

Short Communication

**NEW RECORDS OF LONGICORN BEETLE BORERS (LAMIINAE:
CERAMBYCIDAE: COLEOPTERA) FROM LITTLE NICOBAR ISLAND,
INDIAN OCEAN**

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The representatives of the family Cerambycidae are commonly known as long horn or longicorn beetles. Economically, these insects both in their larval and adult stages usually cause enormous damage to live, dead and dying trees in the forest stands, to felled logs in extraction centres, to timber in storage and in human use, to creepers, climbers and lianas, and even to the fruits and sometimes in other parts of the plants. Little Nicobar is a one of the biggest islands in central Nicobar groups and situated adjacent to Great Nicobar Island but separated by St. George channel lying between 07p 302 and 07p 482 N latitude and 98p 302 and 98p 452 E longitude and has an area of about 160 km².

The present communication reports three species of long horn beetles belonging to 3 genera under 3 tribes of the subfamily Lamiinae from this island as new record. Of them *Acalolepta rusticatrix rusticatrix* (Fabricius) and *Olenecamptus bilobus* (Fabricius) are reported for the first time from the Nicobar group of islands. Present taxonomic status, diagnostic characters and distribution in Bay Islands are given below for each species. The classification is followed after Rondon and Breuning (1970). All the collections have been made at night from different light sources in the island.

SUBFAMILY LAMIINAE

Tribe Agniini

1. *Acalolepta rusticatrix rusticatrix* (Fabricius)

Lamia rusticator Fabricius, 1801, *Syst. El.* 294.

Acalolepta rusticator : Rondon & Breuning, 1970, *Pacif. Insects Monogr.* 24: 465.

Acalolepta rusticatrix rusticatrix (Fabricius): Vitali, F.2011. *Biod. Biog. Nat. Cons. Wallacea N. Guinea*, I : 291-297, 4 pl.

Material examined: 1B&, Empok, 28.iii. 1992., coll. P.T.Rajan

Diagnostic characters: A medium size (2.5-3.0 cm) lamiine borer, elongate and rectangular in shape, brown with silvery white pubescence. Antenna much longer than body, yellow brown in colour, segment 3 onwards with an annular band of pale silky pubescence at basal region, segment 1 with a prominent scar mark at apex. Pronotum transverse, rectangular, both ends constricted, lateral margins produced with upwardly directed blunt spine. Elytra brown with patches of silky white pubescence on the surface, gradually narrowed at apical 1/3rd, basal 2/3rd deeply, coarsely punctate, Legs densely pubescent, tibia with preapical 'rainure'.

Distribution: Anadaman & Nicobar islands (Little Nicobar), North, Middle and South Andaman (Khan & Maiti, 1983)

Tribe Doracoschematini

2. *Olenecamptus bilobus* (Fabricius)

Saperda biloba Fabricius, 1801. *Syst. Et.*, 2:324

Olenecamptus bilobus (Fabricius): Khan, T.N. and Maiti, P.K. 1983. *Rec.Zool.Surv. India, Occ. Pap.* 45: 1-100.

Material examined: 3 B&B&, Makachua, 30.iii. 1992., coll. P.T. Rajan, 1B&, Kavak, 26.iii.1992, 1@&, Empok, 28.iii. 1992., coll. P.T.Rajan

Diagnostic characters: A small (1.1 - 1.4 cm), elongate, slender beetle, brown, with greyish yellow pubescence, later forming few patches and spots on head, pronotum, scutellum and elytra. Antenna nearly twice as long as body, dark brown, segment 1 small, distinctly

swollen. Pronotum elongate, rectangular, lateral margins wavy, surface strongly wrinkled, laterally with patches of yellow pubescence, rest with clothing of whitish pubescence. Elytra elongate, little wide posteriorly, narrowed near apex, each elytron with one large and two small, circular shaped yellowish spots, variably developed rather large spots of yellow pubescence. Legs red brown, pubescent, femur pedunculate, tibia elongate.

Distribution: Anadaman & Nicobar Islands (Little Nicobar), North, Middle and South Andaman (Khan & Maiti, 1983)

Tribe Gnomini

3. *Gnoma nicobarica* Breuning

Gnoma nicobarica Breuning, 1936. *Festschr. E strand.*, 1:304.

Material examined: 1B&, Kavak, 26.iii.1992, coll. P.T.Rajan

Diagnostic characters: A small in size (1.8 - 1.9 cm), elongate, black, clothed with bright yellowish pubescence beetle. Antenna black, sparsely pubescent, segment 1 small, stumpy, strongly rugose, prominent scar mark at the apex. Pronotum long, cylindrical, basally broad, medially narrow, apically widened, densely clothed with yellowish pubescence. Elytra strongly warty at basal 1/3rd. coarsely punctate, these apically fine, clothed with patch of yellowish pubescence, apex sub rounded. Legs

elongate, slender, femur pedunculate, roughened, mid tibia with apical 'rainure'.

Distribution: Anadaman & Nicobar Islands (Little Nicobar), Great Nicobar

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