

A new species of *Xanthopenthes* FLEUTIAUX 1928 from Maharashtra, India
(Coleoptera : Elateridae)

AMOL PATWARDHAN¹, RAINER SCHIMMEL² & R. P. ATHALYE

¹B.N. Bandodkar College of Science, Thane 400 602, Maharashtra, India.
²Wiesenstrasse 6, D - 66957, Vinningen, Germany

ABSTRACT, A new species, *Xanthopenthes tandeli* n. sp., is reported from Maharashtra. The species differs from *X. weneri* SCHEMMEL by longer and slender body, darker colour, longer antennae and form of the aedeagus and from *X. bartolozzi* SCHEMMEL by larger body, longer second antennomere, longer antennae and the form of the aedeagus. Both male and female of the species were collected from moist deciduous forest 150 km south of Mumbai. This is probably the first species reported from Western Ghats.

Key words : entomology, taxonomy, new species, Coleoptera, Elateridae, India, Maharashtra.

INTRODUCTION

Only seven species of the genus *Xanthopenthes* FLEUTIAUX, 1928 have been known so far from India : *Xanthopenthes bartolozzi* SCHIMMEL, 1998, *X. kucerai* SCHIMMEL, 2004, *X. mandureiensis* SCHIMMEL, 1999, *X. modestus* (CANDEZE, 1890), *X. moestus* (CANDEZE, 1890), *X. rufus* (CANDEZE, 1888), and *X. weneri* SCHIMMEL, 1999). Most of these species occur in the Northern provinces and also in the neighboring states of the Himalaya. Only *Xanthopenthes modestus* has been published from the vicinity of Sandal by FLEUTIAUX (1933). In this paper the authors describe a new species of the genus *Xanthopenthes*, closely allied to *X. bartolozzi* and *X. weneri*. All specimens of the new species were collected from North Western ghat region in the state of Maharashtra.

Abbreviations

CAT : Coll. Amol PATWARDHAN, Thane.

CSV : Coll. Rainer SCHIMMEL, Vinningen.

Xanthopenthes tandeli n. sp.
(figs. 1-9)

DIAGNOSIS

Xanthopenthes tandeli differs from *X. bartolozzii* by larger body, darker color (in *X. bartolozzii* yellowish), longer second antennomere, longer antennae (in *X. bartolozzii* just reaching hind-angles of pronotum), and form of aedeagus; differs from *X. weneri* by longer and slender body, darker colour (in *X. weneri* reddish), longer antennae (in *X. weneri* just reaching hind-angles of pronotum in male), and form of aedeagus.

DESCRIPTION

Male is 6.1-7.1 mm long and 1.5-1.6 mm broad while female is larger with length 7.1-9.0 mm and width 1.9 mm. Integument deep brown with orange pubescence and random, dense punctures. Frons flat

A NEW SPECIES OF XANTHOPENTHES

with complete frontal carina; carina oblique. Antennae brown, serrate, with eleven antennomeres; reaching beyond the base of the pronotum by the length of the last two antennomeres. Vestiture begins on the third segment. Flat portion of segments without carina. Second segment smallest. Third segment smaller than the fourth. Segment apically. Terminal segment with rounded apex.

Pronotum (Fig. 1) slightly convex; deeply declivous posteriorly in the posterior fifth. Anterior margin slightly convex with distinctly projecting anterior angles. Sides of the pronotum narrowing anteriorly. Lateral Margin with complete carina, carina deflexed anteriorly. Hind angles long almost parallel; with two carinae with lateral tendency (Fig. 2).

Scutellum (Fig. 3) elongate, deeply declivous anteriorly; surface flat; apex rounded Elytra striate-punctate. Interstriae wrinkled. Apex of the elytra rounded.

A NEW SPECIES OF XANTHOPENTHES

Prosternum (Fig. 4) with distinct chin plate. Prosternal sutures thick, tapering posteriorly. Prosternal projection posterior to procoxae longer than the procoxal diameter; apex rounded.

Mesossternal cavity broad medially; tapering posteriorly to rounded apex. Meso-sternum projected behind the cavity. Metasternum with distinct discrimen.

Metacoxal plate rounded in middle, tapering outwards, posterior angle broad (Fig. 5). Legs light brown. Tibia with two distinct, pointed subequal spurs. Tarsi without any modification below. Metatarsi slightly longer than the metatibia. Claws light brown, simple, without basal setae; blades slender, curved in distal half. Claws with median hairs.

Male genitalia (Figs. 6, 7) : Median lobe very long with sides parallel tapering to nipple shaped apex. Parameres broad, at base narrowing anteriorly. Paramere apex rounded with sub apical projection laterally. Basal struts extending beyond anterior margin of the parameres. Basal piece very long almost half of the total length of the genitalia; sides slender, slightly convex; anterior margin convex with distinct anterior angles.

MATERIAL EXAMINED

Holotype (male) India : Maharashtra, Raigad district, Supegaon, on light, 24. V. 2006 (CAT), leg. A. Patwardhan (in light). Paratypes (6 Males, 4 Females) : India : Maharashtra, Raigad district, Supegaon, on light, 24. V. 2006 (CAT, CSV), leg. A. Patwardhan (in light).

The holotype is deposited in CAT. The paratypes (5 males, 3 females) are deposited in CAT. One male and one female in CSV.

ETYMOLOGY

The species is dedicated to Sudhir Tandel.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are thankful to the Principal, B. N. Bhandarkar College of Science, Thane for providing laboratory space and facilities; To Mr. TANDEL and Mr. NAIK for helping in field collection at Supegaon.

REFERENCES

- CANDÈZE, E., 1888. Elatèrides recueillis en Birmanie et au Tenasserim par L. Fea pendant les années 1885-1887. Ann. Mus. Civ. Stor. Nat Genova, 6 : 667-689.
- FLEUTIAUX, X., 1933. Entomological investigations on the Spice Disease of Sandal (19). Melasidae and Elateride (Col.) Indian Forest Rec., 18 (7) 1-16.
- SCHIMMEL, R., 1998. Eine neue Xanthopenthes - Art aus Süd-Indian (Coleoptera : Elateridae). Mitt. Internat. Entomol. Ver., 23, Heft ½ pp-63-65.
- , 1999. Die Megapenthini-Arten Süd und Südostasiens. Erster Teil : Procaerus, Ectamenogonus, Xanthopenthes, Dolinolus n. gen., Girardelater n. gen. und Preusselater n. gen. (Insecta : Coleoptera, Elateridae). POLLICHIA -Buch Nr. 38, 299 pp.
- , 2005. Die Megapenthini-Arten Süd und Südostasiens. Vierter Teil : Phylogeneese, Zoogeographie und Katalog. POLLICHIA-Buch Nr. 48, 411 pp.