CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STUDIES ON PRIONINAE (COLEOPTERA: CERAMBYCIDAE) OF CENTRAL INDIA WITH CHECKLIST OF INDIAN SPECIES

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ABSTRACT: The present paper presents the information on genital and morphological character of 4 species belonging to 4 genera and 3 tribes of the subfamily Prioninae (Cerambycidae) so far reported from Central India. Except *Prionomma (Prionomma) atratum* (Gmelin), other 3 species are newly recorded from Central Indian landscape. First consolidated checklist of Indian Prioninae including 47 species belonging to 23 genera and 9 tribes has also been provided.

KEY WORDS: Chhattisgarh, Central India, Cerambycidae, Madhya Pradesh, male genitalia, Prioninae.

The beetles of Prioninae subfamily belonging to the Cerambycidae family are mostly borers, whose larvae feed on rotting wood or roots. Few members of the subfamily make tunnel freely in the soil alongside the roots of trees. These beetles fall in the group of heartwood borers and thus reflecting its immense importance in the timber economy of the country. They are cosmopolitan in distribution and include many of the largest species of the Coleoptera order. Prioninae may be readily recognized by the prothoracic possession of the sharp lateral margins. The Indian genera generally bear coarsely facetted eyes, and the species, more or less, are restricted in their range of coloration between black and lighter shades of brown which verge on red and yellow.

In 2012, Norbert Delahaye has published a world catalogue of prioninae. Till date, the most comprehensive information on Indian Prioninae is provided in *'The Fauna of British India including Ceylon and Burma'* by Gahan in 1906. Subsequently, Stebbing (1914) and Beeson (1941) published literatures on biology and ecology of these beetles. Except few scattered publications, this group is poorly represented in recent literatures. In 2005, Sen et al. reported a prioninae species from Goa. Prabhakar et al. (2012) published new record of a prioninae species from India including its biology and natural history. Chandra et al. (2010) published the only literature which includes some information on the prioninae of Central India.

The present communication aims at discussing detailed taxonomy of the prioninae species collected during faunal surveys in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh by Zoological Survey of India. Moreover, this paper provides a consolidated checklist of the subfamily prioninae recorded in India after Norbert Delahaye (2012) 'World Catalogue of Prioninae'.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study period: The specimens were collected from different parts of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh since 2001.

Study Area: Madhya Pradesh lies more or less at the center of India covering an area of 308.252 square kilometer and extending between 21.2°- 26.87° N Latitude and 74.033°- 82.81° E Longitude. Nearly, 30.9 % of the total geographic area of the state is covered by the forest. The forest types mainly include sub tropical hill forests, moist deciduous forest, dry deciduous forest and thorny vegetation. Most of the forests are Sal dominated interspersed with mixed vegetation and bamboo patches. Major rivers include Chambal, Narmada and Tapti. Chhattisgarh is a newly carved out state from Madhya Pradesh in 2001. The state extends between 17°46' - 24°8' N latitude and 80°15' - 84°24' E longitude in the central Indian landscape having a total area of 1. 35.194 sq. Km. Nearly 44 % of the state area is covered by forests and a major part (35736.239 sq. Km.) is outside Protected Areas. Area of these two states lies on the table land of Central India surrounded by Gangetic plains in the North and Godavari valley in the South, the plains of Gujarat in the West and Orissa and Bihar in the East. Biogeographically, both the states belong to the Deccan Plateau and include provinces, 6D- Chota Nagpur Plateau, 6C- Eastern Highland and 6E- Central Highland (Rodgers et al., 2002). *Methods*: Cerambycid beetles are collected generally at night with the help of light trap. Mercury bulbs (160 Watt) were used to attract insects on a white sheet of cloth measuring approximately 2 X 2 m. The coordinates of the collection sites were recorded using GPS (Garmin Oregon 550), which were further used in preparing maps of the survey sites in DIVA-GIS. Specimens were studied under Leica EZ4 HD binocular microscope for identification on morphological basis. Morphological photographs were taken with Nikon D300s and 105mm lens. For genital study, the whole abdominal segment was cut out and the genital parts were removed very carefully with the help of fine forceps, then the remaining abdominal exoskeleton was fixed in its old position with the use of gum. The genital parts were keptin 10% KOH solution overnight. Genital parts were studied and photographed in Leica stereo zoom microscope M205A. The genitalia were preserved in 70% alcohol. The identified specimens were deposited in the National Zoological Collection, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata.

