



HOLOCENE HIMALAYAN BUG – A NEW HETEROPTERAN INSECT

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ABSTRACT

A very well-preserved unique fossil apterous heteropteran insect whose thorax is the largest (dorsal: 1.04; ventral:0.80 mm) part of body, compared to head (0.11mm) and abdomen (dorsal: 0.47; ventral: 0.71mm), is considered here to be a true bug recovered from the Holocene sediments exposed near Uttarkashi, Uttaranchal, India. It has been studied systematically based on the characters of antennae and rostrum or beak (both consisting of 3 segments), lamellate extension of head and thorax as well as other morphological features which distinguish this Himalayan bug as an insect. It could belong to a new family. The surface features of the body and sensilla of the fossilized insect have been studied by scanning electron microscopy.

Keywords: Heteroptera, fossil insect, Uttarkashi (Himalaya), Holocene, India