

## First record of *Canthesancus gulo* Stal, 1863 (Reduviidae, Stenopodainae) from Maharashtra, India

S. V. More<sup>1\*</sup>, V. S. Gadekar<sup>2</sup> and K. N. Nikam<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Zoology, ADK Science College, Dodamarg, Sindhudurg, Maharashtra, India

<sup>2</sup>Department of Zoology, Sangola College, Sangola, Solapur, Maharashtra, India

<sup>3</sup>Department of Zoology, RBM, Mahavidyalaya Chandgad, Kolhapur, Maharashtra, India

Email: sadamore6046@gmail.com

**ABSTRACT:** The brownish castaneous spot assassin bug *Canthesancus gulo* Stal, 1863 is reported from Maharashtra for the first time, as the first species of this genus in the Maharashtra state. The diagnostic characters, colour images, and current geographical distribution of species are given.

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**KEY WORDS:** Assassin bug, castaneous spot, distribution, diagnostic characters

The family Reduviidae is the largest group of predatory Heteroptera, representing of 6250 species and subspecies in 25 subfamilies globally (Maldonado, 1990). The earlier work on the assassin bug from British India was done by Distant (1904, 1910) who recorded 342 species, after that Distant's work, the checklist of the Indian assassin bug was given by Ambrose (2006), which included a total of 464 species belonging to 144 genera and 14 subfamilies, of which 33 species of Reduviidae were reported from Maharashtra by Sharma and Bano (2012). The subfamily Stenopodainae (Heteroptera, Reduviidae) is represented by more than 92 known species distributed in all zoogeographic regions (Maldonado, 1990); it is the fourth largest subfamily in India (Ambrose, 2006). In India, A total of 39 species of the subfamily Stenopodinae under 14 genera have been recorded (Ambrose, 2006). *Canthesancus* Amyot and Serville, 1843 is one of the small genus of the

subfamily Stenopodinae. There are 3 species of the genus *Canthesancus* known from India, viz., *Canthesancus picticollis* Stal, 1874, *Canthesancus gulo* Stal, 1843, and *Canthesancus helluo* Stal, 1843. These three species are distributed in the countries like Malaysia, Myanmar, China, India, and Indonesia. Of them, the species *C. picticollis* is endemic to India (Ambrose, 2006). The collected species was identified by using Distant (1904) and confirmed by Dr. Hemant Ghate, Modern College Pune. However, *C. gulo* (Stal) has never been previously reported from the state of Maharashtra, and the current study adds this species to the Reduviidae fauna of Maharashtra state.

### *Canthesancus gulo* Stal, 1863 (Figs. 1-5)

1863. *Canthesancus gulo* Stal, *Ann. Soc. Ent. Fr.*, 4: 44.

\* Author for correspondence



Fig. 1-2 *Canthesancus gulo* Stal, 1863. 1-2. Dorsal and ventral views of male



Fig. 3-5 *Canthesancus gulo*. 3. First segment of all legs with colour, 4. Rostrum, 5. Abdomen

1904. *Canthesancus gulo*, Distant, *Fauna Brit. India, Rhynchota*, 2: 235.

1990. *Canthesancus gulo*, Maldonado, *Caribbean J. Sci. (special ed.)*, 496 pp.

Specimens examined: Single male, 25.ix.2022, near the light source, Sonaval village (Dodamarg-Maharashtra), elevation (128 m), coordinates (latitude 15°47' 42" N and longitude 74°04' 32" E), Coll. S. More, deposited in ADKS College, Dodamarg, identified by Dr. Hemant Ghate.

**Diagnostic characters (male):** Head elongat with griseous-ochraceous, anteocular region much longer than postocular region, eyes and ocelli brown in colour; a central black line stretching between the base of the first segment of antennae (or between the apex of antenniferous tubercle) to posterior lobe of pronotum; antennae black to pale ochraceous, the base of first antennal segment pale ochraceous and more than half areas brownish to black, second antennal segment much longer than first antennal segment, with its base pale ochraceous; rostrum pale ochraceous, first segment elongated and incrassate, with slightly longer than the second, second segment brown, distinctly thinner than first segment, third segment dark brownish, slightly curved and pointed, rostrum not reaching to fore coxa and extending more than half portion of gula; the humeral angel of pronotum not rounded, anterior lobe of pronotum shorter than posterior lobe with partially transverse sulcus at the middle, finely transverse sulcus present behind the anterior lobe, anterior and posterior lobe with three pairs of fuscous spines on each lateral margin; scutellum brownish, with a long erect spine; hemelytra brownish-ochraceous, with brownish castaneous irregular spots (the spot smallest at the sub basal area of corium and near the cubitus, the second spot large to the junction between the corium and membrane, the third spot on the disc of membrane); membrane pale castaneous and finely extending beyond the apical segment of abdomen, and lightly mottled with brown in colour; ventrally fuscous, acetabulum coxa and trochanter fuscous, abdomen segments visible with tawny brown; fore femora slightly incrassate than mid and hind femora, with its basal region ochraceous and apical areas fuscous

with brownish to yellow fine hairs, tibiae covered with fine hairs with alternative irregular yellow and brownish patches, tarsi brownish yellow.

**Measurements (in mm):** Length 26.5 mm; breadth between pronotal angles 6.5 mm.

**Distribution:** India: Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim and Maharashtra (New record).

Elsewhere: Malay Peninsula, Malaysia, Myanmar and Singapore (Weirauch et al., 2014 and Mukherjee, 2015)

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