ABBREVIATIONS USED

WLS: Wildlife Sanctuary; NP: National Park; BR: Biosphere Reserve; TR: Tiger Reserve; RH: Rest House; Coll.: Collected by.; ex./s.: Example/s.

RESULTS

The present taxonomic study of the collected prioninae reveals the presence of 4 species belonging to 4 genera and 3 tribes from Central India. Among these, 3 are recorded for the first time from the Central Indian landscape. The consolidated Indian checklist shows the presence of 47 prioninae species belonging to 23 genera and 9 tribes (Table 1).

Subfamily PRIONINAE Latreille

1869. Prionides, Lacordair. Gen. Coleopt. Viii, p. 16.

Diagnostic characters: Typically large (25–70 mm) in size and usually dorsally brown or black and red brown ventrally. The head of the members of this subfamily usually oblique, forwarded anteriorly, antennae inserted more or less close to base of mandibles; pronotum with complete lateral margins, frequently toothed or spined along the margin; procoxae strongly transverse; mesonotum

lacking striadulatory area; coxal cavities open behind, inner lobe of maxillae lacking or vestigial [Dillon & Dillon, 1952].

Key to the Tribes of subfamily PRIONINAE Gahan

2. First antennal joint one-third at least longer than broad, labrum not triangular..**Prionini** -- First antennal joint short, short, obconic, scarcely longer than broad, labrum triangular......**Acanthophorini**

[I] Tribe Prionini Latreille Prionomma (Prionomma) atratum (Gmelin)

Prionomma (Prionomma) airaiam (Gmein)

1789. Prionus atratum Gmelin, Syst. Nat., I (4): 1818 (S. India, Ceylon).

1910. Prionoma (Prionomma) atratum: Lameere, Annls. Soc. ent.Belg., 54: 279.

Material examined: Chhattisgarh, Bilaspur, Achanakmar WLS, ChaparwaRH, 14.vi.2004,1ex., coll. A. Singh; Bastar, KangerValley NP, 18.vii.2011, 1 ex.,coll. R. P. Gupta and party; Raipur, Barnwapara WLS, 6.vii.2011, 1 ex., coll. Sunil Gupta and party.

Diagnostic character: Body pitchy black throughout; antenna twelve segmented, smaller than body (Fig. 2A); segment one small, stumpy, globular, smooth, outer margin of segment three to segment eleven angulated apically (Fig. 2Q); head, gena almost covered by eyes, eyes finely faceted not divided, deep sulcation between two eyes (Fig. 2E); pronotum broader than long, two large spines on the antero-lateral margin; lower one more longer, stronger and acute than upper one, surface smooth glossy, one poorly raised portion on either side of the pronotum (Fig. 2I); scutellum broadly "U" shaped (Fig. 2I); elytra elongated, gradually narrowed towards apex, basally strongly punctate, apex of elytra broadly rounded (Fig. 2A); prosternal process raised above the height of coxae, forwarded anteriorly, coxal cavity closed (Fig. 2M); legs robust, punctate, warty (Fig. 2U), tibia with apical spine, tarsal claws long,less than 90° angle (Fig. 2Y).

Genitalia: Apex of the median lobe strongly projected (Fig. 3D). Ring portion of lateral lobe almost parallel and converging towards apex (Fig. 3B). The lobes of the parameres apart and densely covered with setae (Fig. 3D). Internal sac or the endophallus attached between the bifurcated parts of median lobe (Fig. 3C). Tip of the endophallus triangular shaped with a very distinct black marking (Fig. 3A) (Ehara, 1954).

Distribution: India: Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Tamil Nadu. *Elsewhere*: Sri Lanka.

Dorysthenes (Lophosternus) huegelii (Redtenbacher)

1848. Cyrtognathus huegelii Redtenbacher, Hiigel's Kaschmir, 4 (2):550.

1981. Dorysthenes (Lophosternus) huegelii: Hayashi &Makihara, ESAKIA, (17): 183-200.

Material examined: Madhya Pradesh, Hosangabad, Panchmari BR, Churna RH, 17.vi.2003, 1 ex., coll. K.Chandra.

