

A Brief Note on Indian Species of *Poecilocoris* Dallas (Hemiptera: Scutelleridae)

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Abstract—Genus *Poecilocoris* Dallas (Hemiptera: Scutelleridae) is the largest genus of subfamily Scutellerinae comprising of 23 described species across the world. Sixteen species of *Poecilocoris* have been reported from India. The genus *Poecilocoris* Dallas (1848) includes mostly broad oval species with generally vivid to dull colours, sometimes with metallic spots on dorsum and venter; scutellum round to ovate covering whole of abdomen, connexiva slightly exposed at repose; metathoracic scent gland with well developed ostiole and transverse peritreme; evaporatorium extending upto mesothoracic segment; body size ranging between 13-24 mm. *Poecilocoris* are generally polyphagous but not economically important as pest to any crop except *P. latus* Dallas which causes damage to tea. A diagnostic key based on the studies has been formulated for identification of the species. Five species i.e. *P. druriei*, *P. hardwickii*, *P. latus*, *P. lewisi*, and *P. rufigenis* were redescribed based on external morphological characters (viz., head, pronotum, scutellum, external thoracic efferent system of metathoracic scent glands, pygophore and ovipositors and genital characters like paramere and spermatheca). A checklist of Indian species has been compiled from all available literature.