



## THE CICADA (HEMIPTERA: CICADIDAE) FAUNA OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH, INDIA: A PRELIMINARY CHECKLIST WITH THREE NEW RECORDS TO THE STATE

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### ABSTRACT

Prior to this paper, only 27 species of Cicada have been recorded from Arunachal Pradesh. This paper deals with three species of cicada that are reported for the first time from Arunachal Pradesh. Three other species, whose earlier records were based on photographs only, are confirmed from voucher specimens that form part of our study. With this report the number of cicada species with confirmed distribution in this North-East India State has risen to 30 species. A preliminary checklist is also provided.

**Keywords:** Along, Checklist, Mechuka, Mouling National Park, Namdapha.

### INTRODUCTION

The State of Arunachal Pradesh, located in the North-Eastern part of India, is positioned within the Eastern Himalaya biodiversity hotspot, by virtue of which it is endowed with a diverse mix of Indo-Chinese, Indo-Malayan and Indian faunal elements. The State is still largely unexplored and its rich faunal diversity is still largely unknown. In recent times there has been a spurt of interests from researchers to carry out faunistic exploration and documentation, but the focus has been limited to the vertebrates and charismatic insect groups like the butterflies and moths, with scant attention to other insects like the cicada. The cicadas are a group of homopteran insects that can be found in most terrestrial ecosystems, particularly the forests. Their presence in a habitat can be detected by the loud songs of the males calling for suitable mates of its own species; the females, however, are 'voiceless'. Perusal of literature reveals that around 187 species (including subspecies) of cicadas are found in India (Price *et al.*, 2016). Since the publication of Price *et al.* (2016), several new records to India (Sarkar *et al.*, 2020), new species (Marathe *et al.*, 2017, 2018; Sadasivan *et al.*, 2023; Sarkar *et al.*, 2020, 2021, 2024) and a new genus of cicada (Sadasivan and Sarkar, 2023) have been added to the list of cicada from India, bringing up the total records to about

204 species, and also removing the ambiguity surrounding the distribution of *Pomponia linearis* (Walker, 1850) and *Purana tigrina* (Walker, 1850) in the southern parts of the Indian sub-continent (Sadasivan, 2021; Sadasivan *et al.*, 2023).

Literature reviews carried out during the course of our work reveal the paucity of published records on the cicada fauna of Arunachal Pradesh. The notable records on the group from the State are those of Lee and Emery (2013, 2014b), Chandra *et al.* (2018), Ghosh and Mitra (2019), Saha *et al.*, 2021 and Sarkar, 2025. In their 2013 paper, Lee and Emery erected two new genera *Mosaica* and *Manna*, and described two new species - *Mosaica irregularis* and *Manna tenuis*, from Along, West Siang District, Arunachal Pradesh. Their 2014 paper dealt with the description of the new species *Neoterpnosia donghai* from Monigong village in Mechuka, Shi Yomi District, Arunachal Pradesh. In the Hemiptera chapter of their tome *Faunal Diversity of Indian Himalaya*, Chandra *et al.* (2018) listed eight species of Cicada - *Cryptotympana acuta* Signoret, 1848, *Cryptotympana corvus* (Walker, 1850), *Hyalessa expansa* (Walker, 1858), *Mata kama* (Distant, 1881), *Platylomia brevis* Distant, 1912, *Macrosemia saturata* (Walker, 1858) [as *Platylomia saturata* Walker, 1858], *Callogaeana festiva festiva* (Fabricius, 1803) [as *Sulphogaeana festiva*

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(Fabricius, 1803)] and *Graptotettix guttatus* Stål, 1866, from the East Himalaya biotic province, a region that encompasses the whole of Arunachal Pradesh (Rodger *et al.* 2002). The paper by Ghosh and Mitra (2019) reports the availability of six species of Cicada [(*Cryptotympana corvus* (Walker, 1850), *Dundubia terpsichore* (Walker, 1850) as *Dundubia mannifera* (Linnaeus, 1754), *Pycna repanda* (Linnaeus, 1767), *Dundubia oopaga* (Distant, 1881) as *Cosmopsaltria oopaga* Distant, 1881, *Purana guttularis* (Walker, 1858) and *Macrosemia umbrata* (Distant, 1888) as *Platylomia umbrata* (Distant, 1888)] within the Namdapha Tiger Reserve in the Changlang District of the State. Sarkar *et al.* (2020) when adding four species as new records to the Indian cicada based on studies carried out in Meghalaya, mentioned that the species *Orientalis fangrayae* Boulard, 2001, was also observed by them in Mouling National Park, Upper Siang District, Arunachal Pradesh, in 2018 but that they could not collect voucher specimens then. Based on their study, the species *Orientalis fangrayae* is accepted as being found in the State.

