

Research Article



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Morphometric analyses & DNA barcoding of Acrididae (Orthoptera: Caelifera) using cytochrome oxidase subunit I gene

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Abstract

DNA barcode data of Acrididae is limited in global data bases from Sindh, Pakistan. Hence, the present study was aimed to collect some selected Acridid species from the Sindh and generate DNA barcode data to improve the global database sequencing. Specimens were collected from cultivated, sandy, rocky, vegetation, grassy, desert, semi desert, roadside and open area of the upper Sindh districts i.e., Dadu, Ghotki, Jacobabad, Kashmore, Khairpur Miras, Larkana, Naushahro Feroz, Qambar & Shahdadkot, Shikarpur, Sukkur. Seven species of Acrididae were under discussion i.e., (24%) followed by *Acrida willemsei* (19%), *Truxalis eximia eximia* (15%), *Aiolopus thalassinus thalassinus* (13%), *Acrotylus longipes longipes* (10%), *Aiolopussimulatrix* (10%) and *Sphingonotus savignyi* (09%) belong to 3 sub-families i.e., Acridinae, Oedipodinae and Oxyinae. Moreover, maximum number of specimens belonged to Oxyinae. The present study suggests the collection of multiple specimens from different geographical locations and the generation of more DNA barcode data would facilitate the actual diversity amongst this taxon.

Keywords: DNA bar-coding, biodiversity, Sequence, Acrididae, Sindh.

Introduction

Acridids are the short-horned grasshoppers, the most common orthopteran found in Pakistan subcontinent. These insects belong to super family Acridoidea. Acrididae grasshoppers provide anexcellent opportunity to apply modern phylogenetic analysis due to their diversity and abundance. These insects are important because they include pests that do a lot of damage tocrops and many insects that we don't recognize much about. Even though the phylogeny of this group is studied from different angles and taxonomic levels, there are still many questions that haven't been answered (Song & Buchelib, 2010). These include paleontological divergence, biogeography, and where they live. The systematic of grasshoppers still have not been figured out in many parts of the world, given how they are spread out (Song & Buchelib, 2010). To the best of my knowledge, there hasn't been a single reliable work on the Phylogenetics from the area of upper Sindh grasshoppers. This is true whether you look at morphological features, molecular differences, or genetic differences. Considering the lacuna survive in the phylogenetic studies on upper Sindh grasshoppers and analyze phylogenetic relationships among different species of

Acridids classify under the families Acrididae. This has been carried out in two planes. The first one is using biochemical techniques to point out the genetic differences between different species of grasshoppers. The second is to study the phylogenetic relationship based on how similar and different their genes are. The SDS-PAGE has been used as a powerful tool that helps understand genetic differences by separating protein bands based on how strong they are and how much they weigh. This method is used a lot in modern biochemistry and molecular biology to look at differences in proteins in haemolymph and muscle tissues of insects. Proteins are the most variable when it comes to size, structure and function as well consider the genetic difference as these molecules are assemble by direct involvement of DNA . (Hooper & Thuma, 2005). SDS PAGE technique has been endorsed to be used with confidence in resolve of molecular weight of proteins (Weber & Osborn, 1969) for different purpose because the changeable structure and function of these molecules. Almost each single cell has specific proteins responsible for intracellular convey and contractile exercise. These molecules have stayed the same for a long time and have changed slowly in insects. (Hooper & Thuma, 2005). Phylogenetic trees have been made using motor proteins like myosin, kinesin, and dynein to figure out how Arthropods are related (Ronitz et al., 2009) another muscle proteins like acting (Mounier & Sparrow, 1993). MRF families have been generally used in phylogenetic studies of dissimilar insect groups (Oota & Saitou, 1999). The great diversity proposes that studying of invertebrate muscle proteins and genes can be tried to resolve phylogenetic relationship and evolution (Hooper & Thuma, 2005: Ohta, 1991). As such it could be very useful to routinely identify difficult taxa of economic and medical importance. However, despite these highly positive claims, DNA barcoding also seems to suffer from a number of potential limitations when used for the identification of insects. The main aim of studying hereditary diversity in this work is to acknowledge the scope of differentiation between the species of grasshoppers and try it to sort out the phylogeny. DNA molecule is the base of hereditary differences between the species or specific. By comparing the electrophoretic profiles, it is easy to see how the species in question are different. Random Amplified Polymerase DNA was first reported by (Welsch & McClland, 1990: Williams et al., 1993). DNA was first used, the polymerase chain reaction technique has changed Molecular Biology and become a powerful tool with many applications. RAPD markers are generally used in insects affiliated research that comprise molecular finger printing (Fakrudin& Patil, 2005: Senthil Kumar & Gurusubramanian, 2011), phylogenetic analysis (Zhou et al., 2000: Fakrudin et al., 2 In developmentalmental biology and systematic studies phylogenies are central to research. Appropriate phylogenies provide information on patterns and procedure of growth of species.

