Contribution to the knowledge of the Prioninae (Coleoptera, Cerambycidae) from the Mizoram State (India), with the first report of the genus *Megobaralipton* Lepesme & Breuning and new records from the country

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Abstract

Five species of Prioninae from the Indian state of Mizoram were studied: *Megobaralipton kalimantanum* (Komiya & Makihara, 2001); *Nepiodes bowringi* (Gahan, 1894); *Anomophysis hainana* (Gressitt, 1940); *Eurypoda* (*Eurypoda*) *nigrita* Thomson, 1865 and *Eurypoda* (*Neoprion*) *batesi* Gahan, 1894. New country records are provided to: *Megobaralipton kalimantanum* (Komiya & Makihara, 2001); *Anomophysis hainana* (Gressitt, 1940); *Eurypoda* (*Eurypoda*) *nigrita* Thomson, 1865; *Eurypoda* (*Neoprion*) *batesi* Gahan, 1894. *Nepiodes bowringi* (Gahan, 1894) is record for the first time from the Indian state of Mizoram. Detailed taxonomic position of all species, their host plant, and images of dorsal habitus are provided.

Key words: taxonomy, northeast India, Oriental region, biodiversity hotspot.

Introduction

India is bestowed with rich faunal resources and diverse ecosystems, which make this country one of the mega diverse countries in the world. From the mighty Himalayas to the evergreen and rainforest of the Western Ghats and Northeast India, it has always flourished the living. The country harbours 6.45 per cent of the total global fauna which comprises a total of 102,161 species including Animalia and Protista (Chandra *et. al* 2020). The majority of the species known to us from India are arthropods, mainly insects. A total of 65,710 species (Chandra *et. al* 2020) are known till date from the country and still many are unknown. Insects are one of the important and biologically significant groups but the work on this is very less and scattered. Present work on the subfamily Prioninae (Cerambycidae) from Mizoram is a valuable contribution to the knowledge of the fauna of India. Mizoram, the north eastern state of India, is known for its rich biodiversity and as a part of the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot. Though this part of India is rich with diverse faunal resources, very little and patchy information is available on the fauna, due to difficult terrains and unexplored habitats. It is the southernmost state among all North-eastern states sharing the border with Tripura, Assam, Manipur, and international border with Bangladesh and Myanmar; hence play an important role as a connection with the continental Asiatic region.

During the study we have found a total of five species of Prioninae belonging to four genera and three tribes. Among them, *Anomophysis hainana* (Gressitt, 1940), *Eurypoda* (*Eurypoda*) *nigrita* Thomson, 1865, *Eurypoda* (*Neoprion*) *batesi* Gahan, 1894, and *Megobaralipton kalimantanum* (Komiya & Makihara, 2001) are new records to India. *Nepiodes bowringi* (Gahan, 1894), which was earlier known from Northern India, is a new record for the state of Mizoram. Detailed taxonomic position of all species with their host plant and habitus images is provided. Notes on biogeographic ranges, extensions, and taxonomic clarification has been given in detail and discussed.

Material and methods

The specimens were collected in the course of a field survey targeting the biodiversity study of Coleoptera (Scarabaeidae, Cerambycidae, Buprestidae) and Lepidoptera (Sphingidae) occurring in Mizoram State. The first expedition to Mizoram, from which are coming presented specimens, researched the fauna of Ngeng Pui Natural Reserve in the southern part of the state in April and May 2017. The objective of the study was to collect samples from one of the lowest places of the state, placed at an altitude between 150 and 350 m. The study was approved by National Biodiversity Authority and Government of Mizoram and the specimens were collected under permit No. B. 18011/15/ 2016-CWLW/48.

Specimens were obtained by individual collecting, collecting at the light, beating of vegetation, and trapping (pitfall traps, window traps, juice traps, etc.).

A Leica MZ-6 stereomicroscope was used for study. Habitus macro photographs were taken

by Canon EOS 70D DSLR camera and 105 mm F2.8 Sigma EX DG Macro OS Lens (completed for detailed photographs with Raynox DCR-250 lens). Stacking was done by Zerene Stacker software. Total body length is taken from the tips of mandibles to the apex of the elytra and does not include partially exposed abdominal ventrites.