Further, Saha *et al.* (2021) reported three species of cicada from Talle Valley Wildlife Sanctuary in the Lower Subansiri District of Arunachal Pradesh. Their report forms the first records of *Macrosemia saturata* (Walker, 1858), *Pomponia linearis* (Walker, 1850) and *Talainga naga* Ollenbach, 1929 from this State. Three species - *Meimuna microdon* Walker, 1850, *Polyneura ducalis* Westwood, 1840 and *Gaeana maculata* (Drury, 1773) are also added to the list of cicada from Arunachal Pradesh, based on information sourced from the online database on Indian Cicada, showing photographs of the species from East Siang, West Kameng, Upper Siang and Changlang Districts, respectively (Anonymous, 2025). Sarkar (2025) reported five species (*Dundubia hastata*, *Macrosemia assamensis*, *Pycna verna*, *Chryptotympana mandarina* and *Orientalis fangrayae*) from the Abor region of the State. Three other species, *Gaeana maculata* Drury, 1773, *Meimuna microdon* Walker, 1850 and *Polyneura ducalis* Westwood, 1840, whose earlier records were based on photographs (Anonymous, 2025) only, are confirmed from voucher specimens that form part of our study. On the bases of these published accounts, a total of 27 species of Cicada is known from Arunachal Pradesh till date. In this paper, we are reporting another three species from the State, raising the number of cicadas with confirmed distribution in Arunachal Pradesh to 30 species.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The specimens studied were collected from various parts of Arunachal Pradesh. Identification was carried using standard published literatures Distant (1906) and the systematic placements, distribution followed was after Metcalf (1963), Sanborn (2014), Price *et al.* (2016), Sarkar *et al.* (2020) and Hill *et al.* (2021). The studied specimens were registered and deposited in the National Zoological Collection housed in the Arunachal Pradesh Regional

Centre of the Zoological Survey of India at Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Systematic Accounts

Phylum: Arthropoda

Class: Insecta

Order: Hemiptera

Suborder: Auchenorrhyncha

Family: Cicadidae

### *Haphsa durga* Distant, 1881

1881. *Cosmopsaltria durga* Distant, *Trans. Entomol. Soc. London*, **1881**: 637.

2009. *Haphsa durga* Boulard, *M. Lambillionea*. **CIX**: 39–58.

*Material examined*: 1 Male, 1 Female. Reg. No. ZSI/APRC/IV-4273. Arunachal Pradesh, Papum Pare District, Itanagar, Senki Valley; 27.07593°N; 93.59893°E; 219 m ASL; Coll. G. Srinivasan, 26.x.2004.

*Distribution*: India [Arunachal Pradesh (Papum Pare District), Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland].

Elsewhere: China (Guangdong, Yunnan), Laos, Taiwan (Fujian), Thailand, Vietnam.

*Remarks*: First record from Arunachal Pradesh (Papum Pare District).

### *Tosena melanoptera* (White, 1846)

1846. *Cicada (Tosena) melanoptera* White, *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.*, **17**:331.

1885. *Tosena melanoptera*, Atkins, *J. Asiat. Soc. Bengal*, **53**: 217, n. 18.

*Material examined*: 1 Male. Reg. No. ZSI/APRC/IV-4274. Arunachal Pradesh, Papum Pare District, Itanagar, Senki Valley; 27.07593°N; 93.59893°E; 219 m ASL; Coll. G. Srinivasan, 22.x.2004.

*Distribution*: India [Arunachal Pradesh (Papum Pare District), Assam, Meghalaya, N. W. Himalaya, Sikkim, north part of West Bengal].

