna of the Indian subcontinent includes about 520 species under 85 genera, 23 tribes and six subfamilies.

### Changes in the checklist

*Coccinella krikkeni* Iablokoff-Khnzorian,

described from southern India, has been found to be a junior synonym of *Cycloneda munda* (Say), a species confined to eastern United States and parts of Canada, by Vandenberg (2002). The record from India may be the result of accidental transport through commerce, or, more likely, an accident of mislabelling (Vandenberg, 2002). Accordingly, it is removed from the Indian checklist of Coccinellidae (Poorani, 2002).

*Pullus nymphaeus* Kapur & Munshi, inadvertently included in the subgenus *Scymnus* (*Pullus*) Mulsant in the checklist, should be placed in the subgenus *Scymnus* (*Neopullus*) Sasaji.

### New synonymies

Several common species of this region have been described as new species in the publication "Insect Pest Predators" (sic) by Sathe & Bhosale (2001), necessitating the new synonymies listed below. The authors have shown scant regard to the accepted taxonomic practices the book abounds with bloomers, which are too numerous to mention.

- *Brumoides kolhapurensis* Sathe & Bhosale (p.28) is a new junior synonym of *Brumoides suturalis* (Fabricius, 1798).
- *Coccinella madhuri* Sathe & Bhosale (p.42), *Coccinella bhuimungi* Sathe & Bhosale (p.47), and *Coccinella yaminii* Sathe & Bhosale (p.52) are new junior synonyms of *Coccinella transversalis* Fabricius (1781).
- *Coelophora orientalis* Sathe & Bhosale (p.61) is a new junior synonym of *Coelophora bissellata* Mulsant (1850).
- *Harmonia soyabini* Sathe & Bhosale (p.67) is a new junior synonym of *Harmonia octomaculata* (Fabricius, 1781).
- *Horniolus mirajensis* Sathe & Bhosale (p.102) is a new junior synonym of *Propylea dissecta* (Mulsant, 1850).
- *Illeis darbarii* Sathe & Bhosale (p.97) is a new junior synonym of *Illeis cincta* (Fabricius, 1798).

- *Menochilus tuljapurensis* Sathe & Bhosale (p.75), *Menochilus shivajensis* Sathe & Bhosale (p.79), and *Menochilus kharipi* Sathe & Bhosale (p.84) are new junior synonyms of *Cheilomenes sexmaculata* (Fabricius, 1781).
- *Coccinella yogini* Sathe & Bhosale (p.57) is a new junior synonym of *Synonycha grandis* (Thunberg, 1781).
- *Scymnus* (*Scymnus*) *indica* Sathe & Bhosale (p.106) (not *Scymnus indicus* Weise 1908: 228) is a new junior synonym of *Scymnus* (*Scymnus*) *nubilus* Mulsant (1850).
- *Scymnus* (*Pullus*) *marathi* Sathe & Bhosale (p.113) is a new junior synonym of *Scymnus* (*Pullus*) *castaneus* Sicard (1929).
- *Chilocorus suryaphuli* Sathe & Bhosale (p.34) does not belong to *Chilocorus* at all as it is described as having 11-segmented antenna and pubescent elytra. The corresponding illustrations (p.36) also do not belong to a *Chilocorus*. From the description and very poor illustrations, it is not clear which genus / species the authors are dealing with.
- For *Vernia polyphagi* Sathe & Bhosale (sic), the habitus illustration (p.13) shows a *C. sexmaculata*, while the antenna and siphon (Plate 18, p.91) belong to those of a *Propylea*, and a *Micraspis*, respectively.
- *Stethorus guangxiensis* Pang and Mao (1979) is a new junior synonym of *Stethorus indira* Kapur (1950) as the genitalia illustrations given by Pang and Mao (1979) are identical to those given by Kapur (1950) in his original description of *S. indira*.
- *Platynaspis kapuri* Chakraborty and Biswas (2000: 122), a species described from Tripura, is a new junior synonym of *Platynaspis bimaculata* Pang and Mao (1979: 94-95).

### New additions

- Canepari (2003) has described *Halysia nepalensis* Canepari, *Nephus similincludens* Canepari, *Scymnus* (*Pullus*) *weigeli* Canepari

as new species from Nepal and cited *Horniolus hisamatsui* Miyatake, *Rodolia marginata* Bielawski, and *Platynaspidius angulimaculatus* (Mader) as new records. These are additions to the Indian checklist.

- *Micraspis shafeei* Afroze and Haider (1998), described from India, is a new addition to the checklist.
- *Hyperaspis leechi* Miyatake (1961), a palaeartic species, is recorded for the first time from the Indian region (New Delhi).

#### New distribution records

- *Bulaea lichatschovii* (Hummel), *Oenopia walteri* (Sicard), and *Alloneda duvaucelii* (Mulsant) have been recorded from Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, and West Bengal, which are new distribution records for these species in India.

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