The information provided here is coming from data furnished by the database TITAN (http://titan.gbif.fr/), a worldwide database about Cerambycidae, which is constantly updated, gathering the essential information about the described and valid genera and species [type depository, distribution, synonyms, etymology, host plants, parasites, and main literature] (Tavakilian & Chevillotte, 2020). The species are organized alphabetically by tribe and genus.

The collected specimens properly labelled with location and collection date, are available in:
SMCR - Sphingidae Museum, Příbram, Czech Republic (Stanislav Jákl)
UOMI - University of Mysore, Mysore, Karnataka, India (Hasaholalu Boregowda Manjunatha)

Results

Aegosomatini Thomson, 1861

Megobaralipton Lepesme & Breuning, 1952

Megopis (*Megobaralipton*) Lepesme & Breuning, 1952: 140.
Megobaralipton; Komiya, 2002: 220 [designation, new rank]; Komiya & Drumont, 2014: 188, 197 [key to species].
Type-species: *Aegosoma bicoloripes* Ritsema, 1881 by subsequent designation by Komiya, 2002: 220.

Megobaralipton Lepesme & Breuning, 1952, previously considered as a subgenus of *Megopis* Audinet-Serville, 1832, was revised by Komiya (2002), who considered it as a full genus and this generic position was followed and confirmed later on by Komiya & Drumont (2014).

Megobaralipton is mostly characterized by an elongated cylindrical body, head with robust and developed mandibles in males, each mandible furnished with two internal tooth; pronotum strongly convex, with lateral margins indistinct, and widest at posterior half; elytra elongated and generally parallel-sided with rounded apex (furnished with small sutural projection), and with two internal carinae, which start from base or humerus and meet each other at about ¼ of the length of elytra before apex (the inner most often absent); and by legs slender in both sexes (Komiya 2002; Drumont *et al*. 2018b). The genus comprises seven species and five subspecies organized into three species groups: *bicoloripes*, *lansbergei* and *mandibulare* (Komiya & Drumont 2014).

The geographic range of this genus corresponds approximately to that of Sundaland and partly extends to southeastern China, Laos, and Vietnam (Komiya & Drumont 2014; Drumont *et al*. 2018a,

b). In this work, we confirm the occurrence of *Megobaralipton* in India, based on a recent collection of the species *M. kalimantanum* (Komiya & Makihara, 2001) in the Mizoram State. This discovery in India extends the geographic range of the genus to the western part of its distribution.

Megobaralipton kalimantanum (Komiya & Makihara, 2001) (Fig. A & B)

Megopis kalimantana Komiya & Makihara, 2001: 37, fig. 5 (female holotype), 6 (male paratype), 7 (male paratype mandibles).

Megobaralipton kalimantanum; Komiya, 2002: 228, 233, fig. 7 (male), 8 (female), 20 (mandible, male) [comb. nov.]; Komiya & Drumont, 2014: 191, 197 [distribution, key]; Drumont *et al*., 2018a: 51, fig. 11 (female) [distribution]; Drumont *et al*., 2018b: 15, figs. 1-4 (male) [distribution].

Holotype Female *in* Pusat Penelitian Pengambangan Biologi-LIPI, Cibinong.

Type-locality: Indonesia (East Kalimantan [Borneo Island]): Bukit Soeharto.

Size: 27.7–40.6 mm.

Flying period previously recorded for the species: February-October.

Studied material: 3 males, 5 females, India: Mizoram / Lawnglai Dist. / Ngengpuikai vill. / Ngeng Pui N.R. / 120-350 m / 20.IV-9.V.2017 / Stanislav Jákl *leg*.

Distribution: India **- new country record** (Mizoram), Indonesia (East Kalimantan), Laos, Malaysia (continental part; Sabah state), Thailand, Vietnam.

Comments: *Megobaralipton kalimantanum* (figs. A–B) belongs to the *bicoloripes* species-group. This species exhibits a robust body above all in female and by having the elytra rounded with black margins, while the other species of this species-group have parallel-sided elytra without black margins (Komiya & Drumont, 2014; Drumont *et al*., 2018b). *Megobaralipton kalimantanum* was originally described from the island of Borneo (East Kalimantan province (Indonesia) and from Sabah State from East Malaysia). Shortly after, it was reported by Komiya (2002) from continental Malaysia (Cameron Highland). Recently, the species was also mentioned by Drumont & Komiya (2014) from Thailand, based on one male collected in north-eastern part of the country, from Laos by Drumont *et al*. (2018a) based on one female from Oudomxay province, and from Vietnam by Drumont *et al*. (2018b) based on several specimens collected in different areas of the country. The discovery of specimens of *M. kalimantanum* in the Mizoram State extends the geographical distribution of the species into the northern-western part of mainland Asia.