Diagnostic characters: Body large, robust, chestnut brown in color (Fig. 2B); antenna smaller than body, chestnut brown, segments small, stout, squarish, anteriorly angled, segment-3 longest (Fig. 2R); head chestnut red, eyes finely faceted not divided golden black in color, deep groove between two eyes, clypeus with golden hairs (Fig. 2F); pronotum red brown, squarish, medially concave, gradually slopped laterally, anterior lateral margin flattened with two acute spines, posterior margin wavy, punctuate (Fig. 2J); elytra large, red brown, generally converged toward apex, longitudinal striae, basally prominent, obsolete near the apex, lateral margins margined, outer angle broadly rounded, sutural angle ended with blunt out curved (Fig. 2B); legs elongate, femur flattened, serrated (Fig. 2V), tibia serrated, with apical spine, 3rd tarsal segments bilobed, claws more than 90° angle (Fig. 2Z). **Genitalia:** Apex of the median lobe long and sharply pointed (Fig. 3H). Ring portion of the alteral lobe converging throughout (Fig. 3F). The lobes of the parameres very close and very densely covered with long setae (Fig. 3 H). Internal sac or the endophallus attached with the

median lobe. The endophallus throughout elongated, suddenly swelled at the tip and formed a small rounded structure (Fig. 3G) (Ehara, 1954).

Distribution: India: Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Elsewhere: Nepal.

[II] Tribe Macrotomini Thomson Bandar pascoei pascoei (Lansberge)

1869. Macrotoma luzonum Pascoe, Trans. ent. Soc. Lond., (3)3: 666.

1884. Macrotoma pascoei: Lansberge, Notes Leyden Mus., 6: 144.

1912. Macrotoma (Bander) pascoei: Lameere, Mem. Soc.ent. Belg., 21: 144.

1981. Bander pascoei pascoei: Quentin & Villiers, Ann. Soc. Ent. Fr. (N. S.), 17(1): 363.

Material examined: Madhya Pradesh, Seoni, Pench TR, Karmajhiri, 10.vi.2001, 1ex., coll. K. Chandra. Chhattisgarh, Bilaspur, Achanakmar WLS, Atariya FRH, 18.vi.2004, 2exs., Chaparwa FRH 22.vii.2004, 1 ex., coll. A.singh; Durg, Devinavgaon, 14.xii.2012, 1 ex., coll. Sunil Gupta and Party.

Diagnostic character: Body robust, elongated, head, pronotum, antennae and legs dark brown, elytra yellow brown in male (Fig. 2C), dark brown in female; antenna eleven segmented smaller than body, hardly surpassing the hind leg (Fig. 2C), segment one small, anteriorly broadened, dorso-ventrally compressed, segment one to three dark brown, gradually paler towards segment eleven, segment three longest, inner margin serrated (Fig. 2S); head deep blackish brown, densely punctate, median incision throughout, eyes finely faceted black not divided, gena very small, clypeus with golden hairs (Fig. 2G); pronotum sub squarish, gradually widened towards basal region, lateral margins with series of small spines, surface rusty brown in color, warty, strongly, densely, deeply punctuate, scutellum large dark brown, tongue shaped (Fig. 2K); elytra elongated, basal one-third rusty brown, rest gradually paler towards apex, roughly densely punctate, surface with fey longitudinal indistinct ridges from basal to apical margin, apex of elytra broadly rounded with strong sutural spines (Fig. 2C); coxal cavities open (Fig. 2O), legs rusty brown to dark brown, warty throughout, femur elongated, robust, serrated more in first leg (Fig. 2W), tibia slender elongated and spined; tarsal claw more than 90° angle, tarsal pad two pairs (Fig. 2Aa).

Genitalia: Apex of the median lobe bluntly projected and small in size (Fig. 3L). Ring portion of lateral lobe converging throughout (Fig. 3J). The lobes of the parameres almost close, quite broader and very sparsely covered with small setae (Fig. 3L). Internal sac or the endophallus attached with the median lobe. Tip of the endophallus round, expanded and larger than the other parts (Fig. 3K) (Ehara, 1954).

