

RIVETINULA FRATERNA (SAUSSURE 1871) FROM MUMBAI, WESTERN INDIA (MANTODEA, MANTIDAE)

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Abstract: New records of *Rivetinula fraterna* (Sauss.) from Western India are reported. Some morphological characters are given which complete the description by La Greca (1977).

Key words: Mantodea, Mantidae, *Rivetinula fraterna*, India.

***Rivetinula fraterna* (Saussure 1871) en Mumbai, oeste de la India (Mantodea, Mantidae)**

Resumen: Se presentan nuevos registros de *Rivetinula fraterna* (Sauss.) del oeste de la India, así como algunos caracteres morfológicos que completan la descripción de La Greca (1977).

Palabras clave: Mantodea, Mantidae, *Rivetinula fraterna*, India.

Introduction

Marcello La Greca (1977) described this monotypic genus based on the type collection in the British Museum and separated it from the genus *Rivetina* Berland & Chopard. The latter is a palaerctic genus and the new genus differs from it due to several diagnostic characters as mentioned by La Greca (1977). The description of the new species was based on the holotype (male) and a female of that museum. The species *Rivetina fraterna* was described as back as far 1871 by H. de Saussure.

La Greca provided a detailed account of the location of materials, synonyms and also redescribed the male whose description was meager. The species was reported from Central India. Ehrmann (2002) mentioned its distribution as Mumbai, Western India and Saudi Arabia.

While working on the mantid collection of Bombay Natural History Society, Mumbai, two specimens were identified as *Rivetinula fraterna*. Both were from Mumbai (Bombay), Western India, ie, from type locality. Both the specimens, one male (adult) and one nymph, were mutilated. They were studied and returned to the same museum.

Description

Body dorsally dirty-grey, abdomen grey-brown; nymph with a dorso-median black line on abdomen. Ventrally the colour is similar but pale-grey. Eyes oblong (subconical). Vertex, frontal view, a little concave; median part of vertex summit a little convex. Frontal sclerite transverse; its lower lateral angles with an indistinct tubercle at each corner; superior edge nearly sinuated on either side while the middle portion is almost straight; disc of frontal sclerite grayish-white, no spot and no carina. Pronotum normally elongated with oval-elongated supra-coxal dialation; prozona widely rounded at anterior end (slightly spatulate), with few minute

tubercles at lateral edges; in nymph, entire dorsal surface with black scattered spots and a black mid-dorsal line; latter is wider and not uniform in the adult. Metazona nearly twice as long as prozona, with a fine carina (except near posterior region); prosternum with a black band posterior to coxal joint and this is in line with a similar band on coxae; these bands, however, are absent in the adult. Coxae with 6-7 minute, dirty-white, premarginal tubercular spines. Femur with 4 regularly spaced black external spines; longer internal spines (13 in number, 6 long and 7 short) black; shorter spines are partly black up to bases; femur externally broad black at base and near distal part, internally with broad whitish patch near discoidal spines and near claw groove and proximal internal spines; discoidal spines 4, black; tibia with 7 (nymph) or 5 (adult) external spines and 10 internal spines; all spines show a tendency to become black up to bases; anterior tarsal segments normally coloured, internally a little blackish. Forewing grayish-brown, stigma elongated, pale straw coloured; costal area densely reticulated; its 1/3rd of anterior border with a pale-yellow border along entire length and the rest of the width of costal area black; discoidal area dirty brown; basal areas of discoidal and anal areas broadly blackish; with partly visible 2 transverse bands in anterior half of the length; a more distinct pair of spots on the discoidal area in the distal half of the length of fore wing; rest of fore wing dirty-brownish. Hind wing transparent, pale smoky-brown with whitish cross veins; distally, in the discoidal field, is an eye-like spot composed of a black patch, next to and adjoining is an almost circular whitish spot and finally, a lighter distal ring of blackish colour. Middle and hind femora without apical spine.

Measurements (mm): (nymph & adult): total length ? (in both abdomen lost):

	Total length	Pronotum	Metazona	Coxa	Femur	Tibia	Fore wing	Hind wing
Adult, male	26.0+	9.0	5.5	5.0	8.5	4.0	23.5	23.5
Nymph	24.0+	8.0	5.0	4.5	7.4	3.5		
Adult male*		9.5-9.6	6.1-6.2		8.3-8.5		29.0-30.5	

* the males (adult) described by Marcello La Greca (1977)

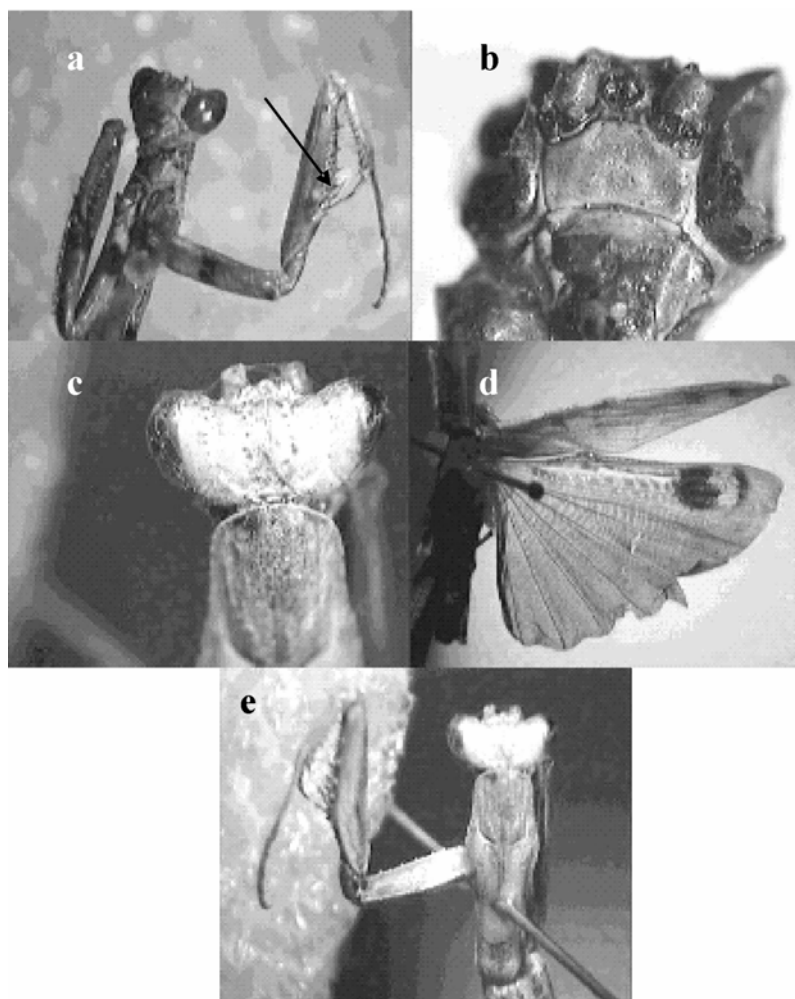


Fig. 1. *Rivetinula fraterna*, **a**, anterior femur in ventral view; **b**, frontal shield; **c**, head; **d**, metathoracic wing; **e**, pronotum

Remarks

It seems that the species was not reported from India after Saussure's publication of about 134 years ago. Hence, its rediscovery in the type locality is important. The species is easily identified by its smaller body, bands on fore wing and by the unique eye-like spot in the discoidal area of hind wing.

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