Nepiodes Pascoe, 1867

Nepiodes Pascoe, 1867: 410; Lacordaire, 1868: 156; Pascoe, 1869: 679; Gemminger, 1872: 2777 [catalog]; Komiya & Drumont, 2010: 170, 189–190 [key to species]; Hiremath & Revannavar, 2016: 93, 96, 100 [key]; Delahaye & Drumont, 2017: 105.

Megopis (*Nepiodes*); Lameere, 1909: 144; 1913: 40 [catalog]; 1919: 74

Type-species: *Nepiodes cognatus* Pascoe, 1867 by monotypy.

Nepiodes bowringi (Gahan, 1894) (Fig. C–D)

Aegosoma Bowringi Gahan, 1894: 226

Aegosoma bowringi; Gahan, 1906: 48

Megopis (*Megopis*) *Bowringi*; Lameere, 1909: 146; 1913: 41 [Catalog]; 1919: 75

Megopis (*Aegosoma*) *bowringi*; Raychaudhuri & Saha, 2000: 88, figs. 11 A–C [distribution].

Megopis bowringi; Weigel, 2006: 497 [distribution].

Nepiodes bowringi; Komiya & Drumont, 2010: 179, 190, figs. 7 (male), 8 (female), 25 (map) [lectotype, distribution]; Majumder *et al.*, 2014: 853, table 1 [distribution]; Kumawat *et al.*, 2015: 7881, fig. 2 (female) [distribution]; Mitra *et al.*, 2016: 3964 [distribution]; Delahaye & Drumont, 2017: 106 [distribution]; Kariyanna *et al.*, 2017: 262 [Catalog]; Mitra *et al.*, 2017: 79 [distribution].

Male lectotype deposited in The Natural History Museum, London; ex collection C. Bowring-Chevrolat (designated by Komiya & Drumont, 2010: 180).

Type-locality: Bangladesh: Sylhet.

Size: 19–35 mm.

Flying period previously recorded for the species: March–May.

Studied material: 9 males, 6 females, India: Mizoram / Lawnglai Dist. / Ngengpuikai vill. / Ngeng Pui N.R. / 120–350 m / 20.IV9.V.2017 / Stanislav Jákl *leg*.

Distribution: Bangladesh, India (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Mizoram [**new state record**], Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal), Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan.

Comments: Komiya & Drumont (2010) revised the genus *Nepiodes* Pascoe, 1867, which currently comprises seven species and four subspecies. *Nepiodes bowringi* occurs in the Himalaya region and northern India from Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal states (Komiya & Drumont 2010; Kariyanna *et al.* 2017). The recent collection of specimens in the Mizoram State expands its geographic range to eastern India.

Macrotomini Thomson, 1861

Anomophysis Quentin & Villiers, 1981

Anomophysis Quentin & Villiers, 1981: 361, 362, 374; Hüdepohl, 1987: 118, 124; Komiya, 2017: 168, 169; Jin *et. al.*, 2020: 42, 43

Type-species: *Prionus spinosus* Fabricius, 1787, by original designation.

Anomophysis hainana (Gressitt, 1940) (Fig. E)

Macrotoma (*Zooblax*) *hainana* Gressitt, 1940: 18, pl. 1, fig. 2; 1951: 11.

Anomophysis hainana; Quentin & Villiers, 1981: 361, 376, 382, figs. 33 (male), 34–36 [key, comb. nov.]; Lingafelter *et al.*, 2013: 119, fig. 2a [holotype]; Lingafelter *et al.*, 2014: 73, fig. 79i (holotype) [holotype]; Drumont *et al.*, 2000: 490, fig. 2 (male) [synonymy]; Hua, 2002: 193 [Catalog, Host plant].

Holotype male deposited in the National Museum of Natural History (Smithsonian).

Type-locality: China (Central Hainan Island): Dwa-Bi (Tai-pin), near Loi Mother Mountain, 370 m. **Size**: 36–46 mm.

