



DISCOVERING THE UNDISCOVERED: THE STORY OF SERICINI

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BACKGROUND

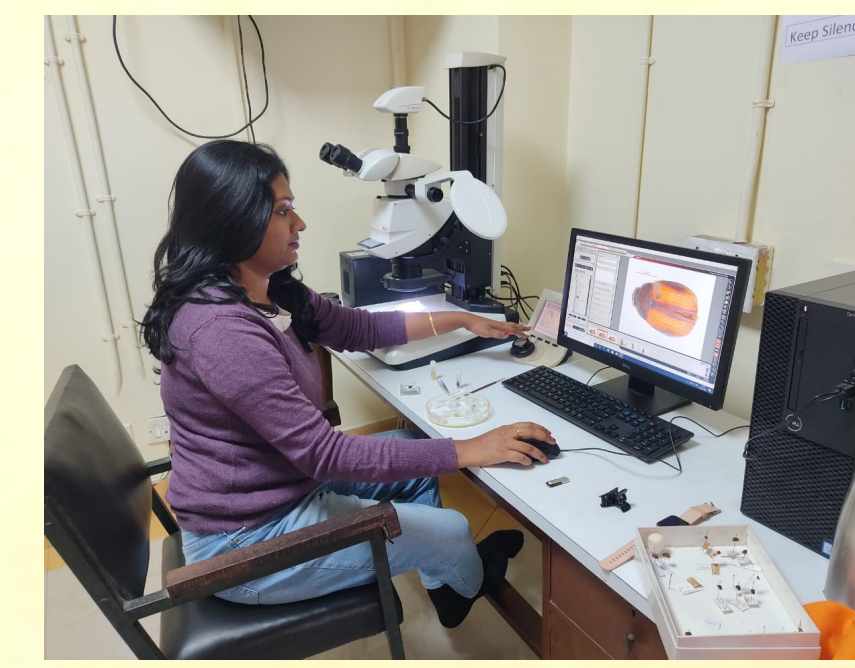
- Museum specimens serve as the bedrock of systematic and taxonomic researches and also evidence for changing species patterns in climate change.
- Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata (ZSI) since its inception has been the largest repository of insect specimens in India.
- For instance, in the tribe Sericini (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae) large number of specimens have been preserved in the museum of ZSI but unfortunately a large fraction of specimens are unscrutinized until now.
- As of now, 682 species of Sericini are known from India (Ahrens & Fabrizi 2016; Chandra et al. 2021; Bhunia et al. 2021, 2022) which is roughly comprise 16 % of worldwide reported species of Sericini.
- Fragmented reports of Sericini are mainly from “The Himalayas” and “The Deccan Peninsular” regions.

MATERIALS & METHODS

Preservation



Identification and Photography




Publish Research Article



HISTORICALLY COLLECTED

- on 10.vii.1909 from West Bengal by Lord Carmichael
- on 30.xi.1958 from Tamil Nadu by P. S Nathan
- on 13.v.1971 from Andaman and Nicobar by B.K. Tikadar


RECENTLY COLLECTED



1. *Maladera reyaensis* Bhunia et al. 2021



2. *Maladera kottagudiensis* Chandra et al. 2021



3. *Maladera sibiatafabriziae* Chandra et al. 2021


RECENTLY COLLECTED

- on 28.x.2022 from West Bengal
- on 15.vii.2021 from Tamil Nadu
- on 28.xi.2021 from Great Nicobar


HISTORICALLY COLLECTED

- on 25.vii.1989 from Sikkim by H. S. Sharma
- on 30.vii.1999 from Uttar Pradesh by K. Chandra
- on 05.vi.1999 from Madhya Pradesh by K. Chandra


RECENTLY COLLECTED



4. *Nepaloserica cheemaensis* Bhunia et al. 2021



5. *Maladera kaimurensis* Chandra et al. 2021



6. *Neoserica panchmariensis* Bhunia et al. 2022


RECENTLY COLLECTED

- on 17.vii.2019 from West Bengal
- on 25.xi.2021 from Bihar
- on 28.vii.2015 from Chhattisgarh


HISTORICALLY COLLECTED

- on 10.vi.1999 from Madhya Pradesh by K. Chandra
- on 16.v.2010 from Tripura by Niranjana
- on 21.vi.2019 from Meghalaya by B. K. Agarwala


