

## RECORD OF *PACHYLOCERUS CRASSICORNIS* (OLIVIER) (COLEOPTERA: CERAMBYCIDAE) FROM MAHARASHTRA

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### web supplement

Sen *et al.* (2005) recently reported presence of an interesting longicorn beetle, namely *Pachylocerus corallinus* Hope, belonging to the tribe Pyrestini (Cerambycidae: Cerambycinae) from Goa. Members of this longicorn beetle tribe are exclusively oriental and are characterized by red colouration.

While studying the beetle collection at Shri Chhatrapati College, Junnar, we identified another congeneric species, *Pachylocerus crassicornis* (Olivier), collected in Phaltan (near Nimbkar Agricultural Research Institute's farm, Satara district, Maharashtra; coll. U. Hiremath, date of collection August 1998, host plant unknown). Both these species are illustrated here (Image 1<sup>w</sup>) and brief comments on differences between the two species are presented. The present species was identified on the basis of keys given by Gahan (1906). This may form the first record of this species from Maharashtra. Distribution records of Cerambycidae are poor largely due to problems in identifying these beetles.

*P. crassicornis*, female: length - 24mm; prothorax length - 5mm; prothorax breadth - 6mm; breadth at humerus - 7mm; elytra length - 16.5mm.

The present species resembles *P. corallinus* in most characters but the latter is somewhat smaller. The overall body colour is bright red with a pattern of black blotches, both on prothorax as well as elytra. Ventrally it is entirely black. All the body is covered with fine gray pubescence. Another difference from *P. corallinus* is that the setae on the distal part of 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> antennomeres are relatively longer and stronger. Further, the legs in *P. crassicornis* are much darker and ventrally the femora are more blackish in the distal half.

The species *P. crassicornis* is known from southern India and Chota Nagpur as per Gahan (1906), but we have not come across any subsequent reports in literature. We hope that after publication of photographs (Image 1<sup>w</sup>) of these two species of *Pachylocerus*, other naturalists may be able to identify this beetle and report its presence elsewhere.

Cerambycidae exhibit considerable size variation. Gahan (1906) gave size variation for *P. crassicornis* to be 17 to 25mm. Our

<sup>w</sup> see Image 1 in the web supplement at [www.zoosprint.org](http://www.zoosprint.org)

specimen is 24mm.

### REFERENCES

- Gahan, C.J. (1906). *Fauna of British India, Coleoptera Vol. I (Cerambycidae)*. Taylor and Francis, London, 329pp.  
Sen, A., S. Rangnekar, P. Rangnekar and H.V. Ghate (2005). Record of *Priotyrranus mordax* (White) and *Pachylocerus corallinus* Hope (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) from Goa. *Zoos' Print Journal* 20(5): 1869-1870.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors are grateful to the authorities of Junnar Taluka Shivner Shikshan Prasarak Mandal and Shri Chhatrapati College, Junnar for facilities to work on local insects. HVG and AS would like to thank the authorities of Modern College for facilities and encouragement.



NOTE

ZOOS' PRINT JOURNAL 21(2): 2167-2169

## BIRDS OF THE GORGES OF VINDHYAS IN RAJASTHAN STATE

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Two main mountain ranges namely, the Aravallis and the Vindhya are confined to the state of Rajasthan. The Vindhya range is situated towards the south-eastern part of the state. It is mainly confined to Bhilwara, Chittorgarh, Kota, Bundi, Sawai Madhopur, Karauli, Bharatpur and Dholpur districts of Rajasthan. The Vindhyan scarp land having an average elevation of 350-580m covers the area between Banas and Chambal rivers (Shetty & Singh, 1987). Presence of gorges is a phenomenon of the Vindhya range. These gorges having rocky vertical banks are popularly known as *Nal* in local dialect. Generally they have waterfalls at places, which are picturesque during the monsoon period, but during summers most of them are dry. These gorges are part of characteristic drainage system of the Vindhya. In the Aravallis, such gorges are absent and streams have flatish banks. The Chambal, Kali Sindh and Parwan are main perennial gorge rivers of the Vindhyan zone, while Menali, Mej, Berach, and Bharak are main seasonal gorge rivers of this zone.

The Vindhya consist of flat-topped hills. It presents uniform view of ridge line when seen from a distance. Like Aravallis, it does not show peaks and saddles towards the ridgeline. Unlike Aravallis, it consists of reddish sheet rocks. Due to poor fragmentation in sheet rocks, percolation of rainwater is poor in the Vindhya and the terrain is prone to heavy run-off. The soil layer is thin or absent on slopes and top of the Vindhyan