

**A NEW SPECIES OF THE GENUS *RAMAKRISHNAIA*  
(ORTHOPTERA: PYRGOMORPHIDAE)  
FROM SOUTHERN INDIA**

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*Abstract.* *Ramakrishnaia kevani*, n. sp., from southern India is described and illustrated. A key is given to the known species of the genus.

**Genus *Ramakrishnaia* Bolívar**

*Ramakrishnaia* Bolívar, 1918: 391.

Type-species: *Ramakrishnaia notabilis* Bolívar (by monotypy).

The genus *Ramakrishnaia* was proposed by Bolívar (1918) for a single South Indian species, *R. notabilis* Bolívar. Kevan (1953) described a second species, *R. raoi*, from southern India. Later, Kevan (1964) resurrected the genus *Nilgiracris* for this species, and, at the same time, described a new South Indian species, *R. gracilis*, for which the phallic structures were illustrated. Akbar (1965) stated briefly that *N. raoi* did not merit separate generic status but did not pursue the matter further. The distinguishing characters of the genus have been given by Bolívar (1918), Kevan (1964), and Singh & Kevan (1965). A full bibliography of the genus is given by Kevan (1977). More detailed figures of the phallic structures of *R. gracilis* and illustrations of the receptaculum seminis and dorsal aspect of the female subgenital plate of *R. notabilis* are given by Kevan et al. (1971). The genus is now known to contain 3 species, including 1 newly described herein. All are from southern India. A key for their separation is given below.

**KEY TO SPECIES OF *RAMAKRISHNAIA* BOLÍVAR**

- |  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| <p>1. Frontal profile and posterior margin of lateral pronotal lobe almost straight (Kevan 1964: Fig. 5D, 6B, D); postocular tubercles at most represented by only few small indistinct callosities (Kevan 1964: Fig. 2B, D, 3B, D); fastigium of vertex about as long as head posterior to eyes (Kevan 1964: Fig. 5A, C, 6A, C); median sulcus placed just behind middle of pronotal disc (Kevan 1964: Fig. 5D, 6B, D); valves of ovipositor with apical tips acute (Kevan 1964: Fig. 5G, 6I) . . . (S Karnataka State) . . . . .</p> | 2                     |
| <p>Frontal profile and posterior margin of lateral pronotal lobe deeply concave (Fig. 3); postocular tubercles very prominent, arranged in a line (Fig. 3); fastigium of vertex distinctly shorter than head posterior to eyes (Fig. 2); median sulcus placed just in front middle of pronotal disc (Fig. 2, 3); valves of ovipositor with apical tips blunt (Fig. 5) . . . (W Tamil Nadu) . . . . .</p>   | <b>kevani, n. sp.</b> |

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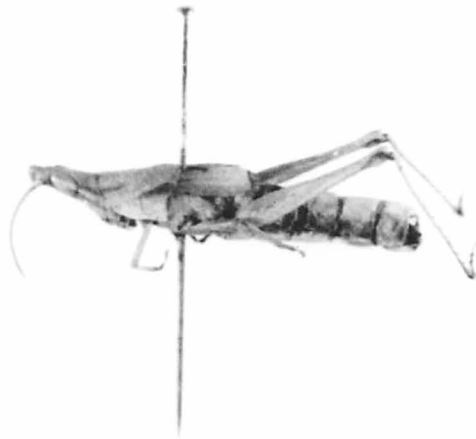


FIG. 1. *Ramakrishnaia kevani*, ♀, body in lateral view.

- 2. Body robust (Kevan 1964: Fig. 2); head shorter than pronotum (Kevan 1964: Fig. 5D) . . . (Mysore Distr) . . . . . **notabilis** Bolívar
- Body slender (Kevan 1964: Fig. 3); head slightly longer (♂) than or about as long as (♀) pronotum (Kevan 1964: Fig. 6B, D) . . . (Coorg Distr) . . . . . **gracilis** Kevan

