



### The pigmented reticulated pattern on 1<sup>st</sup> tergite of *Scolopendra mirabilis* from India

*Scolopendra mirabilis* (Porat, 1876) is a species of centipede widely distributed in India, Southwest Asia, and East Africa (Lewis 2010). In India, it is recorded from Rajasthan and Maharashtra (Khanna & Yadav 1997, Yadav 2012). During a recent survey, we found a specimen of *S. mirabilis* near Badar Mata Ka Prachin Mandir (26.5363°N, 74.5958°E), Pushkar, Ajmer District, Rajasthan, India on 27 March 2024. We deposited it in the Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata (ZSIK-TC-0094). The specimen's habitat was the arid sandy slopes of the Aravalli range. The area is sparsely vegetated, mostly by *Acacia* (Fabaceae). Following Lewis (2010), we identified the species. In this paper, Lewis mentioned the presence of ramifying sutures on the 1<sup>st</sup> tergite in some specimens of *S. mirabilis* from Oman and the UAE. Lewis & Gallagher (1993) also see this character in *Scolopendra teretipes* (Porat, 1893) which was previously considered as a synonym of *S. mirabilis* (Negrea 1997). In our specimen, we also noticed the same ramifying sutures-like pigmented pattern on the 1<sup>st</sup> tergite (Fig. 1). This pattern is not composed of true sutures but a translucent pigmentation with a reticulate shape under the cuticle. This is the first report of such a character from the Indian *Scolopendra* species. The body length of the specimen was 48.1 mm; posterior half of head plate with anteriorly diverging paramedian sutures delimiting basal plates; forcipular coxosternum with ramifying sutures laterally; margination in tergites starts from tergite 17; tergite 21 with a median longitudinal suture; sternite with weak paramedian sutures; coxopleural process with 4 spines and 1 side spine; prefemora of ultimate

legs with twelve spines ventrally; tarsus of ultimate leg without spur. Further study is required to understand its phylogenetic relationship as well as ecology and habitats.

**Acknowledgements.** We thank D. Banerjee (Director, ZSI) for the support; P.P. Mohapatra, and S. Kundu for the field assistance; E.A. Vega Román (Chile), Son X. Le (Vietnam), and Carles Doménech (Spain) for valuable comments.

#### Literature Cited

- Khanna, V. & B. E. Yadav (1997). Indian species of genus *Scolopendra* Linn. (Chilopoda: Scolopendridae) with description of a new species. *Records of the Zoological Survey of India*, 96(1–4): 211–220.
- Lewis, J. G. E. (2010). A key and annotated list of the *Scolopendra* species of the Old World with a reappraisal of *Arthrorhabdus* (Chilopoda: Scolopendromorpha: Scolopendridae). *International Journal of Myriapodology*, 3: 83–122.
- Lewis, J.G.E. & M.D. Gallagher (1993). Scolopendromorph and geophilomorph centipedes from Oman and the United Arab Emirates. *Fauna of Saudi Arabia*, 13: 55–62.
- Yadav, B.E. (2012). Chilopoda: Scolopendromorpha: Scolopendridae. In: *Fauna of Maharashtra, State Fauna Series, 20 (Part III)*: Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata: 659pp.

