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Autor: Byers, George W.
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A new *Neopanorpa* (WEELE, 1909) from India (Mecoptera, Panorpidae)

by George W. Byers

Abstract. *Neopanorpa wittmeri* sp.nov. is described, from Darjeeling District, India, and compared to other regional species. Taxonomically useful details are illustrated.

Key words: Mecoptera – *Neopanorpa* – new species – India

Among the Mecoptera received for identification from the Naturhistorisches Museum, Basel, was a single male specimen representing an undescribed species from northeastern India. It is a pleasure to name this new species for its collector, the late Dr. Walter Wittmer, of the Naturhistorisches Museum.

Neopanorpa wittmeri sp.nov.

Type material. Holotype male collected at Lebung, 1600–1860 m, Darjeeling District, India, 2 June 1975, by W. Wittmer; in the Naturhistorisches Museum, Basel.

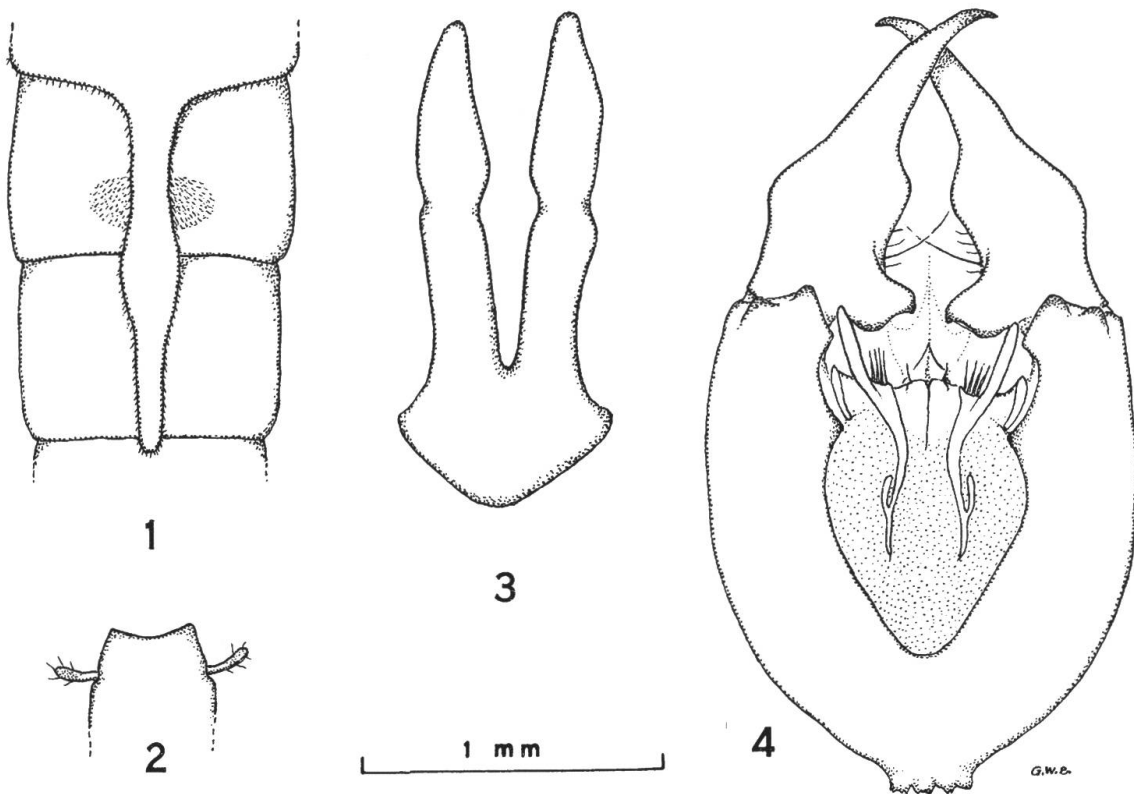
Description. (Description based on one male, preserved in alcohol.)

Head. Dorsum dark brown; rostrum brown anteriorly, pale tan at sides; palps yellowish brown. Antennae approximately as long as body; scape and pedicel light brown, flagellum of 46 flagellomeres, darker brown than pedicel in basal half, becoming slightly paler in apical half.