Material Methods:

Study Sites: Surveys were recorded to assess the relative incidence of the acrididae in different hot plants ecosystem in 10 locations from upper Sindh districts i.e., Kashmore, Jacobabad, Shikarpur, Ghotki, Qambar & Shahdadkot, Sukkur, Khairpur, Larkana, Naushahro Feroz and Dadu, weekly field survey of largely different growing crops and it was conducted in Kharif season (April 2021-October 2021 and April 2022- October 2022) specimens were recorded in drawn times.

Collection of specimens: Adult specimens of acrididae were collected from different localities of the 10 mentioned districts of the upper Sindh province. The Specimens were collected from different habitats i.e. desert areas, semi desert, agricultural land, open ground, shrubs, grasses, herbs, rocky areas, vegetables, sandy areas, along road sides and others. At least 15 random and 15 non-random samples were collected from each area in farmers' field by moving diagonally in the field. The samples were collected from available fresh and Raton crop. Mostly the samples were collected in the morning time from 8 to 11 a.m. and in the evening time from 5

to 7 p.m. To study the diversity of acrididae, sampling was done with the help of insect hand net and handpicking methods, covering a linear distance of 10 m, replicated four times taking different locations. Collected material was put into polythene bags or in plastic bottles.

Killing and preservation: After collection, the specimen were brought to Entomological and Bio control Research Laboratory (EBCRL-Laboratory) Department of Zoology, University of Sindh, Jamshoro then killed and preserved (Vickery & Kevan, 1983) and Standardized Entomological Method (Riffat & Wagan, 2012&2015). As usual, killing and pinning were done quickly after coming back from the field. This was done on the pronotum and slightly to the right of the median carina of the pronotum, behind the transverse sulcus. On the stretching board, the head was slightly pointed down. The long axis of the left wings was set at a right angle to the pins. There was little chance of breaking, and the back legs were bent under the body to take up the small space. The belly was pushed down by the wings. Specimens could be handled more easily if they were softened by spending 24 hours in the freezer. Soft specimens could be stretched, moved, and pinned more easily than hard specimens.

Results

The total seven species were collected from cultivated, sandy, rocky, vegetation, grassy, desert, semi desert, road side and open area of the upper Sindh and sort out in the Acrididae family and three sub-families Acridinae, Oedipodinae and oxyinae (Figure 01). More over maximum number of specimens collected belong to Oxya hyla hyla (24%) followed by Acrida willemsei (19%), Truxalis eximia (15%), Aiolopus thalassinus thalassinus (13%), Acrotylus longipes longipes (10%), Aiolopus simulatrix (10%) and Sphingonotus savignyi (09%) belong to Acrididae as shown in (Figure 02).

