



First Report of a Cerambycid beetle (*Capnolymma cingalensis*) from India

Lepturinae are a group of Cerambycidae that can be recognized by their peculiar form, especially the head being prolonged behind into a 'neck' (Pascoe, 1869).

Genus *Capnolymma* was described by Pascoe with *Capnolymma stygia* from Borneo as the type species. In his epic work, better known as "Longicornia Malayana" Pascoe (1869) gave full diagnosis of the genus in Latin. In brief, these characters are: "head elongated, mandibles produced, eyes coarsely faceted and rounded; antennae situated away from the eyes and longer than the body, scape elongated and apically swollen, segments 3–4 short but rest long and subequal; prothorax campanuliform, laterally subtuberculate to dentate; elytra short, broader at base than prothorax; legs long, femora fusiform"

Gahan (1906) also gave a detailed description of the genus *Capnolymma* and also described *Capnolymma cingalensis*, as a new species (along with illustration) from Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) in the 'Fauna of British India' volume. Some important characters of the species are: "body brown, varying to reddish brown on abdomen, legs and disc of the elytra; covered with dark grey pubescence (see Fig.1); prothorax brownish above, marked with some lines of ashy - white pubescence - one median, dividing just before the middle so as to enclose a lozenge-shaped area from the lateral angles of which two slightly curved lines run backwards about halfway to the base of prothorax; antennae of male more than half as long as body (see Fig. 2 & 3); prothorax finely rugulose-punctate; scutellum covered with dense white pubescence; elytra closely and rather strongly punctured; its apices truncate and unarmed. Total length 14 mm, breadth 5 mm, Hab. Ceylon". Fig. 4 shows more or less rounded, coarsely faceted eyes.



Fig. 1: Dorsal view of *Capnolymma cingalensis*, note the overall Lepturinae habitus



Fig. 2: Close up of head and prothorax of *Capnolymma* to show pubescence pattern



Fig. 3: Close up of head in frontal view of *Capnolymma*



Fig. 4: Close up of eye of *Capnolymma* showing coarse facets

Subsequent to Pascoe (1869), Gressitt & Rondon (1970) divided the genus into two subgenera *Capnolymma (sensu stricto)* and *Acapnolymma* (Gressitt & Rondon, 1970). Ohbayashi (1994) presented a taxonomic study of the genus *Capnolymma* with compilation of seven described species, also added two new species and provided diagnostic key for all the species. A detailed study of the species *Acapnolymma sulcaticeps* Pic, prompted Vives (2003) to consider *Acapnolymma* as a separate genus rather than a subgenus of *Capnolymma*. With the removal of subgenus *Acapnolymma*, and with the addition of another species by Holzschuh (2006), the total number of species under *Capnolymma* stands at nine. The genus was placed in the tribe Xylosteini of the subfamily Lepturinae by Gahan (1906). Recent 'Catalog and Bibliography of Longhorned Beetles from Borneo' by Heffern (2005) also maintains this position. Both, Lepturinae and Xylosteini, are currently valid names, as per the 'Catalogue of Family-Group Names in Cerambycidae (Coleoptera)' (Bousquet *et al.*, 2009). It may be noted here that some people have suggested that *Capnolymma* be included in the subfamily Dorcasominae and the tribe Dorcasomini (Ozdikmen, 2008).

Following species of *Capnolymma* are known at present: *C. stygia* Pascoe, 1858 (type of the genus); *C. cingalensis* Gahan, 1906; *C. capreola* Pascoe, 1866; *C. similis* Gressitt & Raodon, 1970; *C. laotica* Gressitt & Rondon, 1970; *C. brunnea* Gressitt & Rondon, 1970; *C. ishiharai* Ohbayashi, 1994; *C.*

borneana Ohbayashi, 1994 and *C. ohbayashii* Holzschuh, 2006.

We had the opportunity to study four specimens of *Capnolymma cingalensis*, collected in Karnataka State. At least two specimens were collected in Sandalwood forest and it is therefore likely that Sandal is the host plant. Details of the three specimens studied are given below (see Table 1 for measurements):

Specimen 1: *Cat. no.* GKVK-CC1; female; *Loc.* Gandhi Krishi Vignyan Kendra (GKVK), University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, Karnataka; *Coll.* unknown; *Date.* 22.VI.1995.

Specimen 2: *Cat. no.* GKVK-CC2; female; *Loc.* near Bangalore; *Coll.* unknown; *Date.* 10.VI.2004.

Specimen 3: *Cat. no.* GKVK-CC3; male; *Loc.* GKVK; *Coll.* Loksha; *Date.* 28.VII.2002.

Table 1: Measurement data of the three *Capnolymma cingalensis* specimens studied (all measurements are in mm)

Specimen Number	1	2	3
Total length	17.4	15.7	11.3
Head length (including Mandibles)	4.2	4.0	2.8
Breadth at Humerus	5.3	4.4	3.0
Breadth at prothoracic spine	4.0	3.6	2.3
Prothorax length / breadth	3.2/4.0	2.7/3.6	2.0/2.3
Elytra length	10.0	9.0	6.5

Since the earlier record of the species *C. cingalensis* is only from Sri Lanka also only the original description by Gahan (1906); further, since we are not aware of any further published record of this species, this is the first report of its presence in India. Even Ohbayashi (1994), who studied the genus *Capnolymma*, also could not get to study this species. Recent checklist of Cerambycidae of Sri Lanka (Makihara *et al.*, 2008) also mentions *C. cingalensis* as occurring in Sri Lanka but the authors did not see any specimen. There are no fresh surveys reporting Cerambycidae of Sri Lanka, so the status of this species in Sri Lanka is uncertain.

The species is perhaps established in India now, at least in Western Ghats of south India. Some photos

of the species are also provided to help naturalists in identification of the species.

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