

SOME EARTHWORM SPECIES INHABITING PUNJAB

S.K. Batish and Neena Dhiman

Department of Zoology, Punjab Agricultural University,
Ludhiana, Punjab 141001, India.

The published work on terrestrial oligochaetes of India includes short publications as well as work on comprehensive fauna. Indian earthworms have been reviewed and well documented by Stephenson (1923, 1930) and Julka (1988).

We collected earthworms regularly from gardens, fields, orchards and catchment areas of aquatic bodies spread over different districts of Punjab between March 1999 and July 2000. Live worms were brought to the laboratory for identification. For diagnostic taxonomic characters, they were dissected after narcotizing in 30% alcohol and preserving in 10% formalin. The anatomical details were examined under a dissecting binocular and compound microscope.

The species identified are given in Table 1 along with the information regarding important taxonomic characters of each species. The habitat of their occurrence and date of collection for each species is also given.

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References

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Table 1. Earthworms of Punjab.

Species	Location	Month of collection	Average length (cm)*	No. of total segments	Citellar segments	Prostomium type	Location of prostatic gland	Spermathecae: pairs/location
<i>Amyntas alexandri</i> (Beddard, 1900)*	Ropar, Ludhiana	April, 1999	1.10-1.18	123-128	14-16	Rudimentary	17-20	4: 5/6, 6/7, 7/8, 8/9
<i>Polypheretima elongata</i> (Perier, 1872)	Sirhind, Ropar, Ludhiana	April and June, 2000	19.5-23.0	103-225	14-15	Rudimentary	18-20	Absent
<i>Amyntas gracilis</i> (Kinberg, 1867)	Ludhiana	June, 2000	10.0-12.0	140-145	14-17	Epilobous	18-23	3: 5/6, 6/7, 7/8
<i>Amyntas morrisi</i> (Beddard, 1892)	Goraya	June, 1999	3.0-8.0	75-120	14-16	Epilobous	17-21	2: 5/6, 6/7
<i>Metaphire posthuma</i> (Vaillant, 1868)	Nandpur, Sahnewal, Jagraon, Kapurthala, Gurdaspur, Hoshiarpur, Samrala, Ludhiana	June, 1999 to July, 2000	10.0-12.5	117-140	14-17	Epilobous	16-21	4: 5/6-8/9
<i>Polypheretima laprobanae</i> (Beddard, 1892)	Ludhiana	July to August, 1999	13.0-14.5	120-190	13-17	Epilobous with a middorsal furrow	18-20	1: slightly posterior to 7/8
<i>Amyntas corticus</i> (Kinberg, 1867)	Sirhind	September, 1998	8.0-8.8	90-100	14-16	Epilobous	Absent	4: 5/6-8/9
<i>Eutyphoeus walloni</i> (Michaelson, 1907)	Hoshiarpur	July, 1999; September, 1999	9.0-13.5	164-192	½(13)-½(14)	Tanylobous	19-24	1: 7/8
<i>Lampito mauritii</i> (Kinberg, 1867)**	Ludhiana, Kapurthala, Sultanpur, Hariké, Govindwal	August, 1999; June to July, 2000	9.0-14.0	174-180	14-17	Epilobous	18-19	3: 6/7, 7/8, 8/9
<i>Octochaetona beatrix</i> (Beddard, 1902)**	Hoshiarpur, Phagwara	July, 2000	7.0-7.5	115-28	13-17	Epilobous	19-20	2: 8, 9

* For average length at least 10 worms were taken into account; ** Penial setae present; Tubercula pubertosis present; * First record from Punjab