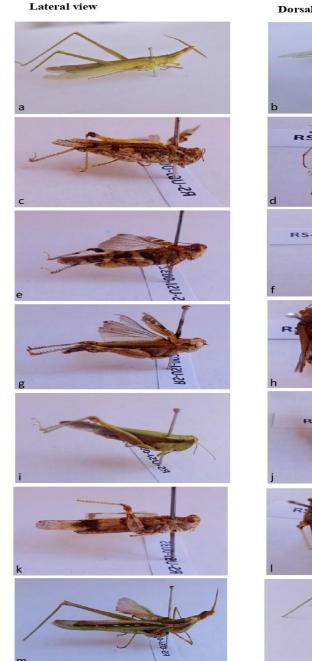
Acrida willemsei (Dirsh, 1954)

Morphological Description: This specimen body color is green and yellowish. Antennae are 17-18 segments, almost 13.5 mm and sward like structure and head of this conically and elongated in shape. Head length is shorter than the length of pronotum (Head12 mm & Pronotum 10.5 mm). This specimen's tegmina are larger 47 mm than the wings in the length 42 mm. It has almost 29 spins on its leg and this specimen total length of body approximately 56 mm in size. Acridid grasshoppers eat many different kinds of plants, but most species only eat a few as their main source of food. Locusts' specie are change color and act differently when there are a lot of them. They are a significant category of Orthopterous pests from an economic point of view that attack both cultivated and uncultivated crops and morphometric of various body parameters shown in table 1.

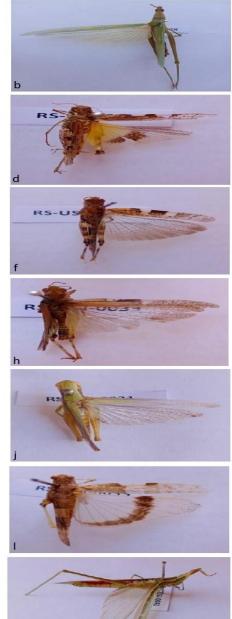
Economic Importance: From the upper Sindh region of Pakistan, they do the most damage in the summer

and spring, and their numbers also rise after it rains. This costs money not only to Sindh and Pakistan, but also to other countries. It hurts fodder crops, plants, jowar, and usually Bermuda grass.

Figure 1. (a-b) Acridawillemsei (c-d) Acrotyluslongipeslongipes (e-f) Aiolopussimulatrix (g-h) Aiolopusthalassinusthalassinus (i-j) Oxyahylahyla (k-l) Sphingonotussavignyi (m-n) Truxaliseximiaeximia



Dorsal view



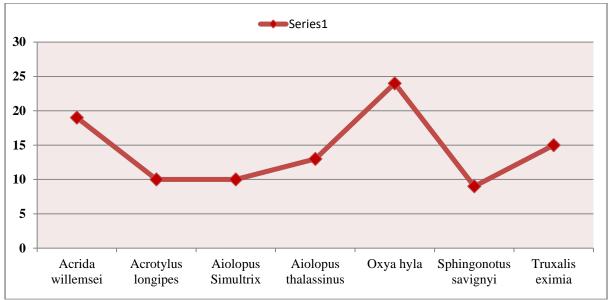


Figure 2. A number of specimens were collected from various localities of upper Sindh.

Body Parameter	Male	
	Mean \pm SD (n5)	
Length of head	12.07 ±0.12	
Length of antenna	12.05 ±0.1	
Length of pronotum	10.52 ±0.08	
Length of Femur	35.91 ±0.38	
Length of tibia	32.684 ±0.26	
Length of wings	42.424 ±0.38	
Length of tegmina	47.52 ±0.50	
Distance between compound eyes	1.226 ±0.02	
Total body length	56.794 ±0.47	

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Genomic observation

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ILLUSTRATIVE BARCODE



Nucleotide sequence:

 $TMYFLFGAWAGMVGTSMSMIIRAELGQPGSMIGDDQIYNVIITAHAFIMIFFMVMPIMIGGFGNWLVPL\\MIGAPDMAFPRMNNMSFWLLPPSLTLLISSSMVDSGVGTGWTVYPPLAGAIAHGGASVDLAIFSLHLA$