**Ramakrishnaia kevani** Usmani & Shafee, new species

Fig. 1-6

♀ (*holotype*). *Head*. Brownish, slightly shorter than pronotum; interocular distance slightly shorter than width of fastigium, fastigium of vertex elongate, longer than wide with rounded apex; frons very strongly oblique, frontal profile deeply concave; eyes elongate-oval, about 2 × as long as wide; frontal ridge narrow, sulcate not reaching clypeus; lateral frontal carinae indistinct except in front of eyes; postocular tubercles very prominent, arranged in a line; antennae subensiform, 17-segmented, shorter than head and pronotum together. *Thorax*. Pronotum brownish, finely punctured, disc longer than wide, anterior margin straight, posterior margin rounded; median carina distinct throughout, lateral carinae distinct on pro- and metazona; median and posterior sulci straight, former placed just in front middle of disc; lateral pronotal lobe longer than deep, anterior margin oblique, posterior margin deeply concave; prosternal process small, low, pyramidal; mesosternal lobes about as long as wide. Tegmina reduced, straplike, expanded distally, reaching beyond posterior margin of 1st abdominal segment; hind wings vestigial. Legs brownish, hind legs long and slender, knees not reaching apex of abdomen. *Abdomen*. Tympanum well developed, supraanal plate and cerci short; subgenital plate (Fig. 5) with posterior margin slightly crenulated and slightly concave medially; ovipositor (Fig. 6) with dorsal valve about 3 × as long as wide, slightly shorter than lateral apodeme, valves with apical tips blunt; spermatheca (Fig. 7) without apical diverticulum, preapical diverticulum simple, tubular, and curved.

♀. Unknown.

*Measurements*. Length of body 30 mm; head, 5 mm; pronotum, 5.5 mm; tegmen, 5.5 mm; hind femur, 11 mm.

*Holotype* ♀, INDIA: Tamil Nadu, Coimbatore, Forest Research Institute, 26.III.1979, on grass (M. Kamil Usmani). In Zoological Museum, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, India.

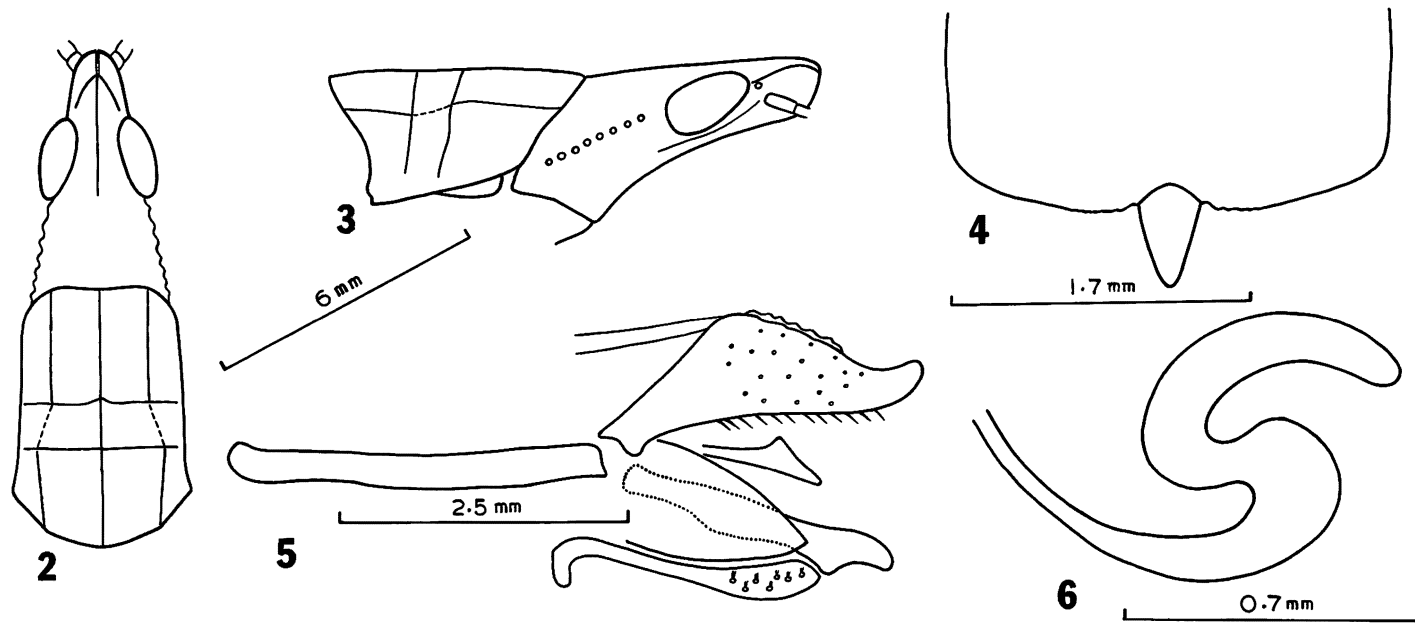


FIG. 2. *Ramakrishnaia kevani*, ♀: 2, head and pronotum, dorsal; 3, head and pronotum, lateral; 4, subgenital plate; 5, ovipositor; 6, spermatheca.

The species is named for Prof. D.K.McE. Kevan, Director, Lyman Entomological Museum & Research Laboratory, Macdonald College, McGill University, Quebec, Canada, in recognition of his contributions to our knowledge of taxonomy and biology of Pyrgomorphidae.

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