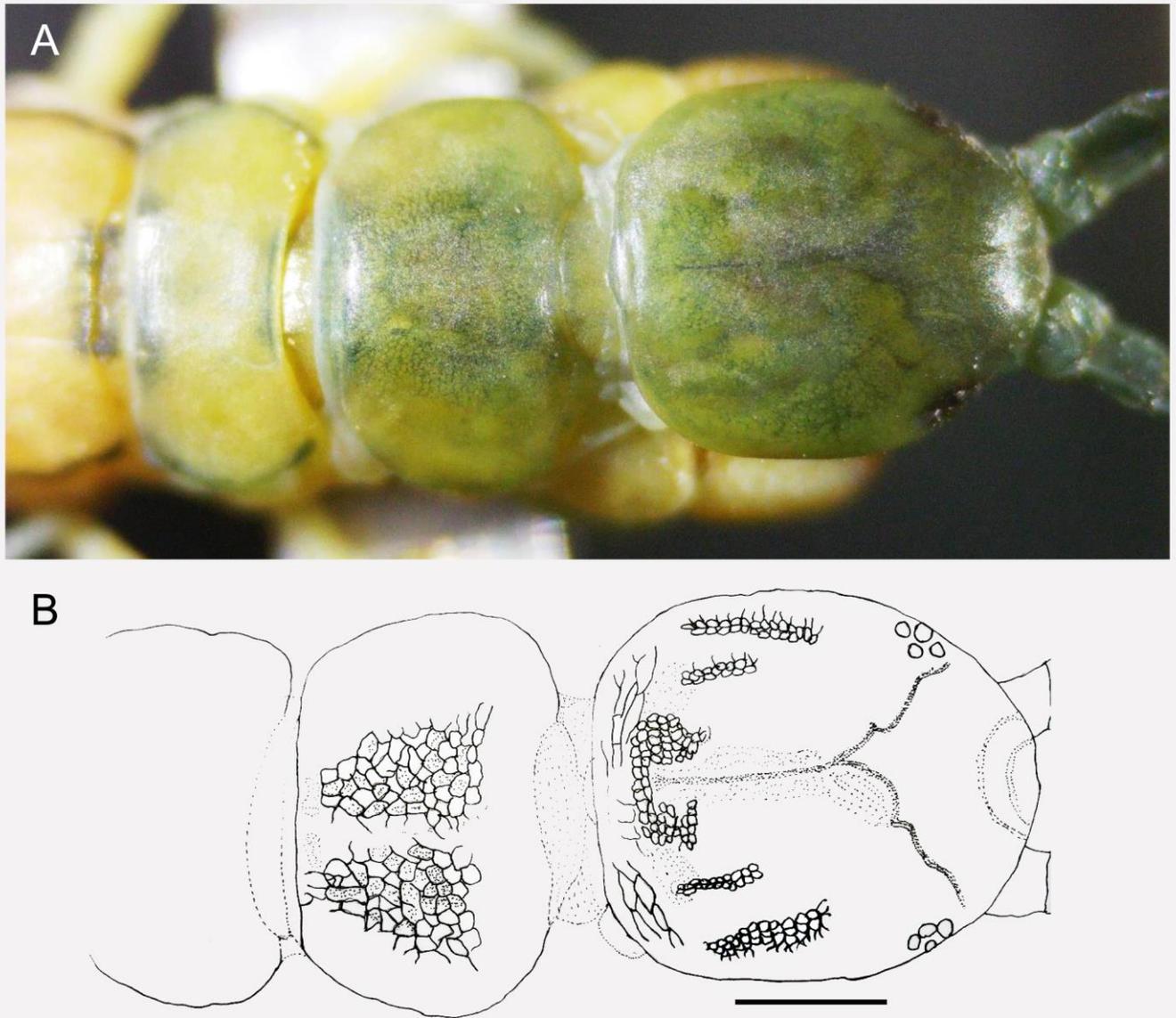
Submitted: 3 Sep 2024, Accepted: 19 Nov 2024  
Section Editor: David Cabanillas

S. Mukherjee<sup>1</sup>, S. Ray<sup>1,2</sup> & P.G.S. Sethy<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Zoological Survey of India, FPS Building, Kolkata, India

<sup>2</sup> E-mail: new.sumidh@gmail.com

## Plate 32



**Figure 1.** A specimen of *Scolopendra mirabilis* collected (ZSIK-TC-094) from Pushkar, Ajmer, Rajasthan, India: (A) a photograph and (B) a line drawing of the ramifying sutures-like pigmented pattern on the first tergite; scale: 1 mm