GISSILGAVNFITTAINMRSESMTLDQTPLFVWSVSITALLLLLSLPVLAGAITMLLTDRNLNTSFFDPAG GGDPILYQHLF

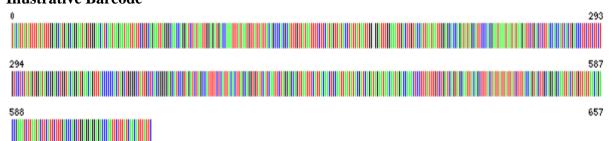
Acrotylus longipes longipes (Charpentier, 1845) Morphological Description: Small to medium body that is hairy and rough. Filiform antennae with 23-24 antennal segments. Head thicker, vertex concave with lateral carinulae and angular. Pronotum less or more smooth on disc, phthisic, short, narrow in prozona, distinct and lateral carinae irregular tuberculate. Wings and tegmina fully developed. Wings hyaline, without dark bands and yellow or orange at the base. Tegmina apex are noticed without dark speckles. Short ovipositor having curved valves straight and conical. Light yellowish brown body and dirty brown in color. Brown antennae and base of antennae with spots. Pronotum with brownish speckles. Head brown with lower part whitish. Wings transparent with some dark veins. Hind tibia brownish or sometime found bluish and morphometric of various body parameters shown in table 2.

Economic Importance: This species of great economic importance because they found an importance group of pest and pose a constant threat to cereal crop, orchards, vegetables, grassland species.

Table 2. Morphometric analysis of various body parameters of *Acrotylus longipes longipes*

Body Parameter	Male	
	Mean \pm SD (n5)	
Length of head	2.69 ±0.02	
Length of antenna	3.906 ±0.20	
Length of pronotum	3.082 ±0.08	
Length of Femur	12.45 ±0.44	
Length of tibia	10.154 ±0.08	
Length of wings	19.5 ±0.5	
Length of tegmina	17.18 ±0.22	
Distance between compound eyes	0.882 ±0.03	
Total body length	22 ±0.4	

Genomic observation Illustrative Barcode



Nucleotide Sequence

Amino Acid Sequence

TLYFMFGAWAGMVGTSMSMIIRAELGQPGSMIGDDQIYNVIITAHAFVMIFFMVMPIMIXGFGNWLVP LMIGAPDMAFPRMNNMSFWLLPPSLTLLLLSSMVDSGAGTGWTVYPPLAGAIAHGGASVDLAIFSLHL AGVSSILGAVNFITTAINMRSDSMTMDQTPLFVWSVAITALLLLLSLPVLAGAITMLLTDRNLNTSFFDP AGGGDPILYQHLF

Aiolopus simulatrix (Walker, 1870)

Morphological Description: Antenna with 20-24 antennal segments. Usually medium size in body. Slightly saddle shaped pronotum, constricted in prozona. Wings hyaline, slightly opaque at apex. Body color paler, greenish brown, brownish or dusty brown. Brown color antenna. Head reddish brown. Fastigium of vertex green, brownish or pink reddish. Transparent tegmina, brownish with irregular blackish

speckels, wings hyaline and colorless, morphometric of various body parameters shown in table 3.

Economic Importance

This species noticed the serious pest of grain, and also sometime other crops, many parts of its range by the most important species as a pest of grain crops in the different localities of Sindh, Pakistan, cultivated, sandy, rocky, desert and others.

