

# **A CHECKLIST OF CERAPHRONOIDEA (HYMENOPTERA: INSECTA) OF INDIA**

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## **Introduction**

Ceraphronoids are a little known group of parasitic hymenoptera. They are primary endoparasitoids and also hyper parasitoids of a wide range of insects under Diptera, Homoptera, Hymenoptera, and Neuroptera. Several species are Myrmecophilous too (Alekseev & Radchenko, 2001). They are also commonly found in all major biogeographical realms (Johnson N. F. and Musetti L, 2004).

Earlier, the group was under Proctotrupeoidea *sensu lato*, a polyphyletic grouping, until Masner and Dessart (1967) formally removed them and characterized a separate super family. At present Ceraphronoidea comprises of two families, viz., Ceraphronidae and Megaspilidae, with 27 genera and 603 species described worldwide. 59 species under 8 genera are recorded from the Oriental Region (Johnson N. F. and Musetti L, 2004).

The available records indicate that attempts to assess the diversity of Ceraphronoids in India have been scarce. Data on Indian Ceraphronoids are mainly available in Mani (1939) and Sharma (1983). Their studies were based on collections from a few scattered locales in north India and the Nilgiri hills of South India. Mani and Sharma (1982) made a brief compilation of the available information of Ceraphronoidea in India. Since then, for the past 25 years, hardly any information has been added on the Indian Ceraphronoid fauna.

A check list of the known genera and species of Ceraphronoidea of India is presented here. A total of 8 species under 3 genera in 2 families are listed.

## **Systematic Status**

**SUPERFAMILY: CERAPHRONOIDE**

**FAMILY: CERAPHRONIDAE**

***Aphanogmus* Thomson, 1858**

**1. *Aphanogmus manilae* (Ashmead) 1904.**

Syn. *Ceraphron manilae* Ashmead, 1904.

*Distribution in India:* Uttarakhand: Dehradun, Assam: Tocklai, Karnataka: Shathigodu, Tamilnadu: Coimbatore.

*Host:* Ex. Caterpillar of the teak defoliator [*Hapalia machaeralis* (Walker)], looper caterpillar and red slug caterpillar.

***Ceraphron* Jurine, 1807**

**2. *Ceraphron siwalicus* Sharma 1983.**

*Distribution in India:* Himachal Pradesh: Dalhousie, Siwalik Hills.

**FAMILY: MEGASPILIDAE**

**SUBFAMILY: MEGASPILINAE**

***Dendrocerus* Ratzeburg, 1852**

**3. *Dendrocerus indicus* (Mani) 1939**

Syn. *Atritomellus indicus* Mani, 1939.

*Distribution in India:* Delhi, Punjab.

*Host:* Ex. pupa of the neuropterid, *Nimboa basipunctata* Withycombe on sugarcane.

**4. *Dendrocerus aphidium* (Rodani) 1877**

Syn. *Macrostigma aphidium* Rodani, 1877.

*Distribution in India:* Delhi, Punjab.

*Host:* Ex. cocoons of Chrysopid on sugarcane.

**5. *Dendrocerus pykarus* Sharma 1983**

*Distribution in India:* Kerala: Pykara (Nilgiri Hills).

**6. *Dendrocerus dalhousieanus* Sharma 1983**

*Distribution in India:* Himachal Pradesh: Dalhousie: Siwalik Hills, Jandrihat.

**7. *Dendrocerus propodealis* Dessart 1973**

*Distribution in India:* Bihar: Ranchi: Namkum.

*Host:* Ex. cocoons of *Chrysopa madestes* Banks.

**8. *Dendrocerus mucronifer* Dessart 1999**

*Distribution in India:* Karnataka: Bangalore.

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