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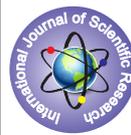
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A new species of *Rhagovelia* Mayr, 1865 from India



Zoology

V.K. Khandelwal

Dept. of Zoology, K. R. College, Mathura (U.P.) India

ABSTRACT

Rhagovelia Mayr, 1865 is a genus of family *Vellidae*. It is hereto represented by two species viz. *R.nigricans* Burn.1835 and *R. ravana* Kirkaldy 1902. One new species of the genus *Rhagovelia* (*Neorhagovelia*) *yamunae* sp. nov. is described from India.

The *Vellidae* are best known of all aquatic hemiptera of the world and are extremely common in Indian waters. The members of the family are easily differentiated from the related family *Gerridae* based on hind leg not surpassing beyond the tip of abdomen and the presence of median longitudinal groove on vertex. *Rhagovelia* Mayr, 1865 belongs to the subfamily *Rhagoveliinae* China & Usinger 1949 of the family *Vellidae*. The genus *Rhagovelia* Mayr, 1865 are easily recognized from the members of other genera due to elongated body, long antenna with 3rd and 4th joints moderately slender, intermediate, and posterior tarsi equal or sub equal in length.

Material and Methods: Specimens for the present study have been collected from the crevices of holy riverbank of Yamuna and in order to study the specimens, dried specimens were softened in alcohol and macerated in 10% KOH solution to remove the genital capsule and dissected to study the structural details of mouthparts, eyes, antennae, genitalia etc. All drawings were being made from camera lucida. For comparative study, the data collected from World Wide Web.

The genus is well characterized by the three jointed tarsi and a long deeply fissured terminal point of the intermediate tarsi. Eyes large usually as wide as the vertex at the posterior margin. Rostrum 4 segmented with the second segment the longest. Antennae 4 segmented with a conspicuous protuberance at base. The ocellus is completely absent in this genus. Pronotum well developed. Presence of scent glands provided with tuft of erected hairs. Anterior trochanter unarmed. Connexivum more or less obliquely raised. First genital segment longer than seventh sternite. Second genital segment not modified. Female with eighth abdominal segment with usually lateral tuft of latero-caudally directed hairs. Ninth abdominal segment bent.

Distribution: In all Zoogeographical realms of the world.

This genus includes two subgenera. *Rhagovelia* (*s.str.*) Arten.1937 and *Neorhagovelia* Matsuda, 1961

Subgenus: *Rhagovelia* (*s.str.*) Arten.1937

Type species: *Rhagovelia* (*Rhagovelia*) *nigricans* (Burm.)

Pronotum long, covering most of Mesonotum, size small, less than 3 mm long. Paramere slender, sigmoid in shape with its distal end slightly enlarged. Distinct longitudinal carinae always occur on the second and third dorsal abdominal segments, usually hind tibia is shorter than hind femur.

Subgenus: *Neorhagovelia* Matsuda, 1961

Type species: *Rhagovelia* (*Neorhagovelia*) *augustipes* Uhler

Pronotum short, exposing metanotum. Size very small less than 2.2 mm long. Paramere shorter and broader, distal end pointed. Distinct longitudinal carinae always occur on the second dorsal abdominal segments more or less obliterated. Usually hind tibia longer than hind femur.

Distribution: These subgenus is distributed in the Oriental realm. (Burma, China, Formosa, India, Java, Philippines, Malaya as well as in Palaearctic region)

Relative Length of leg segments: Apterous male (3.22 mm in length)

	Femur	tibia	tarsus	First tarsal segment	Second tarsal segment
Fore leg	47	48	46	-	-
Mid leg	92	80	76	31	36
Hind leg	83	79	31	17	17

Description:

Rhagovelia (*Neorhagovelia*) *yamunae* sp. nov.

(PL. I, Figs.1-10)

Structural characteristics:

Size: **Male**, Apterous, 3.22 mm in length: width of apterous male across prothorax, 1.32 mm, **Female**, 3.88 mm in length: width across prothorax of Apterous female 1.41 mm.

Colour: Light grey in dorsal part while anterior part of pronotum and connexivum brown. Antennae and legs dark grey; Basal half of first antennal segment darker; Bases of front and hind femora brownish; Venter dark black; Abdomen nearly black and covered with silvery hairs.

Structural characteristics:

Head: Head width across eyes 0.88 mm in male and 0.89 in female. Head including eyes as long as wide (46: 56 in male and 58:60 in female) Median longitudinal furrow narrow; Antenniferous tubercle less developed. Eyes large and protruded. Clypeus with basal extremities distinct; Antennae slender with first segment nearly double the second segment while 3rd and 4th segments nearly equal; Relative lengths of antennal segments of male Ist : IIInd : IIIrd : IVth :: 44 : 22 : 18 : 17 and of female Ist : IIInd : IIIrd : IVth :: 57 : 27 : 19 : 18. Clypeus with basal margin conspicuous. Mandibular and Maxillary plates well developed. Rostrum slender with second segment the longest and touching the anterior half of pronotum.

