

## **HIRSCHMANNIELLA MAGNA – A VALID SPECIES**

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### **Abstract**

In 1966, Siddiqi described a new species *Hirschmanniella magna* from Aligarh, North India. Siddiqi (1966) characterized *H. magna* as having body (over 2 mm) long, spear 28-29  $\mu\text{m}$  long, lateral fields terminating on tail near phasmids, excretory pore lying 150-160  $\mu\text{m}$  from anterior end of body, intestine partially extending over rectum and bursa in male not reaching phasmids. This species is close to *H. spinicaudata* (Schuurmans Stekhoven, 1944) Luc & Goody, 1963 and *H. mucronata* (Das, 1960) Timm, 1965. Sher (1968) synonymized Siddiqi's *H. magna* with *H. mucronata*. A comparison of specimens of both these species and with their original measurements and description revealed definite differentiating characters. Our study of these specimens collected from near rice fields, Jamshoro, Sindh during 2004, shows that *H. magna* differs from *H. mucronata* in having a larger body size (2.4-2.7 mm vs 1.76-1.90 mm) and longer spear (28-29  $\mu\text{m}$  vs 21-24  $\mu\text{m}$ ), the basal knobs of the spear also differ in shape and size, the cephalic work is more strongly sclerotized than of *H. mucronata*, the bursa in *H. magna* ends before the phasmids. Hence *Hirschmanniella magna* Siddiqi is considered as a valid species.