Elsewhere: Bangladesh (Sylhet); China (Guangxi); Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand, Tibet (Xizang), Vietnam.

*Remarks*: First record from Arunachal Pradesh (Papum Pare District).

### *Dundubia annandalei* Boulard, 2007

2007. *Dundubia annandalei* Boulard, *Lambillionea*, **107**(4): 493–510.

*Material examined*: 1 Male, 1 Female. Reg. No. ZSI/APRC/IV-7926. Arunachal Pradesh, Papum Pare

District, Itanagar, Senki Valley; 27.07593°N; 93.59893°E; 219 m ASL; Coll. B. Khersa, 03.v.2023.

*Distribution*: India [Arunachal Pradesh (Papum Pare District), Meghalaya, Mizoram].

Elsewhere: Malacca, Peninsular Malasia, Thailand (Boulard 2007).

*Remarks*: First record from Arunachal Pradesh (Papum Pare District).

### ***Gaeana maculata maculata* (Drury, 1773)**

1773. *Cicada maculata* Drury, *Ins.* ii. p. 69, t. 37, f. 1.

1843. *Gaeana maculata*, Amy. and Serv., *Hist des Hém.*, p. 464, n. 1.

*Material examined*: 2 Male. Reg. No. ZSI/APRC/IV-7927. Arunachal Pradesh, Upper Siang District, Karko village; 28.577001°N; 95.056535°E; 553 m ASL; Coll. N. Tahar and G. Lollen, 03.v.2003.

*Distribution*: India [Arunachal Pradesh (Upper Siang, Changlang), Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim].

Elsewhere: Australia, Bangladesh, China (Guangxi, Guangdong, Jiangxi, Guizhou, Sichuan, Hainan, Hong Kong, South China), Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Vietnam.

*Remarks*: First record from Changlang District (Anonymous, 2025) based on photographs, and present record is from Upper Siang District.

### ***Meimuna microdon* Walker, 1850**

1850. *Dundubia microdon* Walker, *List Hom.*, 1:55, n.15.

*Material examined*: 1male. Reg. No. ZSI/APRC/IV-4268. Arunachal Pradesh, Papum Pare District, Itanagar, Senki Valley; 27.07593°N; 93.59893°E; 219 m ASL; Coll. G. Srinivasan, 26.x.2004.

*Distribution*: India [Arunachal Pradesh (East Siang, Papum Pare), North India, Sikkim].

Elsewhere: China (Yunnan, Hunan, South China); Tibet; Vietnam (Tonkin).

*Remarks*: First recorded from East Siang District (Anonymous, 2025) based on photographs, and the present record extends its distribution range to Papum Pare District.

### ***Polyneura ducalis* Westwood, 1840**

1840. *Polyneura ducalis* Westwood, *Arcan. Ent.* vol. i. p. 92, t. 24, f. 2 (1842)

*Material examined*: 1Male. Reg. No. ZSI/APRC/IV-7928. Arunachal Pradesh, Tawang District, Tawang; 27.57889°N; 91.86056°E; 2832 m ASL; Coll. G. Thirumalai, 24.ix.1997.

*Distribution*: India [Arunachal Pradesh (West Kameng, Tawang), Assam, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, northern West Bengal].

Elsewhere: China (Hunan, Guangxi, Sichuan, Yunnan, Xizang, Szechuan), Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Tibet, Vietnam.

