

Project Update: January 2021

I am very happy to share our recent publication on cicadas. Three new species of the Asian genus *Mata* Distant, 1906 (Hemiptera: Cicadidae) viz. *Mata lenonia* sp. nov.; *Mata ruffordii* sp. nov. and *Mata meghalayana* sp. nov. are described from Indian state of Meghalaya in the paper. Keys and taxonomic descriptions of these species are provided with detailed accounts of their natural history and acoustics. This is the first ever species description from India where the acoustics and natural history of the cicadas are also described.

All these species were first discovered under the tenure of my project which was supported by the Rufford Foundation (UK), under the Rufford Small Grant programme. One of the three species is named as *ruffordii* to honour the support of The Rufford Foundation in conservation of nature and wildlife, starting from the smallest invertebrates to majestic mammals and their habitat. The foundation has been supporting various conservation related work of many young researchers in India and many other countries for more than a decade and this is the least I could do.

The paper is too large hence can't be shared here. I am sharing the link of the paper along with a plate of these fascinating cicadas.



<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/348430428> Description of three new species of the genus *Mata* Distant 1906 Hemiptera Cicadidae Cicadinae *Oncotympanini* with notes on their natural history from Indian state of Meghalaya India

These species have also been uploaded in our website today and here are the links:

<https://www.indiancicadas.org/sp/585/Mata-meghalayana>

<https://www.indiancicadas.org/sp/583/Mata-lenonia>

<https://www.indiancicadas.org/sp/584/Mata-ruffordii>