Distribution: India: Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Tripura. *Elsewhere:* Banga Island, Billiton Island, Borneo, Hainan Island, Java, Laos, Malay Peninsula, Myanmar, Nepal, South China, Sri Lanka, Sumatra, Thailand, Tibet and Vietnam.

[III] Tribe Acanthophorini Thomson Acanthophorous serraticornis (Olivier)

1795. Prionus serraticornis Olivier, Ent., 4 (66):14.

1906. Acanthophorus serraticornis: Gahan, C.J. Fauna. Brit. India, 1:23.

Material examined: Madhya Pradesh, Seoni, Pench TR, Karmajhiri, 6.vi.2001, 1 ex., 10.vi.2001, 1 ex., 11.vi.2001, 1ex., coll. K. Chandra. Chhattisgarh, Raipur, Barnwapara WLS, 23.vi.2012, 1ex., 21.vi.2012, 1ex. coll. Sunil Gupta and party.

Diagnostic character: Body large, elongated, robust, glossy dark brown to black in color (Fig. 2D); antenna twelve segmented, smaller than body (Fig. 2D), segment one small, globular, segment three largest, segments three to eleven lateral margin apically angulated, which gradually more angulate towards segment eleven (Fig. 2T); head globular, punctate, eyes large almost covering the gena, frons and clypeus covered with golden hairs (Fig. 2H); pronotum large, much broader than long, glossy dark brown, strongly punctuate, two raised portion on either side of pronotum, apico-lateral margins with small acute spine on either side, the second one large, acute spine little behind the previous one, the third blunt spine on the postero lateral margins (Fig. 2L); elytra basally strongly punctuate, gradually finer towards apex, lateral margins with fine yellowish pubescence, apex of the elytra broadly sub rounded (Fig. 2D); coxal cavities closed (Fig. 2P), femur robust flattened (Fig. 2X), tibia elongated, with sharp spines on the anterior margin; tarsal claw more than 90° angle (Fig. 2Ab).

Genitalia: Apex of the median lobe weakly projected, tip almost blunt and broader (Fig. 3P). Ring portion of lateral lobe converging throughout (Fig. 3N). The lobes of the parameres almost close, elongated and broad and the tip bluntly pointed, very sparsely covered with small setae (Fig. 3P). Internal sac or the endophallus attached with the median lobe. Tip of the endophallus balloon shaped with constricted hind part (Fig. 3O) (Ehara, 1954).

Distribution: India: Chhattisgarh, Andaman, Bihar, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Sikkim and Tamil Nadu. *Elsewhere:* Sri Lanka.

DISCUSSION

In spite of its immense economical and ecological importance, Cerambycidae is one of the least studied families of the order Coleoptera. The family attracted the attention of several forest entomologists of the pre-independent India, like Stebbing and Beeson, who studied their taxonomy, biology and ecology in details. The family Cerambycidae is represented by approximately 1200 species in India. Some subfamilies are well studied, while the subfamily Prioninae is poorly studied in India. The present study examined 13 prionine specimens collected from different forests of Central India. It reveals the presence of 4 species within 4 genera and three tribes. Except *Prionomma (Prionomma) atratum* (Gmelin), remaining 3 species are new addition to the fauna of Madhya Pradesh, where as all the species are recorded for the first time from Chhattisgarh. A first consolidate checklist of Indian prioninae has also been prepared compiling information from past literatures and present study. Altogether 47 species belonging to 23 genera of 9 tribes are provided in the checklist.

This paper reports four species based on detailed morphological characters along with illustrations. The male genitalia of all the species have also been studied and provided in the manuscript with illustrations. Detailed taxonomic studies will not only help in the proper identification of pests but also help in the management process based on the biology and ecology of the concerned species.

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Table 1. Consolidated checklist of the subfamily Prioninae recorded from India.

