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28. OBSERVATIONS ON THE FEEDING HABITS OF SOLIFUGAE (ARACHNIDA: SOLIFUGAE) IN SEMARSOT SANCTUARY (M.P.), INDIA

On May 22, 1997, I came across about 20 solifuges. As they were constantly in motion, a precise count was difficult. These solifuges were observed on the border of the Semarsot Sanctuary. They appeared to be hunting for arthropods under a street lamp. The size of the smaller solifuges was about 1 cm while a larger individual was over 4 cm long.

One of the small solifuges was trying to tear open the abdomen of a dead moth with the help of its prominent chelicerae. While it was feeding, all its legs were on the ground and its pedipalps were up in the air. The distal tip of its abdomen was raised upwards and the "head" region was touching the ground. The solifuge appeared to be feeding very vigorously.

The solifuges are known to be very active runners and also rapid consumers of food, which includes many insects such as termites. In captivity, they accept and relish crickets. Prey is caught with a swift snap of their enormous

chelicerae and the vigorous mastication of food is very characteristic of the solifuges. The two scissor-like chelicerae are enormous and project in front of the prosoma. These chelicerae are extremely heavy and are as long as the prosoma in many solifuges. It is probably true to say that Solifugae have the most powerful pair of jaws in the animal world (Savory, 1977).

As I had no intention of collecting and preserving them, I quickly noted down some important features that are useful in at least deciding the genus. As the tarsus of the palp appeared narrow at its base and articulated freely with the tibia, these solifuges could be placed in the family Galeodidae. In India, this family is represented by a single genus *Galeodes* (Pocock, 1900).

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29. RESURRECTION OF *BIAPERTURA KWANGSIENSIS* (CHIANG 1963) FROM *BIAPERTURA KARUA* (KING 1853) (CRUSTACEA: CLADOCERA)

(With ten text-figures and one plate)

The genus *Biapertura* is a relatively small one known so far by five species, of which *B. affinis* (Leydig 1860), *B. karua* (King 1853) and

B. verrucosa (Sars 1901) have been reported from India. Among these *B. karua* is commonly distributed between 40° N lat. and 40° S lat.