Thorax: Pronotum shorter. Pronotum at middle wider than long (45: 12 in male and 55: 18 in female); Mesonotum concave; Intersegmental suture between mesonotum and metanotum distinct; Legs of male thickened than female; Tibia and trochanter hairy; Legs covered with many small spines.

Apterous female (3.88 mm in length)

	Femur	tibia	tarsus	First tarsal segment	Second tarsal segment
Fore leg	58	61	59	-	-
Mid leg	102	91	83	41	41
Hind leg	84	82	42	35	27

Abdomen: Connexivum with first four segments oblique; Seventh abdominal tergite with its basal width shorter than its length; Pregenital segment about 1/3 total length; Lateral tergites ¼ the width of mediotergites; Tergites two to five equal in length while seventh slightly longer.

Male genitalia: Seventh abdominal segment with its basal width a little shorter than its length without connexival spine; Eighth segment conspicuous, convex on ventral posterior margin; Ninth segment with simple suranal plate; pygophore clearly visible ventrally. Parameres short, symmetrically developed. Endosome with dorsal plate fused with round apical plate on apical margin; lateral plate slender; ventral plate completely membranous without sclerotized basal support.

Female genitalia: Seventh segment well developed dorsally as well as ventrally. Eight segment ventrally not fully visible; first valvula with inner lobe narrow; short about 1/3 as long as outer lobe; outer lobe narrow apically and pointed at tip. Second valvula narrow posteriorly and sharp at apex; extending beyond apical margin of intervalvular membrane. Valvula membranous connected with inner lobe of first valvulae.

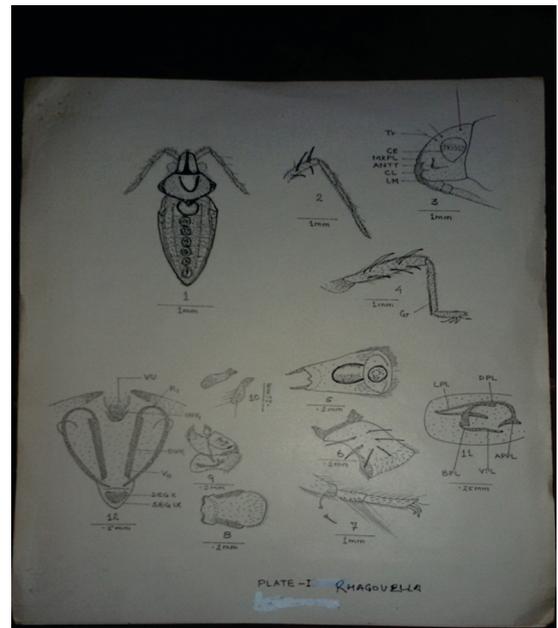
Material examined: *Holotype* one Apterous male, *allotype* one Apterous female. *Paratypes* apterous two males and three females in spirit. Uttar Pradesh, Mathura 25.xi. 14°. Ravi

Distribution: INDIA: Uttar Pradesh, Mathura

Remark: The species closely resemble to *Rhagovelia esakii* Lundblad. However larger than that species. The male femur is more armed and shape of parameres different. The new species *Rhagovelia (Neorhagovelia) rashmae* sp. nov. Including type series presently deposited at Zoological museum K. R. (P.G.) College, Mathura

The species named after its location in the cracks and crevices on the bank of river.

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Rhagovelia (Neorhagovelia) yamunae sp. nov.

(PL. I, Figs.1-10)

- Fig.1 Dorsal view of apterous male
 Fig.2 Ventral view of apterous male
 Fig.3 Head in lateral view
 Fig.4 Antenna of male
 Fig.5 Last dorsal abdominal segment of female
 Fig.6 Left paramere
 Fig.7 Hind leg of female
 Fig.8 Hind leg of male
 Fig.9 Apical segment of endosoma
 Fig.10 Female genitalia

Abbreviations:

VU=Valvula, R¹=Rami¹, INV=Inner valvulae, OUV=Outer valvulae
 VII=Valvifer, SEG=Segment, CE=Compound eye, MXPL=Maxillary plate, ANTT=Antiniferrous tubule, CL=Clypeus, LM=Labrum, GR=Grasping comb, DPL=Dorsalplate, LPL=Lateralplate, APPL=Apical plate, VPL=Ventral plate, BP=Basal plate

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