Table 3. Morphometric analysis of various body parameters of Aiolopus simulatrix

Body Parameter	Male	
	Mean \pm SD (n5)	
Length of head	3.148 ±0.008	
Length of antenna	6.17 ±0.14	
Length of pronotum	4.008 ±0.14	
Length of Femur	12.61 ±0.38	
Length of tibia	10.116 ±0.80	
Length of tarsi	2.906 ±0.49	
Leg spins	11.6 ±0.54	
Length of wings	20.84 ±0.21	
Length of tegmina	21.66 ±0.15	
Distance between compound eyes	1.012 ±0.04	
Total body length	22.78 ±0.69	

Genomic Observation

Illustrative Barcode



Nucleotide Sequence

Amino Acid Sequence

RAELGQPGSMIGDDQIYNVIITAHAFVMIFFMVMPIMIGGFGNWLVPLMIGAPDMAFPRMNNMSFWLL PPSLILLISSSMVDNGAGTGWTVYPPLAGAIAHGGASVDLAIFSLHLAGISSILGAVNFITTAINMRSESM TMDQTPLFVWSVAITALLLLLSLPVLAGAITMLX

Aiolopus thalassinus thalassinus (Fabricius, 1781)

Morphological Description: Antenna filiform with 21-23 antennal segments. Body usually observed medium in size. Pronotum longer than head subconical. Pronotum slightly saddle shaped. Angled, long, and concave at the tip, with well-developed lateral carinulae. The middle part of the tegmen, where the intercalary vein is fully formed. Messosternal interspace almost square. Both wings and tegmina grew. The tips of the wings are a bit dusty. The back femur is long and thin. The dorsal carina is smooth, and the dorsal genicular lobes are

round. The colour of the body is lighter, browner, greener, or dusty brown. Head reddish brown. The tip of the fastigium is green, brownish, or pinkish red. Tegmina is clear, brown, and has irregular black spots. Colorless and hyaline wings. Darker brownish on the back femur. Straw-colored hind tibia and morphometric of various body parameters shown in table 4.

Economic Importance: This pest is generally a minor pest, through it sometimes does considerable damage and especially this was attack in the seeding stage.

 Table 4. Morphometric analysis of various body parameters of Aiolopus thalassinus thalassinus

Body Parameter	Female	
	Mean \pm SD (n5)	
Length of head	2.85 ±0.015	
Length of antenna	5.25 ±0.60	
Length of pronotum	3.95 ±0.34	
Length of Femur	12.8 ±0.38	
Length of tibia	10.16 ±0.80	
Length of wings	19.84 ±0.21	
Length of tegmina	21.66 ±2.15	
Distance between compound eyes	1.12 ±0.04	
Total body length	22.78 ±0.69	

Genomic observation

Illustrative Barcode

	493
	656

Nucleotide Sequence

Amino Acid Sequence

TLYFMFGAWAGMVGTSMSMIIRAELGQPGSMIGDDQIYNVIITAHAFVMIFFMVMPIMIGGFGNWLVP LMIGAPDMAFPRMNNMSFWLLPPALILLISSSMTDNGVGTGWTVYPPLAGAIAHSGVSVDLAIFSLHLA GISSILGAINFITTTINMRSESMTMDQTPLFVWSVAITALLLLLSLPVLAGAITMLLTDRNLNTSFFDPAG GGDPILYOHLF

Oxya hyla hyla (Serville, 1831) Morphological Description

Antennae filiform and 24 – 26 segments. Medium size in body, green to paler green in color. Fastigium of vertex lack mid-longitudinal carina. Pronotum longer than head shorter. Flattened pronotum and very narrowing forward rounded posteriorly. On the back side of the pronotum, there are three transverse sulci. Prosternum conical in shape. Mesosternum open type. Wing and tegmina well developed. Femur shape looks cylindrical. Tibia expanded in apical half. This species body color green to paler green, eyes and antennae brownish in color. Wings are hyaline. Light green femur, tibia white in color and morphometric of various body parameters shown in table 5.