Sl. No.	SPECIES
	Subfamily: PRIONINAE
Ι	Tribe: Acanthophorini
1	Acanthophorus serraticornis (Olivier)
2	Anthracocentrus rugiceps (Gahan)
II	Tribe: Aegosomatini
3	Aegolipton gahani (Lameere)
4	Aegolipton marginale (Fabricius)
5	Aegosoma ornaticolle White
6	Baralipton maculosum Thomson
7	Dandamis nigropunctata (Aurivillius)
8	Dandamis tricostata (Duffy)
9	Dinoprionus cephalotes Bates
10	Nepiodes bowringi (Gahan)
11	Nepiodes costipennis (White)
12	Nepiodes sulcipennis (White)
13	Spinimegopis buckleyi (Gahan)
14	Spinimegopis mediocostata (Gressitt)
15	Spinimegopis nepalensis (Hayashi)
16	Spinimegopis tibialis (White)
III	Tribe: Anacolini
17	Sarmydus antennatus Pascoe
IV	Tribe: Cantharocnemini
18	Cantharocnemis (Cantharoprion) downesii Pascoe
V	Tribe: Macrotomini (Macrotomina)
19	Anomophysis confusa Quentin & Villiers
20	Anomophysis ellioti (Waterhouse)
21	Anomophysis inscripta (Waterhouse)
22	Anomophysis majerorum Lackerbeck
23	Anomophysis plagiata (Waterhouse)
24	Anomophysis spinosa (Fabricius)
25	Anomophysis katoi (Gressitt)
26	Bandar pascoei pascoei (Lansberge)
27	Chalybophysis aeneipennis (Waterhouse)
28	Zooblax elateroides Thomson
29	Zooblax nicobarensis Lackerbeck
VI	Tribe: Remphanini
30	Remphan hopei Waterhouse
31	Rhaphipodus andamanicus Gahan
32	Rhaphipodus gahani Lameere

33	Rhaphipodus subopacus Gahan
VII	Tribe: Meroscelisini
34	Anoeme andrewesi Gahan
VIII	Tribe: Prionini
35	Dorysthenes montanus (Guérin- Méneville)
36	Dorysthenes rostratus (Fabricius)
37	Dorysthenes (Dissosternus) pertii (Hope)
38	Dorysthenes (Lophosternus) buquetii (Guérin-Méneville)
39	Dorysthenes (Lophosternus) huegelii (Redtenbacher)
40	Dorysthenes (Lophosternus) indicus (Hope)
41	Dorysthenes (Lophosternus) zivetta (Thomson)
42	Dorysthenes (Paraphrus) granulosus (Thomson)
43	Prionomma atratum (Gmelin)
44	Prionomma (Ancyloprotus) bigibbosum (White)
45	Prionus corpulentus Bates
46	Priotyrannus mordax (White)
IX	Tribe: Eurypodini
47	Eurypoda (Neoprion) parandraeformis (Lacordaire)



Figure 1. Showing map and the distribution of collected specimens.

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Figure 2. Showing Morphological Characteristics of the different species: *Prionomma* (*Prionomma*) atratum (Gmelin) A- Dorsal view, E- Head, I- Pronotum with scutellu, M-Coxal Cavities, Q- Antenna, U- Femur, Y- Tarsal claw; *Dorysthenes* (*Lophosternus*) huegelii (Redtenbacher) B- Dorsal view, F- Head, J- Pronotum with scutellu, N- Coxal Cavities, R- Antenna, V- Femur, Z- Tarsal claw; *Bandar pascoei pascoei* (Lansberge) C- Dorsal view, G- Head, K- Pronotum with scutellu, O- Coxal Cavities, S- Antenna, W- Femur, Aa- Tarsal claw; *Acanthophorous serraticornis* (Olivier) D- Dorsal view, H- Head, L- Pronotum with scutellu, P- Coxal Cavities, T- Antenna, X- Femur, Ab- Tarsal claw.



Figure 3. General male genital structure of Prioninae .



Figure 4. Showing Genital Parts: *Prionomma (Prionomma) atratum* (Gmelin) A- Dorsal, B-Ventral, C- Lateral, D- Tip of Median Lobe and Paramere; *Dorysthenes (Lophosternus) huegelii* (Redtenbacher) E- Dorsal, F- Ventral, G- Lateral, H- Tip of Median Lobe and Paramere; *Bandar pascoei pascoei* (Lansberge) I- Dorsal, J- Ventral, K- Lateral, L- Tip of Median Lobe and Paramere; *Acanthophorous serraticornis* (Olivier) M- Dorsal, N- Ventral, O- Lateral, P- Tip of Median Lobe and Paramere.