

Project title	Taxonomic study of Orthoptera of Tamilnadu
Principal Investigator	Dr. N. Senthilkumar
Project duration (Start & End)	3 years: 2016-2019
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To inventorize Orthoptera fauna of Tamilnadu and assess their diversity in different habitat types and to develop key for the identification of Orthoptera of Tamilnadu. • To understand trophic diversity through host range and host selection strategies and elucidate seasonality of important orthopteran species. • Prioritization of species and selection of sites for conservation of Orthoptera.
Summary/Achievements	<p>Orthoptera diversity study has been conducted in the following Agroclimatic zones of Tamil Nadu viz., North Western, South Zone, Cauvery delta Zone and High Altitude Zone of Tamilnadu. Orthoptera fauna have been studied in different habitat types viz., forestland, Grassland, Arableland and wasteland under the Cauvery delta Zone. Geographical attributes/ GPS readings such as Latitude, Longitude, and Elevation were also marked for respective survey sites and collected specimens were brought to the laboratory for further identification. Orthopteran species viz., <i>Ailopus thalassinus tamulus</i>, <i>Oxya nitidula</i>, <i>Catantops sp.</i>, <i>Acrida exaltata</i>, <i>Phlaeoba infumata</i>, <i>Morphacris fasciata sulcata</i>, <i>Trilophidia varicornis</i>, <i>Cyrtacanthacris tartarica</i>, <i>Truxalis indica</i>, <i>Atractomorpha crenulata</i>, were noticed during the survey in High Altitude Zone. <i>Diabolocatantops pinguis</i>, <i>Oxya Sp.</i>, <i>Conocephalus maculatus</i>, <i>Phlaeoba infumata</i>, <i>Acrida exaltata</i> and <i>Eucyrtus concinus</i> were record in North Western Zone and species viz., <i>Catantops ferugenius</i>, <i>Diabolocatantops pinguis</i>, <i>Conocephalus maculatus</i>, <i>Mecopoda elongata</i>, and <i>Sathrophilia fuliginosa</i> were observed in Cauvery delta Zone.</p>
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