

16. Family : Silphidae

These are commonly known as the carrion beetles. This is a moderately large family includes 702 species from the world, of which 29 are represented in Indian subregion. The common members of this family are moderately large and are known to be some of the largest beetles found on carrion. These are moderately elongated, sub-parallel or oval, black, testaceous, or black with orange or yellow markings. Head bulging at the ocular region, broad basally and deflexed, surface smooth or rugose, antennae 10 or 11 segmented and clubbed. Prothorax much larger than head and about as broad as elytra, oval, cordate or quadrate, sides margined, front coxae prominent with exposed trochantins. Legs with spinose tibiae, tarsal formula 5-5-5 in both sexes. Elytra often truncate exposing part of abdomen.

The silphids are known to found on carrion and also on decaying vegetables. The species of Nicrophorus Fabricius bury carrion, such as dead mice, reptiles, fish and small animals.

Genus Nicrophorus Fabricius, 1775

Fabricius, 1775, Syat. Ent., : 71

The genus Nicrophorus Fabricius is commonly known as burying beetle. So far, 57 species have been described

from the world, of which 2 have been recorded from India. The member of this genus are black, with variable orange colouration on the elytra, antennae with 4-segmented club, and front tibia with a strong tooth towards apex.

90. Nicrophorus nepalensis Hope

Hope, 1831, Zool. Misc., 1 : 21

DIAGNOSTIC CHARACTERS :

This species is rather large (length, 19 mm. : breadth, 8 mm.), head well developed with distinct neck constriction, vertex of head with a rounded reddish spot, eyes markedly large and slightly yellowish, antennae with scape markedly large, club yellowish. Pronotum slightly transverse and broadly rounded, black, a lateral and basal margin slightly inflated, anterior half of pronotum with a suture like impression. Scutellum large and triangular. Elytra elongate, truncated at apex and slightly narrowed in front, black with two transverse reddish patches in front and behind. Abdomen with a few segments exposed.

ECOLOGY :

Nicrophorus nepalensis Hope was trapped only in the forest floor during this study. A total number of 2

examples were trapped in fish baited trap in the month of January (Table 25).

REMARKS :

This species was less abundant during this study and only attracted to fish baited traps.

17. Family : Legriidae

The representatives of this family are commonly known as legriid beetles and are moderately large (10 mm. - 15 mm.), elongated, subcylindrical, metallic blue, green or reddish. Head projected and prominent, usually constricted behind the eyes, antennae 11-segmented and filiform with apical segment often markedly long. Prothorax usually elongated and punctate, front coxal cavities closed behind, and middle coxae conical. Elytra entire and completely covering the abdomen. Tarsal formula 5-5-4 with penultimate segment lobed below.

In the present study only one example of this family was caught which belong to the genus Lagria Fabricius.

91. Lagria sp.

This species is large, elongated, metallic blue with small head constricted behind the eyes, antennae