Economic Importance

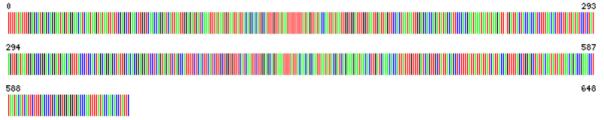
Of considerable economic importance in upper Sindh, causing the most damage in September and early October when the rice fields seem to be huge of this one. It is principally a pest of rice. Mostly damage to rice is caused when the young adults appear in late summer in large numbers. Later they scatter and lose their importance as pests. Barley, cotton, grass, crow foot grass and desert grass but also samples were collected in Pearl millet and jowar were noticed pest that causes become huge loses.

Body Parameter	Male
	Mean \pm SD (n5)
Length of head	4.356 ± 0.04
Length of antenna	6.4 ±0.20
Length of pronotum	6.062 ± 0.04
Length of Femur	17.504 ±0.50
Length of tibia	14.7 ±0.25

Length of wings	24.36 ±0.27
Length of tegmina	27.36 ±0.43
Distance between compound eyes	0.852 ± 0.05
Total body length	33.134 ±0.39

Genomic observation

Illustrative Barcode



Nucleotide Sequence:

Amino Acid Sequence

FMFGAWAGMVGTSMSMIIRAELGQPGSLIGDDQIYNVIITAHAFVMIFFMVMPIMIGGFGNWLVPLMIG APDMAFPRMNNMSXWLLPPSLTLLIMSSMVDNGAGTGWTVYPPLAGAIAHGGSSVDLAIFSLHLAGV SSILGAVNFITTAINMRSESMTLDQTPLFVWSVAITALLLLLSLPVLAGAITMLLTDRNLNTSFFDPAGG GDPILYOHLF

Sphingonotus savignyi (Saussure, 1884)

Morphological Description: Filiform antennae having 26–28 antennal segments. Small to medium sized body. Lateral and median carinulae on the vertex. Paler brown body with whitish bands. Three transverse sulci, lateral carinae, and median carinae are linear on the dorsal side of the pronotum. Pronotum posterior margin obtuse angular. Tegmina, which are long and narrow, have two brown stripes at the base. Wings have a transverse band. Femur is cylindrical, and the arolium is small. At base wings are colorless. Femur yellow in color on inner side. Tibia pale and bluish. Reddish-gray body with dark and white spots. White head, brown antennae with light rings. Tegmina colorless in apical third.

Colorless, clear wings with a dark, narrow, curved fascia and dark spots at the apex. The inside of the femur is pale buff, and the fascia is black. The back tibia is yellow and the inside of the bases are black and morphometric of various body parameters shown in table 6.

Economic Importance: This species feed the wide range of food plants this is found in rocky, sandy and vegetation. Nymphal stages are more epidemic than no functional wings to fly and all time are eating vigorously. Mostly they feed on blades of short grasses and seeding of crops consumes large biomass. This is direct effect on the economics.

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Body Parameter	Male	
	Mean \pm SD (n5)	
Length of head	2.56 ±0.11	
Length of antenna	5.318 ±0.68	
Length of pronotum	4.424 ±0.08	
Length of Femur	11.23 ±0.17	
Length of tibia	9.54 ±0.38	
Length of wings	24.62 ±0.39	
Length of tegmina	25.72 ±0.46	
Distance between compound eyes	1.034 ±0.01	
Total body length	24.564 ±0.38	

Genomic observation Illustrative Barcode



Nucleotide Sequence:

TLYFMFGAWÂGMVGTSMSMIIRAELGQPGSMIGDDQIYNVIITAHAFVMIFFMVMPIMIGGFGNWLVP LMIGAPDMAFPRMNNMSFWLLPPSLILLLSSSMVDSGAGTGWTVYPPLAGAIAHGGASVDLTIFSLHLA GISSILGAVNFITTAINMRSDSMTMDQTPLFVWSVAITALLLLLSLPVLAGAITMLLTDRNLNTSFFDPA GGGDPILYQHLF

Truxalis eximia eximia (Eichwald, 1830)

