

## A FIRST RECORD OF *HEMITHYRSOCERA PALLIATA* FABRICIUS, 1798 (BLATTODEA: BLATTELLIDAE: BLATTELLINAE): AN ADDITION TO THE FAUNA OF MAHARASHTRA, INDIA

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The cockroaches are widely distributed insects and well known for pestiferous status. About 4000 species and 445 genera under six families are distributed all over the world of which 156 species belonging to 57 genera under five families are recorded from India (Prabakaran et al. 2009). The fauna of Maharashtra enumerates 12 species under 10 genera spread over four families (Jadhav & Sharma 2012). Gaikwad et al. (2014) have reported six species of cockroaches under five genera spread over three families from Kolhapur District. The Golden Ring Cockroach *Hemithyrsocera palliata* was first described by Fabricius (1798). This species is widely distributed on the Asiatic continent (Bruijning 1948).

According to Hanitsch (1925), Mandal (2006), urn:lsid:Blattodea.speciesfile.org:TaxonName:5468 (accessed on 23 December 2014) and <http://www.vcharkarn.com/vcafe/181374> (accessed on 23 December 2014). *H. palliata* is distributed in India, Sri Lanka, China, Myanmar, Malaysia, Indonesia, Borneo Island, Thailand and Cambodia. In India the taxon is reported from Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Karnataka, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu and Tripura (Mandal 2006).

This paper reports an additional sighting of the species from Maharashtra on the basis of two females collected when they were attracted towards a house tube light at Sangirdewadi, Kudal, Sindhudurga, Maharashtra (15°59'56.09"N & 73°41'42.91"E) at an elevation of around 28m. Bruijning (1948) and Mandal (2006) have given brief diagnostic characters of this species. However, there are neither color photographs nor illustrations and detailed diagnostic characters of this species are not available anywhere. In the present paper efforts have been made to provide a brief description and good color photographs with illustrations. The specimens are deposited at Department of Zoology, Shivaji University, Kolhapur.

**Material examined:** ZSUK.BL/09, 1 female, 18.vii.2014; 1 female, 28.vii.2014, Sangirdewadi, Kudal,



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DATA DEFICIENT	LEAST CONCERN	NEAR THREATENED	VULNERABLE	ENDANGERED	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED	EXTINCT IN THE WILD	EXTINCT
DD	LC	NT	VU	EN	CR	EW	EX

*Hemithyrsocera palliata*  
Golden Ring Cockroach



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Image 1. *Hemithyrsochera palliata* (Fabricius, 1798) - dorsal view



Image 2. *Hemithyrsochera palliata* (Fabricius, 1798) - ventral view



Image 3. *Hemithyrsochera palliata* - pronotum dorsal view



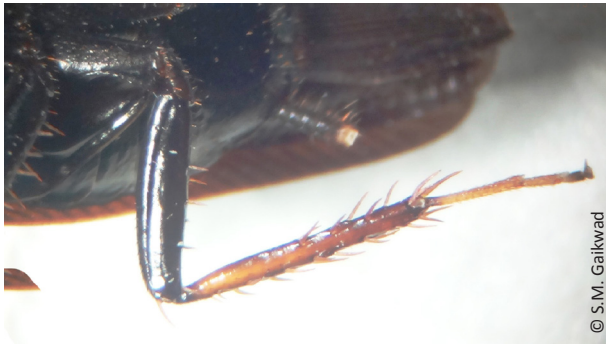
Image 4. *Hemithyrsochera palliata* - head ventral view

Sindhudurg District, coll. Y.J. Koli.

Diagnosis: Female: The body color is shining dark brown (Image 1). The body length is from 12.04–12.07 mm; pronotum length is from 2.81–2.9 mm; pronotum width is from 3.4–3.6 mm; and tegmina length is from 8.98–9 mm. The head is not very broad, vertex slightly exposed, ocellar spot prominent forming an angle with intervening area, clypeus and labrum large (Image 4); pronotum subelliptical black with golden yellow margin rounded about the pronotum, slightly convex, outer lateral margin rounded and posterior margin obtusely rounded (Image 3); legs long and slender; coxae large and rather closely approximated; antero-ventral margin of the front femur with row of spines which generally decrease in size laterally; tibia more spiny than femur, spines increasing in size antero-posteriorly; tarsi five segmented (Images 2, 6); tegmina and wings fully developed, subcosta nearly reaching the median point, radial vein branched, forked before the middle and sending 11 to 12 branches to the apical angle; the entire



Image 5. *Hemithyrsochera palliata* - abdomen showing subgenital plate and cerci.



**Image 6. *Hemithyrocera palliata* - hind leg ventral view**

wing has a brownish tinge, except the anterior area. Supra-anal plate with convexly rounded hind margin, 9<sup>th</sup> sternum large forming subgenital plate, cerci long and slender nine segmented, dark brown proximally and pale distally, extending well beyond the supra-anal plate (Image 5).

In the fauna of Maharashtra (Part 2), Jadhav & Sharma (2012) have mentioned four species belonging to the subfamily Blatellinae. Hence, *H. palliata* is an addition not only to the Blatellinae but also to the Blattodea of Maharashtra.

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