

S Y N O P S I S

TITLE : STUDIES ON GROUND BEETLES (COLEOPTERA : INSECTA) OF DOOARS AREA (JALPAIGURI : WEST BENGAL) WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THEIR TAXONOMY, SEASONAL ACTIVITY AND DENSITY BY PITFALL EXPERIMENT.

Very little attention has been given to explore rich and diverse beetle fauna of Dooars area of Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal. Although many species have been described from this area and published in scattered literatures specially from foliages, flowers and barks etc. but no comprehensive work has been published on the beetles of North East India. Moreover, practically nothing is known on the ground beetles of North Bengal. A work has been undertaken since 1976 to survey and collect ground beetles by pitfall trapping.

A suitable place has been selected near Gayarkata, 42 Km. North East of Nagrakata meteorological office in the Jalpaiguri district, West Bengal in the foot hills of North East Himalaya.

A total of 27 pitfall traps have been placed in the forest floor and neighbouring Tea garden and Rice field. A regular collection has been made fortnightly. After bringing back the collection in the laboratory, the materials have been sorted out into different groups of families. So far, a total of 16 thousand beetles have been collected belonging to the families : Scarabaeidae,

Staphylinidae, Carabidae, Histeridae, Psephenidae, Ptiliidae, Tenebrionidae, Chrysomelidae, Silphidae, Elateridae, Nitidulidae etc. A data sheet has been prepared to study the seasonal variation of dominating and rare species. Major objectives of the present study are : 1) correct identification of species 2) taxonomic description of the species 3) preparation of charts and histograms of population density and seasonal variation. This would be the first comprehensive work on ground beetles collected from pitfall traps from India.