Thorax. Pronotum dark brown, its anterior edge broadly and shallowly emarginate medially; each side tapering backward beneath anterior spiracle. Mesonotum and metanotum mostly dark brown, yellowish brown above and behind wing bases; scutellum and its lateral extensions on each segment dark brown. Pleural surfaces pale except for light brown, vertically elongate spot on lower meron of both mesothorax and metathorax; setae of pleuron pale, sparse. Femora, tibiae and basitarsi light brown; tarsi darkening toward brown fifth tarsomere.

Wings lightly tinged with brown; pterostigma brown; fore wing with faint indications of apical band with included pale areas, incomplete pterostigmal band and marginal spot.

Abdomen of male. Terga 2–4 brown; prolongation of tergum 3 slightly darker brown, corresponding sterna pale tan; segments 5–8 light brown except 7 and 8 narrowly darkened at posterior margins. Genital capsule (segment 9) generally dark yellowish brown, apices of dististyles brown, inner, ventral margins of basistyles darkly sclerotized. Prolongation of tergum 3 (Fig. 1) extending over terga 4 and 5, slightly widened near mid-length; hairs on lower side of prolongation short, curved cephalad. Hairs in oval patch on tergum 4 directed forward and inward. Ninth sternum (Fig. 3) with elongate, flattened hypoalves extending approximately to ends of basistyles; each



Figs 1–4: *Neopanorpa wittmeri* sp.nov., male holotype. 1, Abdominal segments 3–5, dorsal aspect, showing prolongation of tergum 3. 2, Apex of ninth abdominal tergum, dorsal aspect. 3, Ninth abdominal sternum and hypovalves, posterior (ventral) aspect. 4, Genital bulb, hypovalves removed, ventral aspect.

hypovalve slightly constricted near its mid-length. Tergum 9 (Fig. 2) broadly and evenly emarginate apically, slightly notched at each side above cercus. Dististyles (Fig. 4) gibbous in basal half, then tapered to curved, sclerotized tip; basal cup with darkly sclerotized rim. Ventral parameres complex, each widened somewhat beyond mid-length and bearing four stout, black setae directed caudad; paramere then abruptly narrowed to slender apical portion; small lateral branch near base. Thin, flattened, dorsal parameres of aedeagus indicated by dotted line in Fig. 4.

Measurements. Body length, male, about 13.0 mm. Fore wing 12.2 mm. Antennal length 13.1 mm.

Distribution. Northern India.

Differential diagnosis. In one characteristic or another, *N. wittmeri* sp.nov. somewhat resembles various other species of southern Asia. The unusually long process of abdominal tergum 3, for example, recalls that of another Indian species, *N. appendiculata* (WESTWOOD) (RUST & BYERS 1976: 41–43, Figs 21–22) and of *N. choui* CHENG from Sikang, China (CHENG 1957: 77–78, Fig. 155). However, *N. wittmeri* sp.nov. can be readily differentiated from both these species by characteristics of the

genital bulb and from *N. appendiculata* by that species' distinct wing markings. The gibbosity of the dististyles is reminiscent of *N. taoi* CHENG of Sikang, China (CHENG 1957: 73, Figs 157–158); however, males of that species have wide, somewhat overlapped hypovalves and a short notal organ (prolongation of tergum 3). The ventral and dorsal parameres of *N. wittmeri* sp.nov. are strikingly similar to those of males assigned to *N. contracta* CHENG, which is also from Darjeeling. But in *N. contracta* the dististyles are slender, and the posterior process of the third abdominal tergum extends only across tergum 4. Occurrence of conspicuous setae, apparently on the lateral processes, in *N. contracta*, but on the ventral parameres in *N. wittmeri* sp.nov., suggests the possibility of misinterpretation (RUST & BYERS 1976: Fig. 39).

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Address of author:

George W. Byers
Snow Entomological Division
Natural History Museum
Snow Hall
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas 66045
U.S.A.
E-mail: ksem@ukans.edu

