

PROJECT REPORT RUSA 2.0

Diversity and Taxonomy of Terrestrial Isopods from Jammu Division (J&K)

Isopods are the most diverse and the most species rich crustaceans of the superorder Peracarida. They are found in almost all the environment type. Terrestrial isopods are seen as biological indicators of the environmental health. Few of them act as food for other organism and have many other ecological and agricultural significance. But, the studies on economic importance of terrestrial isopods received practically no attention in the state. The attention received in the country is also far from adequate. So during this project we tried to estimate the biodiversity of terrestrial isopod fauna of Jammu region of J&K state and categorized them taxonomically. During the survey field visit to various District of Jammu regions like Poonch district, Kathua district and many other places were done. The collection was done in all the months of the project tenure. The collected specimens were found to be member of 3 different Genera viz, *Cubaris*, *Porcellio* and *Philoscia*. Two species belonging to Genus *Cubaris* viz, *Cubaris kashmiri* and *Cubaris ignota* have been already reported from Kashmir Province in the year 1935 and 1926 respectively, while *Porcellio* and *Philoscia* are two new record from the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. From Jammu region all the 3 are reported for the first time because this was the first time that terrestrial isopods of Jammu regions were explored and studied. **A paper entitled “An annotated checklist of Terrestrial Isopod Fauna (Crustacea : Isopoda) of India” has been accepted for publication in ECOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION (VOL.26(4) :2020) (SCOPUS & Thomson Reuters, U.S.A.)**

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