RECENTLY COLLECTED



Neoserica debasriae Bhunia et al. 2022



Maladera tripuraensis Chandra et al. 2021



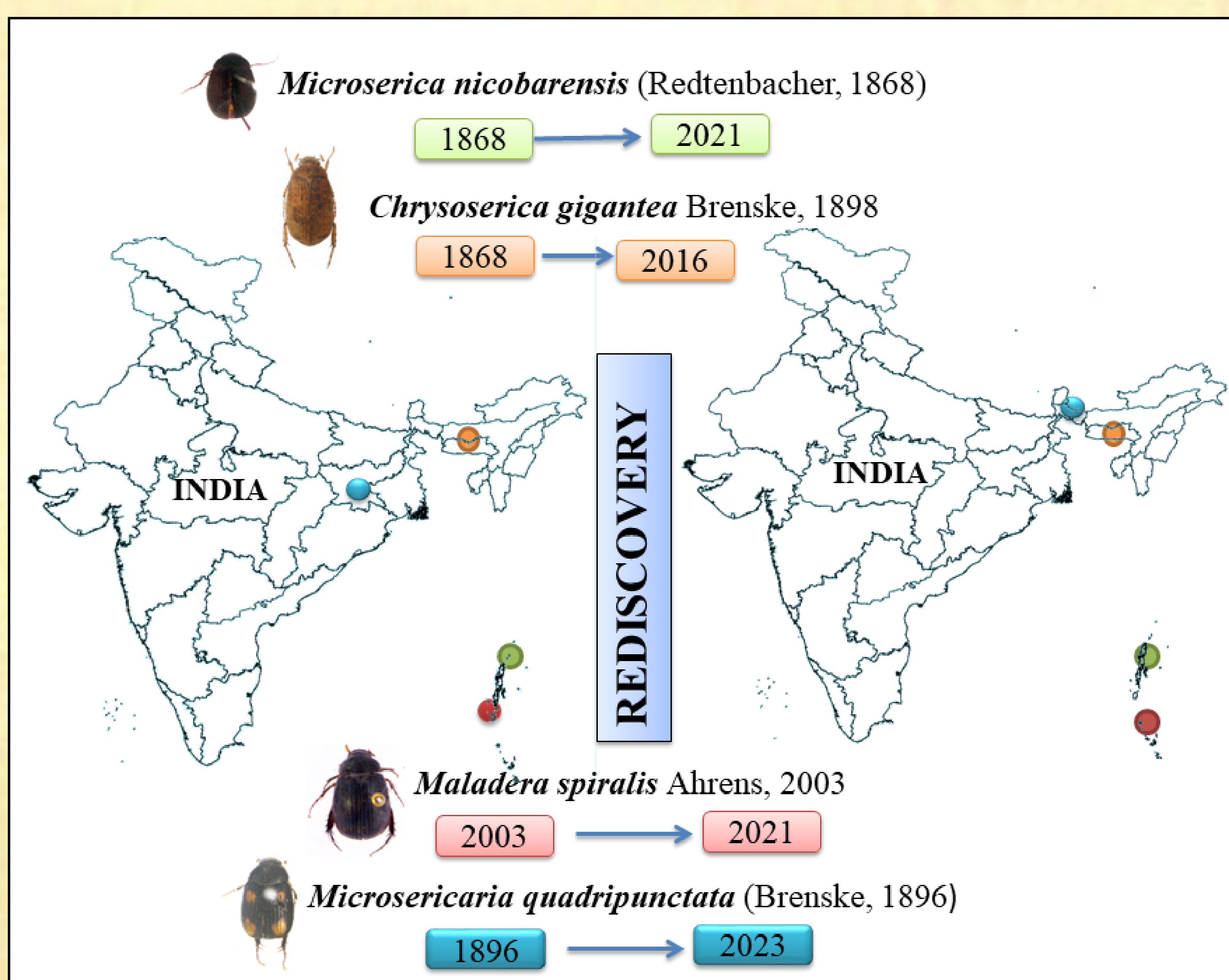
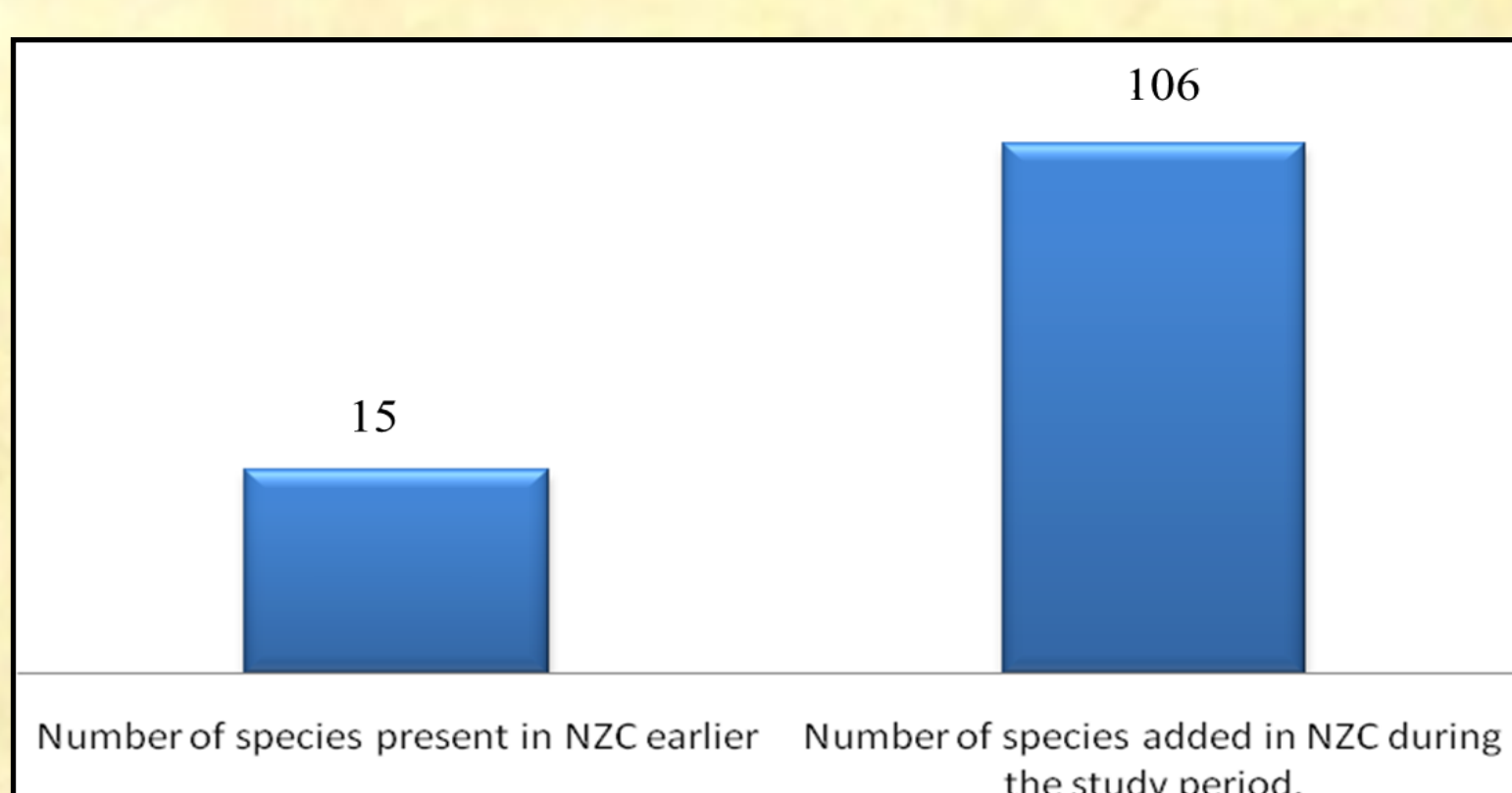
Lepidoserica barapaniensis Chandra et al. 2021

RECENTLY COLLECTED

- on 11.x.2017 from Madhya Pradesh
- not yet received
- not yet received

RESULTS

- We identified a total of 135 species from nearly 100 years old unidentified collections.
- The collection yielded **nine** new species (Chandra et al. 2021; Bhunia et al. 2021, 2022).
- Almost 100 years after, we have **re-described four** species (Bhunia et al. 2021)
- We augmented **106** species to ZSI and updated distributional range of many species, which are **new records** to different states of India.



FUTURE GOALS

- To fill the spatial and temporal gap in sampling effort of this tribe by identification and distributional mapping.
- Digitization & Barcoding.
- Involving more expertise to explore the diversity of this mega insect group.

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