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A preliminary report on Drosophilids of Mokokchung (Nagaland State, India).

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Significant progress has been made in the field of taxonomy and systematics of the family Drosophilidae (Diptera) in India. About two hundred species belonging to its twenty genera were reported from different parts of the country to date. However, a vast area of great ecological interest still either awaits exploration or is poorly explored. Particularly, very little is known regarding Drosophilid fauna of North Eastern region of the Indian subcontinent despite this region being one of the richest repositories of biodiversity in the world (Dwivedi and Gupta, 1979; Dwivedi *et al.*, 1979, 1980; Gupta, 1973; Gupta and Singh, 1979; Singh, A., 1972; Singh, O.P., 1987; Singh and Gupta, 1977; Sreerama Reddy and Krishnamurthy, 1971). This region includes seven hill states, namely Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Tripura.

A preliminary survey on Drosophilids of Dimapur, Medziphema, and Kohima of Nagaland was conducted by Singh (1987). However, no information is available about the other parts of the state so far. Mokokchung is a hill station in Nagaland situated at latitude 26°11' – 26°45' and longitude 94°17' – 94°45'. This place is situated at an altitude of 1350 meters above the sea level characterised by subtropical, semi evergreen forests. The annual rainfall is about 250-310 cm, and temperature in the area ranges from 2°C to 32°C.

Of late, collections were made using fermenting fruits as baits. Altogether 8 different *Drosophila* species were collected (Table 1). Of them, two species are unidentified. Both the species bear characteristic marks on the wings (picture winged *Drosophila*). *D. immigrans* constitutes more than half of the catch, followed by *D. nasuta*. This is in conformity with the observation of Sreerama Reddy and Krishnamurthy (1971), who worked on Drosophilids of Nilgiris and Kodaikanal ranges of South India that *D. immigrans* thrives well in a moist and humid climate.

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Table 1. *Drosophila* species collected at Mokokchung (Nagaland, India).

Species	Subgenus	Number
1. <i>D. immigrans</i>	<i>Drosophila</i>	92
2. <i>D. nasuta</i>	<i>Drosophila</i>	34
3. <i>D. takahashii</i>	<i>Sophophora</i>	20
4. <i>D. kikkawai</i>	<i>Sophophora</i>	10
5. <i>D. nepalensis</i>	<i>Sophophora</i>	08
6. <i>D. suzuki</i>	<i>Sophophora</i>	04
7. Picture winged <i>Drosophila</i> (unidentified)		03
8. Picture winged <i>Drosophila</i> (unidentified)		02
Total		173

50: 112; Gupta, J.P., and B.K. Singh 1979, Entomon 4: 167-172; Singh, A., 1972, Dros. Inf. Serv. 49: 78; Singh, O.P., 1987, Dros. Inf. Serv. 66: 67; Singh, B.K., and J.P. Gupta 1977, Proc. Zool. Soc. (Calcutta) 30: 31-38; Sreerama Reddy, G., and N.B. Krishnamurthy 1971, Dros. Inf. Serv. 47: 116-117.