Flying period previously recorded for the species: May–July.

Host Plants: *Hevea brasiliensis* (A. Jussieu) Müller-Argoviensis (Euphorbiaceae).

Studied material: 1 male, 2 females, India: Mizoram / Lawnglai Dist. / Ngengpuikai vill. / Ngeng Pui N.R. / 120–350 m / 20.IV9.V.2017 / Stanislav Jákl *leg*.

Distribution: China, India - **new country record** (Mizoram), Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam.

Comments: Described by Gressitt in 1940 based on a small series of specimens collected near Loi Mother Mountain in the central part of Chinese Hainan Island, *Anomophysis hainana* currently exhibits a wider distribution as the species is present in five countries in continental Asia (Quentin & Villiers 1981; Drumont *et al*. 2000). In this work, we confirmed the presence of *A. hainana* in India and add a sixth country to the geographical range of the species. Following Kariyanna *et al.* (2017), who listed seven species of *Anomophysis* in India, *A. hainana* represents thus the 8th species of this genus occurring in the country.

Eurypodini Gahan, 1906

***Eurypoda* (*Eurypoda*)** Saunders, 1853

Eurypoda Saunders, 1853: 109; Thomson, 1861: 290, 312; 1864: 286, 471; Lacordaire, 1868: 148; Gemminger, 1872: 2775 [catalog]; An, 2019: 2.

Eurypoda (*Eurypoda*); Lameere, 1904: 12 [syn]; 1913: 36 [catalog]; 1919: 66; Gressitt & Rondon, 1970: 16; Ohbayashi, 1992: 2 [key]; Ohbayashi, 2007: 338.

Type-species: *Eurypoda antennata* Saunders, 1853, by monotypy.

Zarax Pascoe, 1867: 410; Lacordaire, 1868: 132; Pascoe, 1869: 672.

Type-species: *Zarax eurypodioides* Pascoe, 1867, by monotypy.

Eurypoda* (*Eurypoda*) *nigrita Thomson, 1865 (Fig. I)

Eurypoda Nigrita Thomson, 1865: 577.

Eurypoda (*Eurypoda*) *nigrita*; Lameere, 1904: 12; 1913: 36 [catalog]; 1919: 67.

Eurypoda (*s. str.*) *nigrita*; Gressitt & Rondon, 1970: 16, fig. 3f (male).

Eurypoda nigrita; Hua, 2002: 208 [catalog].

Holotype deposited in the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris; ex collection J. Thomson > R. Oberthür.

Type-locality: Malaysia (Peninsula of Malacca).

Zarax eurypodioides Pascoe, 1867: 410; Lacordaire, 1868: 132; Nonfried, 1894: 196 [distribution].

Zarax Eurypodioides; Lansberge, 1884: 155 [distribution].

Zarax eurypodoides; Pascoe, 1869: 673, pl. XXIV, fig. 3 [emendation].

Holotype deposited in The Natural History Museum, London; ex collection F. Pascoe 93-60.

Type-locality: Malaysia (Sarawak [Borneo Island]).

Size: 14.0–27.5 mm.

Flying period previously recorded for the species: July.

Studied material: 2 males, India: Mizoram / Lawnglai Dist. / Ngengpuikai vill. / Ngeng Pui N.R. / 120-350 m / 20.IV.-9.V.2017 / Stanislav Jákl *leg*.

Distribution: Borneo Island, China, India - **new country record** (Mizoram), Indonesia (Sumatra), Laos, Malaysia.

Comments: *E. nigrita* was described from the Peninsula from Malacca in Malaysia and currently is known from several countries in Asia. Herein, we present the first record of the species for the Indian subcontinent with its collection in the Mizoram State, which extends its geographic range to the west, in the extreme eastern part of the Himalayan foothills. Following Kariyanna *et al.* (2017) who listed only one species of *Eurypoda* in India, *E. nigrita* represents thus the 2nd species of this genus occurring in the country and the first one in the subgenus *Eurypoda*.

***Eurypoda* (*Neoprion*)** Lacordaire, 1868

Neoprion Lacordaire, 1868: 131; Gahan, 1906: 28; Švácha & Lawrence, 2014: 125 [morphology].

Eurypoda (*Neoprion*); Lameere, 1904: 9; 1913: 36 [catalog]; 1919: 66; Gressitt & Rondon, 1970: 16; Ohbayashi, 1992: 2 [key]; Ohbayashi, 2007: 338.