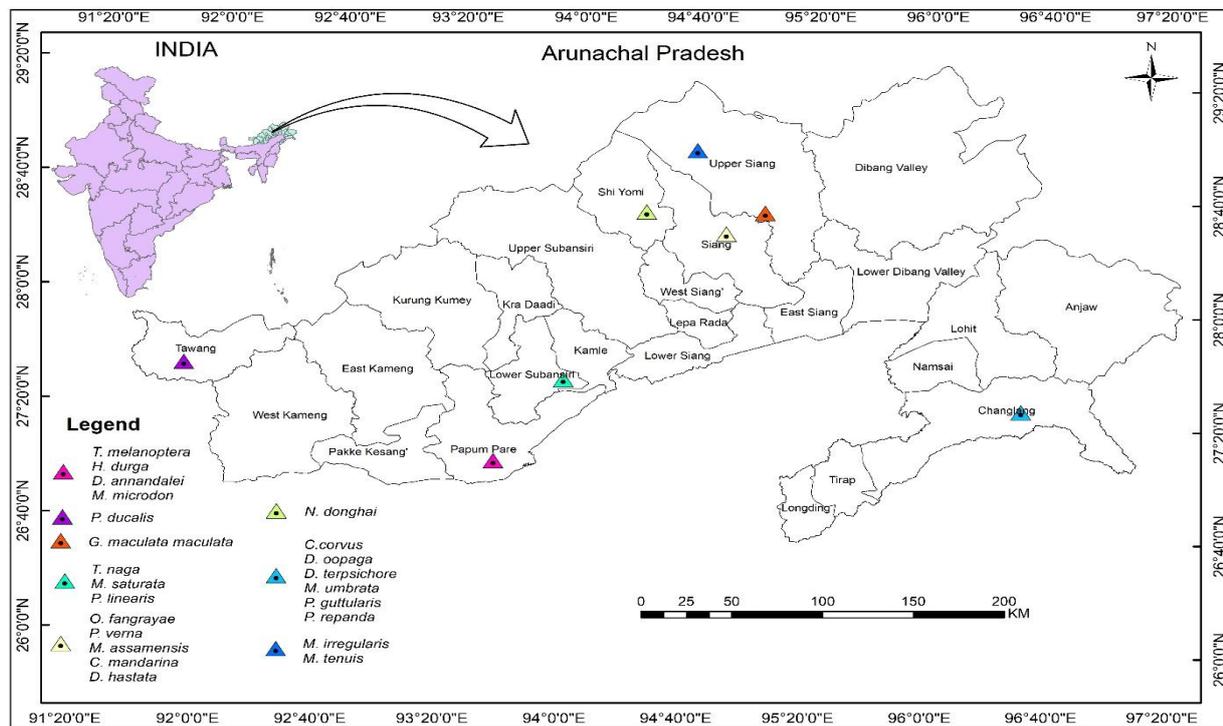
*Remarks*: First record from West Kameng (Anonymous, 2025) based on photographs, and now also recorded from Tawang District.

Based on the results of our study and the earlier reports on the species found in Arunachal Pradesh, a preliminary checklist on the cicada fauna of the State is given below (Table 1). The general locations of 23 species are depicted in the map (Figure 1). However, the locality of seven species, *Callogaeana festiva festiva* (Fabricius, 1803), *Cryptotympana acuta* (Signoret, 1849), *Graptotettix guttatus* Stål, 1866, *Hyalessa expansa* (Walker, 1858), *Mata kama* (Distant, 1881) and *Platylomia brevis* Distant, 1912 reported by Chandra *et. al.*, 2018, and *Meimuna tripurasura* (Distant, 1881) reported by Hill *et. al.*, 2021, are not shown in the map as their general locations are not clear.

**Table 1.** Preliminary checklist of Cicada in Arunachal Pradesh.

Sl No.	Name of the Species	Reference
1	<i>Callogaeana festiva festiva</i> (Fabricius, 1803)	Chandra <i>et. al.</i> , 2018
2	<i>Cryptotympana acuta</i> (Signoret, 1849)	Chandra <i>et. al.</i> , 2018
3	<i>Cryptotympana corvus</i> (Walker, 1850)	Chandra <i>et. al.</i> , 2018; Ghosh and Mitra, 2019
4	<i>Cryptotympana mandarina</i> (Distant, 1891)	Sarkar, 2025
5	<i>Dundubia annandalei</i> Boulard, 2007	Present study
6	<i>Dundubia hastata</i> (Moulton, 1923)	Sarkar, 2025
7	<i>Dundubia oopaga</i> (Distant, 1881)	As <i>Cosmopsaltria oopaga</i> in Ghosh and Mitra, 2019
8	<i>Dundubia terpsichore</i> (Walker, 1850)	As <i>Dundubia mannifera</i> in Ghosh and Mitra, 2019
9	<i>Gaeana maculata subsp. maculata</i> (Drury, 1773)	Anonymous 2025 & present study
10	<i>Graptotettix guttatus</i> Stål, 1866	Chandra <i>et. al.</i> , 2018
11	<i>Haphsa durga</i> (Distant, 1881)	Present study
12	<i>Hyalessa expansa</i> (Walker, 1858)	Chandra <i>et. al.</i> , 2018
13	<i>Macrosemia assamensis</i> (Distant, 1905)	Sarkar, 2025
14	<i>Macrosemia saturata</i> (Walker, 1858)	Chandra <i>et. al.</i> , 2018 and Saha <i>et. al.</i> , 2021
15	<i>Macrosemia umbrata</i> (Distant, 1888)	As <i>Platylomia umbrata</i> in Ghosh and Mitra, 2019

