

ASIAN BITING FLY STUDIES II: TABANIDAE

Species related to *Tabanus birmanicus* (Bigot), 1892,
with the description of a new species from NepalBy Edward I. Coher²

Abstract: The *birmanicus* group of *Tabanus* is discussed. *T. teraiensis*, n. sp. is described from Nepal.

The *birmanicus* group of tabanids is closely related to the *caerulescens* group and corresponds to Group V of Schuurmans Stekhoven. The ♀♀ are characterized by frons long, narrow, upper margin little wider than the lower, the index usually about 8:1 but as much as 10:1; the callus tapered and joined to the narrow median callus but with a median portion somewhat wider than the apical line-like part; an elongate antennal plate about 2× as long as its width at the tooth; tibiae white or light colored; wing infuscated, the cells without clear centers; thorax and abdomen not concolorous; abdomen with a median longitudinal stripe on at least 2 segments, the stripe may be faint and poorly developed if not underlain by pollinosity.

Included species are 1. *T. angustistriatus* S. S., 1926, Sumatra; 2. *T. auribundus* S. S., 1926, Java; 3. *T. birmanicus* (Bigot), 1892, Burma, Malaya, Formosa; 4. *T. chloropis* S. S., 1926, Java; 5. *T. flavistriatus* S. S., 1926, Sumatra; 6. *T. fusciventer* S. S., 1926, Sumatra; 7. *T. kanoi* Murdoch & Takahasi, 1961, Japan; 8. *T. teraiensis*, n. sp., Nepal.

In addition, *T. auristriatus* S. S., 1926; *T. latifascies* S. S., 1926; *T. longibasalis* S. S., 1926; and *T. hybridus* S. S., 1926 (nec Ricardo), may belong to this group.

***Tabanus teraiensis* Coher, new species** Fig. 1-3.

♀. *Head*: gena and clypeus light golden pollinose, pollinosity lighter on gena at origin of beard, setae brownish; beard with short brown setae anteriorly and long yellow setae posteriorly; subcallus and frons golden pollinose, frons a little deeper golden with short brownish setae and with upper margin not quite 2× as wide as lower margin and with an index of slightly less than 9; basal callus (fig. 1a) with a pair of small basal pollinose spots, yellow red-brown, tapering rather evenly into a narrow red-brown line-like median callus and not touching eye margin; gray pollinosity below the bare (fig. 1b) vertexal area; antenna (fig. 2) with scape yellowish, pedicel and plate orange, style tinged brown; pedicel with a long dorsal process nearly reaching angle of plate; palpus (fig. 3) strongly angulate, yellowish with short black setae on terminal segment, tip rounded.

Thorax: scutum and scutellum concolorous light brown with yellowish appressed setae and small upright brown setae, gray-green pollinosity anteriorly on scutum becoming reduced

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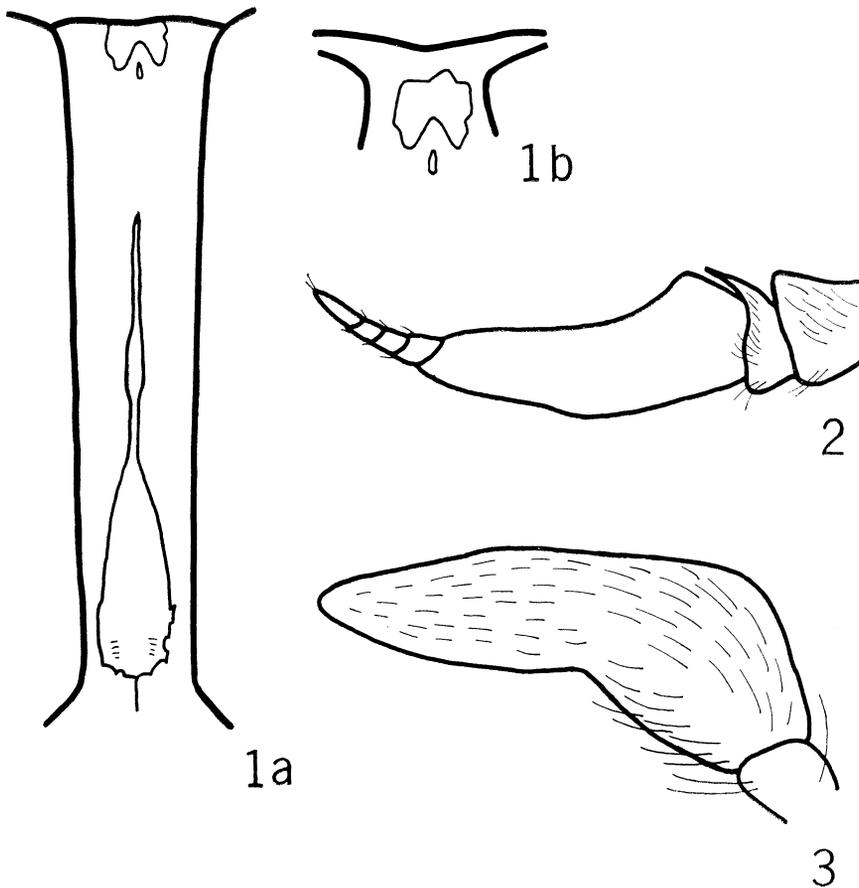


Fig. 1-3. *Tabanus teraiensis*, n. sp., ♀ : 1a, frons ; 1b, vertexal area ; 2, antenna ; 3, palpus.

posteriorly ; notopleural lobe with a mixture of long dark brown and long yellow setae ; sternopleuron appearing slightly darker than other pleura which are concolorous with long light-colored setae.

Legs : femora purplish brown with concolorous setae except for extreme apex of mid and hind femora which are slightly yellowish with yellowish setae, scattered yellowish setae also present on dorsal surface of mid and hind femora and fewer on ventral surface of hind femur ; tibiae white with white setae except for apical 1/6 of fore tibia which is purple-brown with concolorous setae and extreme apex of mid and hind tibiae which are slightly infuscated and bear some darker setae ; fore tarsus blackish with concolorous setae, mid and hind tarsi yellowish brown with blackish setae.

Abdomen : 1st segment concolorous with dorsum of thorax, long setae of anterolateral portion brownish yellow rather than golden as setae of posterior margin ; a broad nearly concolorous median longitudinal stripe narrowing posteriorly, stripe formed by pollinosity overlain by a concentration of golden setae ; sides of abdominal tergites a darker brown with mixed golden and dark setae, the number of golden setae decreasing with each segment so that there are

few on TV and none on TVI except for those on median stripe; sternites dark brown with concolorous setae.

Haltere: stem and apex of knob yellow-brown, base of knob brownish.

Wing: suffused brown, particularly through the costal area and cells R₁ and R₃, the base of cell R₁ clear and a small circular clear spot on apex of M (just anterior to discal cell); cell R₄ somewhat clearer than other cells; anal area of wing clear; alar squamal tuft concolorous with setae on metapleuron.

Holotype ♀ (BISHOP 9381), Nepal, Amlekhganj, 30.VII.1956, 520 m, taken in Shannon trap; in the collection of the Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii.

Discussion: This brownish species is clearly related to the *birmanicus* group. By its coloring, it can be separated from all other species which are included and cannot be confused with any species so far described. It is the first species in the group to be taken on the Indian subcontinent.

The unique type has not been dissected since relaxing tabanids for this purpose usually results in a distinct color change and the best characteristics for separating tabanid species seem to be those based on color patterns.

The type was taken in a morning collection. The trap was situated in an open area at the edge of the jungle. Successive collections in the same area and in the jungle failed to produce more specimens.

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