

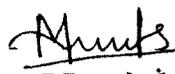
PREFACE

Cricketts belong to the family Gryllidae of Order Orthoptera. There are about 2300 species of cricketts in the world. Cricketts are popular pets and are considered goodluck in Asia especially, China where they are kept in cages. They are nocturnal and prefer warm areas such as kitchen, basement, fireplace, cracks and crevices, behind base boards, etc. They make distinctive, annoying chirping sound. They eat just about anything but, love bread crumbs and liquids including beer, often ruin stored clothing.

Field cricketts eat almost anything but are associated with field crops, especially wheat, oats, rye, alfalfa and several plants, dead insects, seeds, leather, paper and old cloths, etc. Similarly, mole cricketts are also omnivorus insects. They feed on larvae, roots and grasses. Hence, any advance knowledge on their taxonomy will add great relevance in understanding biodiversity and their commercial utility. Therefore, in the present text two families namely, Gryllotalpidae and Gryllidae were selected for taxonomical description of species.

In the present work 4 new species of the genus *Gryllotalpa* namely *Gryllotalpa indica* sp. nov., *Gryllotalpa vestigi* sp. nov., *Gryllotalpa shivajiensis* sp. nov. and

Gryllotalpa micromi sp. nov. and 5 new species of the genus *Gryllus*, *Gryllus ovali* sp. nov., *Gryllus mirroriquadri* sp. nov., *Gryllus indica* sp. nov. *Gryllus pentagoni* sp. nov. and *Gryllus lanceolati* sp. nov. have been described for the first time in India. I hope that the text will be useful for students, teachers, and scientists in field of economic entomology.


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