16	<i>Manna tenuis</i> Lee & Emery, 2013	Lee and Emery, 2013
17	<i>Mata kama</i> (Distant, 1881)	Chandra <i>et al.</i> , 2018
18	<i>Meimuna microdon</i> (Walker, 1850)	Anonymous 2025 & present study
19	<i>Meimuna tripurasura</i> (Distant, 1881)	Hill <i>et al.</i> , 2021
20	<i>Mosaica irregularis</i> Lee & Emery, 2013	Lee and Emery, 2013
21	<i>Neoterpnosia donghai</i> Lee & Emery, 2014	Price <i>et al.</i> , 2016
22	<i>Orientopsaltria fangrayae</i> Boulard, 2001	Sarkar <i>et al.</i> , 2020
23	<i>Platylomia brevis</i> Distant, 1912	Chandra <i>et al.</i> , 2018
24	<i>Polyneura ducalis</i> Westwood, 1840	Anonymous 2025 & present study
25	<i>Pomponia linearis</i> (Walker, 1850)	Saha <i>et al.</i> , 2021
26	<i>Purana guttularis</i> (Walker, 1858)	Ghosh and Mitra, 2019
27	<i>Pycna repanda</i> <i>subsp. repanda</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Ghosh and Mitra, 2019
28	<i>Pycna verna</i> Hayashi, 1982	Sarkar, 2025
29	<i>Talainga naga</i> Ollenbach, 1929	Saha <i>et al.</i> , 2021
30	<i>Tosena melanoptera</i> (White, 1846)	Present study



**Figure 1.** Map showing general location of 23 species of cicada recorded from Arunachal Pradesh.

During the compilation of this paper, we had also come across the paper by Chakravorty *et al.*, (2011) which made an indirect reference to the cicada fauna of Arunachal Pradesh. In their work documenting the entomophagy and entomotherapy practices of the Nyishi and Galo tribes of Arunachal Pradesh, Chakravorty *et al.*, (2011) listed four species of cicada used by these indigenous tribes as food, viz., *Tibicen pruinosus*, *Cyclochila virons*, *Euterpnosia crowfooti* and *Pycna repanda*. The first two species are exotic species unlikely to be found in India and the authors of the paper too, have remarked as such. While *P. repanda*

has been reported from Arunachal Pradesh (Ghosh and Mitra, 2019), there is no record yet of *Euterpnosia crowfooti* in the State. In fact, the only other record of this species after its Type locality in Darjeeling, is from Dambang in Northern Sikkim.

**CONCLUSION**

There is a huge gap in our understanding of the Cicada fauna of Arunachal Pradesh. Earlier records confirm the distribution of 27 species, and with this paper the

distribution of another three species of cicada is confirmed bringing the total to 30 species. However, considering the vast geographical area of the State and its rich floral and ecological/habitat diversity, this number is very less. This can be attributed to the lack of research on this group of insects. While studies on the Cicada fauna is gradually picking up in other parts of India, for the North-eastern States of the country and Arunachal Pradesh, in particular, the pace is yet to start! Explorations and surveys throughout the State, coupled with the sampling/collection of voucher specimens and digital photographic and acoustic recordings, followed by dedicated studies and documentation will help bring to light the true cicada diversity of Arunachal Pradesh.

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#### CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

#### ETHICS APPROVAL

Not applicable.

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#### AI TOOL DECLARATION

The authors declares that no AI and related tools are used to write the scientific content of this manuscript.

#### DATA AVAILABILITY

Data will be available on request.

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