



HEMICLEPSIS CHHARWARDAMENSIS SP. NOV.
(HIRUDINEA : GLOSSIPHONIDAE)
A NEW SPECIES OF LEECH FROM JHARKHAND, INDIA

C.K. MANDAL

Zoological Survey of India, FPS Building Kolkata - 700016

E-mail: mandalsucker@gmail.com

INTRODUCTION

More than 667 species of leeches are in the world. In India only 64 leech species of leeches are recorded so far Mandal (2010). This new species has been collected from *Chharwar* dam of Jharkhand during recent faunistic survey carried out by Zoological survey of India. In addition to this many new records have also recorded along with this. Harding and Moore (1924, 1927), have described number of new species from India. Mandal (2004) has described two new species from West Bengal. Soos (1965) is the pioneer in Taxonomy of leeches. Bandyopadhyay (2005), Mandal (1966, 2002, 2004 and 2005), Raut and saha (1986, 1986b, 1987) have done some work on taxonomy and ecological work of leeches in West Bengal. Soota (1977), Chandra, M (1983), Blanchard, R (1917), Ghosh G.C. (1998) contributed a lot on the taxonomy of leeches.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

After making the collection, leeches were sorted out. Then the cleaned leeches were placed in a tray with a small quantity of water and were slowly killed by anaesthetizing with alcohol. Leeches usually die in an extended condition by the process. Just after death, the leeches were kept in 70% alcohol for permanent preservation. As fixing fluid 4% formalin may be used.

Hemiclepsis chharwardamensis sp. nov.

Holotype: Z.S.I. Reg. No. An 3662/1 1ex. Coll. C.K.Mandal. 11. iii. 2009, Chharwardam, Bokaro, Jharkhand, India.

Diagnosis

Colour: Greyish green in living condition, fade up at preserved state.

Body: Small, cylindrical, distinct head region, middle part of the body is more in breadth than the two ends.

Length: The total length of the body of *Hemiclepsis ischharwardamensis* is 7.5 mm.

Breadth: 1.5 mm.

Sucker: Anterior sucker .5 mm. in diameter, posterior sucker 1mm. in diameter. Posterior sucker is almost round, anterior sucker almost round. Horse shoe shaped jaws are in the anterior sucker.

Eyes: Two pairs of eyes. Ist pair smallest, closest and form a small line.

Host and habitat: It is found in lake, sucks the blood of mollusc and fishes.

Distribution: India: Bokaro, Jharkhand.

Remarks: The specific name is proposed according to the name of the place where from the first example was collected.

SUMMARY

Hemiclepsis chharwardamensis (Plate I and II) is described as a new species from Jharkhand. Due to having two pairs of eyes, it belongs to the genus *Hemiclepsis*. It is distinguished in possessing the following characters. Body is cylindrical. Eyes are two pairs. 1st pair smallest, closed and form a small line. 9 pairs of caeca

Table showing comparison of *Hemiclepsis chharwardamensis* sp. nov. with the other two species of the genus *Hemiclepsis* in India.

	<i>Hemiclepsis bhatiai</i>	<i>Hemiclepsis marginataasiatica</i>	<i>Hemiclepsis marginatamarginata</i>	<i>Hemiclepsis viridis</i>	<i>Hemiclepsis chharwardamensis</i>
Body	Claviform	Flattened	Flattened	Ovate lanceolate	Cylindrical
Colour	Cream colour	Reddish brown	Greenish yellow	Pea green	Grey-ish green
Eyes	3 pairs cup shaped	Two pairs	Two pairs	Three pairs	Comma shaped
Caecae	Nine pairs, Last pair branched	More than seven pairs	Eleven pairs Branched	Eleven pairs Less branched	Nine pairs not branched
Ring	70	70	72	70	60

(without branch) are present in the body. Papillae are found on the mid-dorsal area of the body. 9 whitish brown patches are on the both anterior lateral line of the body. 3 whitish brown patches are found on the mid dorsal area of anterior region. Horse shoe shaped jaws are in the anterior sucker. Number of ring is 60. Two brownish lines are on the anterior sucker. The leech is grayish green in living. Length of a full-grown preserved specimen is 7.5 mm. and width is 1.5 mm. Posterior sucker is 1mm. In diameter; anterior sucker measures .5 mm diameter. Body breadth is

almost triple than posterior sucker. A living specimen becomes double in length in full extension.

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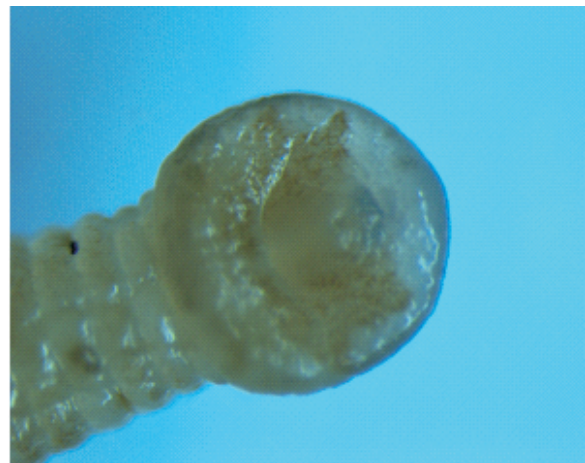
Plate showing the pictures of the leech species



Hemiclepsis charwardamensis (Ventral)



Hemiclepsis charwardamensis (Dorsal)



Hemiclepsis charwardamensis (Dorsal and Ventral view of Head)

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