

Tabanid Flies (Diptera: Tabanidae) of Rajiv Gandhi National Park, Karnataka, India

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ABSTRACT

A faunistic study, to record the tabanid fauna of Rajiv Gandhi National Park, Karnataka State, India, was conducted for two years (June 2003 to May 2005). The study showed a total 20 species of tabanids belonging to 5 genera of 3 sub families. The following three species viz., *Haematopota cordigera* Bigot 1891, *Tabanus dorsilinea* Wiedmann, 1824, and *T. monotaeniatus* Bigot, 1882 are being reported for the first time from south India while seven of the collected species viz *Atylotus virgo* Wiedmann, 1824, *Chrysops dispar* Fabricius 1798, *H. javana* Wiedmann, 1821, *T. diversifrons* Ricardo, 1911, *T. gertrudae* Philip, 1960, *T. speciosus* Ricardo, 1911, and *T. triceps* Thunberg, 1827 are new records for Karnataka. Five of the recorded species viz *A. agrestis*, *A. virgo*, *C. dispar*, *T. dorsilinea*, *T. rubidus*, and *T. striatus*, have been reported as vectors of surra or trypanosomiasis, a deadly disease in wild and domestic animals, while *H. montana*, *T. indianus*, and *T. rubidus* are potential vectors of anthrax.

Key words: Diptera, Tabanidae, surra disease, canopy trap.

INTRODUCTION

Tabanid flies are facultative haematophagous ectoparasites of veterinary and medical importance. They are known to transmit more than 35 diseases (Foil, 1989) of cattle and humans including surra or trypanosomiasis in India (Basu *et al.*, 1952). Important tabanid faunal studies in India include the work of Ricardo (1911a, b), Stone & Philip (1974) and Stone (1975), Datta (1986), Kapoor *et al.* (1991), and