with silk pad and pupa has yellow and black bands on it. After a period of rest, it start undulating movement from tail up. On the basis of the morphology of pupa it is very easy to distinguish the pupa of yellow coster from other species. The pupa is pale pink at first, slowly black and orange dots starts appearing, and by the end of the day the pupae turns into light pink with black and orange.

The pupa takes 7-10 days to emerge into adult. The details of wing markings, head, eye, can be observed even before emergence. The pupa splits open on the back, the butterfly crawls out of it and finds suitable resting place, and ready to fly in search of food and mate. After a short flight it comes back to rest on the same plant. The adults mate and reproduce. The first emerged yellow coster are seen in first week of June. The eggs are small round and yellow in colour. The adult yellow coster butterfly is yellowish dark veins with a wing span of 6-8 cm. It has a very short flight range.

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FIRST RECORD OF THE GIANT CENTIPEDE *Scolopendra gigantea* LINNAEUS (CHILOPODA, SCOLOPENDRIDAE) FROM INDIA.

B.E. Yadav

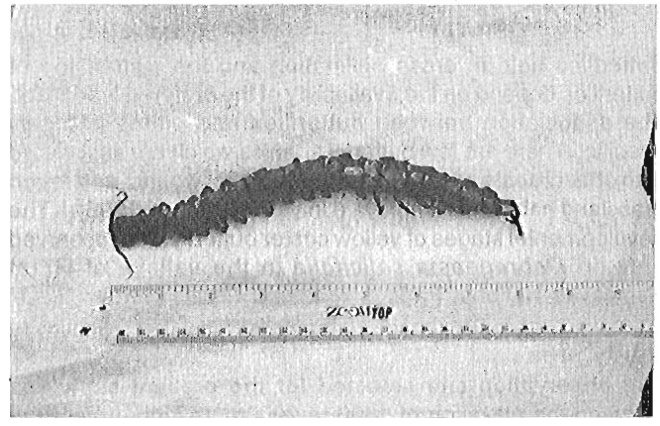
While working out a collection of centipede of West Coast Survey, I came across an interesting giant centipede *Scolopendra gigantea* Linnaeus. The specimen appeared black and measured 20 cm. in length, which is hitherto unrecorded from India. On persual of literature it was found to be belonging to the world's largest centipede species known so far, from Alibag, Raigad District, Maharashtra State.

So far, only scanty information on habitat preference of *S. gigantea* Linn. is available. They are known to inhabit the forest of Columbia and coastal islands of Venezuela. These specimens were measuring about 26 cm. in SL. Lawrence (1984), predicted that such larger specimens may occur in Malaya, India, Africa and tropical belt of South America. Cloudesly-Thompson (1958) observed these centipedes devouring toads also. In India taxonomy of scolopendrid centipedes has been studied by Jangi & Dass, (1984) and Khanna and Kumar (1984). However, there is no record on the giant centipede *S. gigantea* Linn. The present find therefore adds a rare species to the inventory of Indian centipedes.

Scolopendra gigantea Linnaeus 1758.

Material examined: 1ex, Alibag, Raigad Dist : M.S. December 1973, G.M.Yazdani

Remarks: The specimen size measures 20 cm. in SL, colour black, legs strong, anal leg prefemur ventrally lacking spines, coxopleurae devoid of spines, simply pointing. The specimen is displayed in ZSI, western regional station Museum.



Shaikh Iqbal

Giant Centipede- dead specimen

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Zoological Survey of India, Western Regional Station, Pune 411 005.