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Systematics and Bionomics of Predatory Water Bug *Diplonychus rusticus* (Fabricius, 1781) - A Case Study from Sasthamkotta Lake, Kerala, India

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Abstract :

Predatory water bugs have significant role in controlling the overall species composition in freshwater ecosystems. Studies on their bionomics are sparse for lentic systems in Kerala. The present investigation made an attempt to study the bionomics of a common predatory water bug *Diplonychus rusticus* (Fabricius, 1781) from Sasthamkotta lake. *D.rusticus* was collected from different stations of the lake from July 2021 to June 2022. The species were found clinging to stem, roots, and leaves of *Salvenia molesta*, a common invasive macrophyte in Sasthamkotta lake. It was noted that invasive macrophyte beds are major habitat of *D.rusticus* in the lake. More comprehensive observations are needed to reveal their life cycle and feeding preferences.

Keywords: Bionomics, *Diplonychus rusticus*, Heteroptera, *Salvenia molesta*, Water bug.

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