Type-species: *Neoprion parandraeformis* Lacordaire, 1868 by monotypy.

Eurypoda* (*Neoprion*) *batesi Gahan, 1894 (Fig. G)

Eurypoda Batesi Gahan, 1894: 225.

Eurypoda (*Neoprion*) *Batesi*; Lameere, 1904: 11; 1913: 36 [catalog]; 1919: 66; Hayashi, 1981: 36 [distribution]; Gressitt & Rondon, 1970: 16, fig. 3–g (male) [host plant]; Ohbayashi, 1992: 2 [key]; Ohbayashi *et al.*, 1994: 270 [distribution]; Ohbayashi, 2007: 338, pl. 1, figs. 16 (male), 17 (female); An, 2019: 5, figs. 2 A–B (female) [distribution, host plant].

Eurypoda batesi; Ohbayashi, 1964: 37 [distribution]; Li *et al.*, 1981: 93 [Distribution]; Lim *et al.*, 2014: 131 [host plant].

Eurypoda batesei; Hua, 2002: 208 [catalog, host plant, misspelling].

Neoprion batesi; Švácha & Lawrence, 2014: 137, figs, 2.4.20 C, 2.4.27 K (larve) [morphology].

Syntypes two males deposited in The Natural History Museum, London; ex collection Louis Villard > G. Lewis

Type-locality: Japan (Honshu): Yamaguchiya.

Size: 19–40 mm.

Flying period previously recorded for the species: June–September.

Host Plants: *Aphananthe aspera* Planchon (Ulmaceae), *Castanopsis cuspidata* (Thunberg) Schottky (Fagaceae), *Castanopsis cuspidata* var. *sieboldii* Nakai (Fagaceae), *Castanopsis* sp. (Fagaceae), *Cinnamomum camphora* (Linné) J. Presl (Lauraceae), *Cinnamomum* sp. (Lauraceae), *Cunninghamia lanceolata* Hooker (Pinaceae), *Machilus thunbergii* Siebold & Zuccarini (Lauraceae), *Quercus acutissima* Carruthers (Fagaceae), *Quercus myrsinaefolia* Blume (Fagaceae), *Shiia* sp. (Fagaceae).

Studied material: 1 male, 4 females, India: Mizoram / Lawnglai Dist. / Ngengpuikai vill. / Ngeng Pui N.R. / 120-350 m / 20.IV-9.V.2017 / Stanislav Jákl *leg*.

Distribution: China, India - **new country record** (Mizoram), Japan, Laos, Korean Peninsula, Thailand, Vietnam.

Comments: *E. batesi* was described from the Honshu (Japan) and is now known from six countries belonging to the Palaearctic and Oriental regions. Herein, we present the first record of the species for the Indian subcontinent with its collection in the Mizoram State, which extends its geographic range to the west, in the extreme eastern part of the Himalaya. *Eurypoda* (*Neoprion*) *batesi* represents the 3rd species of *Eurypoda* recorded in India and the second one for the subgenus *Neoprion*; the other species, *E.* (*Neoprion*) *parandraeformis* (Lacordaire, 1869), has been recorded from the Andaman Islands (Gahan 1906) and from Tamil Nadu State (Kariyanna *et al.* 2017).

Discussion

Each species known to science is significantly important for the global scenario of biological diversity. However, our knowledge of biodiversity is very limited. India is having diverse habitats with rich faunal diversity, thus it is encompassing four of the global hotspots of biodiversity out of the 36 biodiversity hotspots recognized globally (Chandra *et. al* 2020). Still many parts of the country are unexplored, especially the north-eastern states. The present study on Cerambycidae fauna of Mizoram is significantly important as it represents four species and one genus recorded for the first time from India, which is also an important contribution to the faunal diversity of the country. It is also the first consolidated work on Prioninae of Mizoram, including the distributional expansion of the four species

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Figures legend

Figure: *Megobaralipton kalimantanum*: A (Male), B (Female). *Nepiodes bowringi*: C (Male), D (Female). *Anomophysis hainana*: E (Female). *Eurypoda* (*Eurypoda*) *nigrita*: F (Male). *Eurypoda* (*Neoprion*) *batesi*: G (Female)