

Biodiversity of Acrididae from Sufi Anwer Shah Safari Park, Ghotiki, Sindh, Pakistan

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Family Acrididae consists of twenty eighth subfamilies with 1412 genera and 6832 recognized species out of which 2481 have been reported from Asia and 169 species and subspecies from Pakistan. Locusts, or grasshoppers, are the most well-known members of the Acrididae family (Panhwar *et al.*, 2024; Nazir *et al.*, 2014). They are recognized by the short and thick antennae, and the tympana of the first abdominal segment are located on its side. Around 10,000 of the 11,000 species in the suborder Caelifera belong to the Acrididae family, making them the most abundant family of grasshoppers. They are significant plant pests due to the extensive damage they inflict on agricultural crops, forests, vegetables, orchards, and various fruits (Baloch *et al.*, 2023; Akhtar and Usmani, 2014).

Objective: The objective of present study was to explore the biodiversity of Acrididae from Sufi Anwer Shah Safari Park Ghotiki Sindh Pakistan.

Methodology: The collected specimens were brought into Advance Entomology Lab, Department of Zoology for further studies. About 113 specimens of Acrididae were collected.

Result: A total of 113 Acrididae grasshoppers were collected from various locations in Sufi Anwer Shah Safari Park, Ghotki, Sindh, Pakistan. These samples were classified into the family Acrididae, comprising 5 genera and 7 species: *Heteracris littoralis* (Rambur, 1838), *Spathosteronus prasiniferum* (Walker, 1871), *Acrida exaltata* (Walker, 1859), *Acrida gigantea* (Herbst, 1786), *Truxalis eximia eximia* (Eichwald, 1830), and *Anacridium aegyptium* (Linnaeus, 1764). Additionally, morphological descriptions and photographs are provided for the species studied.

Conclusion: The biodiversity of Acrididae of Sufi Anwer Shah Safari Park revealed the presence of 07 species of Acrididae.

Keywords: Grasshoppers, Locust, Identification, Species, Safari Park.

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