Morphological Description: Ensiform antennae with 18 segments. The body is big, long, and almost stick-like. It is green, and a pale line runs from behind the eyes on each side of the head, along the pronotum and tegmina. The head is longer than the pronotum, and the vertex is narrower from the front. A posterior sulcus crosses the dorsal side of the pronotum. Medium size of arolium. Hind femur elongate and narrow. Female's wings are purplish blue from dorsal side. A pale-colored hind tibia has 25–28 black-tipped spines on either side. The entire body is green with a pale line on either side of the head starting from

behind the eyes. Reddish brown eyes, antennae, and tegmina. Hyaline wings in females are purple blue on the dorsal side. Dusty brownish color and an angular apex on the hind femur. Brownish or black-tipped spines on either side of the tibia and morphometric of various body parameters shown in table 7.

Economic Importance: This species harmful for the agricultural crops, forests, vegetables, orchards and also wide verities of fruits this attack mostly in summer seasons and also spring seasons and this way happen the economic loss of the agricultural field and attack become on the crops, vegetables, grasses, jowar and others

Table 7. Morphometric analysis of various body parameters of Truxalis eximia eximia

Body Parameter	Female	
	Mean \pm SD (n5)	
Length of head	11.75 ±0.30	
Length of antenna	19.05 ±0.65	
Length of pronotum	10.44 ±2.05	
Length of Femur	41.23 ±2.25	
Length of tibia	38.5 ±3.05	
Length of wings	51.62 ±3.05	
Length of tegmina	53.5 ±3.06	
Distance between compound eyes	1.26 ±0.18	
Total body length	63.2 ±2.75	

Genomic Observation Illustrative Barcode 293 294 588 558 558

Nucleotide Sequence

Amino Acid Sequence

TMYFLFGAWAGMVGTSMSMIIRAELGQPGSMIGDDQIYNVIITAHAFIMIFFMVMPIMIGGFGNWLVPL MIGAPDMAFPRMNNMSFWLLPPSLTLLISSSMVDSGVGTGWTVYPPLAGAIAHGGASVDLAIFSLHLA GISSILGAVNFITTAINMRSESMTLDQTPLFVWSVSITALLLLLSLPVLAGAITMLLTDRNLNTSFFDPAG GGDPILYQHLF

Discussion

DNA bar-coding measures an organism's level of DNA sequence similarity to a set of reference species in order to identify it. Typically, the mitochondrial COI gene segment amplified is used for this purpose amplified by the "universal primers" of (Folmer et al., 1994). DNA bar-coding is normally examined as a cost-effective and reliable, easy molecular identification tool with a wide applicability across metazoan taxa (Hajibabaei et al., 2006: Hebert et al., 2004). Therefore, routinely identifying challenging taxa of economic and medical significance could be very helpful. This is especially true for many insect taxa that include a lot of well-known pests or diseasecarrying insects, whose identification often requires very advanced taxonomic skills. In addition, DNA bar-coding could be pivotal for the identification of certain life stages (e.g. eggs, larvae, nymphs or pupae), which are often impractical to recognize otherwise. Although more actually, the truthful of insect DNA bar-coding may be questioned because insects involve >1,000,000 recount species and likely millions of still undescribed taxa (Foottit, 2009). This exuberant species richness may, indeed, severely drive the ability of the DNA barcode reference databases to adequately constitute the enormous insect taxonomic diversity. Yet, other studies questioned the adequacy of DNA barcoding in Orthoptera (Trewick, 2007). The present study advocates the collection of multiple specimens from various geographical positions and the cohort of more DNA barcode data would facilitate the actual diversity of this Acrididae.

Conclusion

In this study we studied the morphological description, economic importance, and DNA sequence of seven Acrididae species from Sindh. Moreover, this study will be a source for species identification through DNA sequence. The present study suggests the collection of multiple specimens from different geographical locations and the generation of more DNA barcode data would facilitate the actual diversity amongst this taxon.

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