

## A FIRST RECORD OF *ABRYNA REGISPETRI* PAIVA, 1860 (CERAMBYCIDAE: LAMIINAE: PTEROPLIINI) AND ITS REDESCRIPTION FROM INDIA

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An interesting cerambycid, which turned out to be *Abryna regispetri* Paiva, 1860 on the basis of available literature, was collected in Tripura in May 2011. Cambodia is the type locality (Paiva 1860), but it is so far known from Laos, Burma (now Myanmar) and Malaysia (Breuning 1962) and also from China, Borneo and Thailand (Roskov et al. 2014). Although many Burmese species are found in northeastern India, this one was not reported from any part of India until now. This becomes the first record of *Abryna regispetri* and hence an addition to the known fauna of Cerambycidae from India.

The genus *Abryna* was defined by Newman (1842) as a “doubtfully new genus” (“genus novum ?”) while

describing *Abryna coenosa* Newman, 1842. This fact was also pointed out by Westwood (1864) later. Breuning (1962) revised the Asiatic Pteropliini and gave keys for the species of this genus. He created the subgenus *Faustabryna* on the basis of the length of the third antennomere with respect to the fourth one (slightly longer in *Abryna* / distinctly longer in *Faustabryna*) and elytra narrowed in *Abryna* but longer and parallel sided in *Faustabryna*. *Faustabryna* Breuning, 1962, members of which often show metallic coloration of the elytra, is currently considered as a separate genus (Vives 2014).

*Abryna regispetri* was identified using the keys in Rondon & Breuning (1970) and with a photograph of the species. Then, detailed characters of the genus were checked using generic (Newman 1842) and species original description (Paiva 1860), as well as that given by Breuning (1962). Since both these last descriptions are brief, not available in English and are without any illustrations, a detailed description of this species with illustrations is provided here. With this report, Tripura State in northeastern India is now known to have 26 species from 23 genera of longhorn beetles (Agarwala et al. 2014; Agarwala & Bhattacharjee 2012, 2015).



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*Abryna regispetri*



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***Abryna regispetri* Paiva, 1860**

Specimen examined: Col/Cer/2939, 1, 12.v.2011, Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary, Tripura, collected in a light trap fitted with a 40W mercury lamp, Watkins & Doncaster make, UK), sex not verified. Body length 25mm, breadth at humerus 8mm, elytra 15mm. Antennomeres: scape 5.3, third 4mm and fourth 3.5mm, deposited in the Department of Zoology, Modern College, Pune, India.

Redescription: Medium size beetle, form relatively stout, brown, elytra with pattern of spots and two transverse bands of a greyish white pubescence; sterna and abdomen largely covered with greyish-white pubescence and only few black spots of derma visible; legs stout, moderately long, compressed; posterior femora not exceeding elytral apex; antenna almost as long as body (Image 1).

Head with sloping forehead; mandibles long, dark brown, pointed at apex; maxillary and labial palps dark brown, shining, covered with sparse white setae; clypeus and forehead covered with greyish-white and brown pubescence, especially long at base of clypeus; forehead broad with fine median furrow running backwards onto vertex; antennal tubercles depressed, widely separated (Image 2); eyes large, coarsely faceted, divided into two lobes, upper lobe narrow and lower lobe almost twice as broad as wide; gena prominent, longer than lower eye-lobe, widened near base of the mandibles so that this region projects outside in front of eyes (head is broadest at this level); gular region smooth and shining, with fine transverse lines; ventral region of head sparsely covered with pubescence (Image 3).

Antennae as long as body; antennomeres gradually becoming thinner distally; at least first four antennomeres show a few spots of grey or light brown pubescence; ventral side with short black and brown setae, which are sparsely distributed; scape distally swollen or globular; third antennomere longest; fourth slightly shorter than third; fifth onwards gradually decreasing in length (Image 1).

Pronotum wider than long, covered with a dark brown, light brown and greyish recumbent pubescence; sparsely and finely punctuate on disc; with hairless median dark line near anterior border and indistinct shallow median area in basal region that is again continued as median line anteriorly; a pair of lateral tubercles in anterior part, lower tubercle more prominent and close to anterior border, upper one smaller and slightly behind, both tubercles with a broad base and shining blunt tip; base with distinct transversal groove; apex with groove indistinct on disc but prominent laterally and ventrally.

Scutellum small, broader than long, half-moon shaped, concolourous with vertex and base of elytra (Image 5).

Elytra broader at base than prothorax; each elytron about four times as long as broad at humerus, more or less parallel sided, only gradually narrowing at posterior fourth and truncate apically with outer angle slightly produced, covered with dark brown, grey, whitish as well as brownish pubescence (Image 6); surface punctured uniformly throughout, punctures more clear in basal part and not in distinct rows (Image 7); elytra shining at spaces where pubescence is sparse; elsewhere dense pubescence of light colour forms a pattern of small greyish white spots and two broad transversal bands of irregular shape; first located before middle and second behind middle, both starting from elytral margins but not reaching suture (Images 6–7).

Prosternum distinctly raised above level of procoxae, anterior and posterior face strongly oblique. Mesosternum slightly raised above mesocoxae and directed anteriorly as blunt tubercle; metasternum much wider than long, deeply sinuate anteriorly behind mesocoxae and projecting in median region to meet mesosternum, densely covered with pubescence, posterior margin gently sinuate, with deep hairless furrow in median region, especially in posterior half (Image 4).

Abdomen with five visible segments, all equally long, their breadth decreasing distally; first abdominal segment with small angular process that projects forward between the posterior coxae and meets metasternum; procoxal cavity angularly extended outward, mesocoxal cavity open to mesepimeron; metepisternum very narrow; all sternites covered with pale cream pubescence denser and longer in apical half of each segment, dark brown derma visible at places (Image 8).

Legs of moderate length, covered with pubescence forming a pattern of spots like that on antenna and elytra; femora only slightly broader in median region; tarsal segments prominent and broad; first and second tarsal segment without distinct median suture, third distinctly bilobed (Image 8).

An estimated 33,140 species of Cerambycidae are known from the world (Tavakilian & Chevillotte 2014). Tropical parts on both sides of the equator are most rich in biodiversity (Myers et al. 2000) and hold much of the animal diversity which is unknown or poorly known (Mittermeier et al. 2005). Northeastern India, being part of the Indo-Myanmar mega hot spot of biodiversity, is home to 168 currently known species of longicorn beetles (Gahan 1894; Dillon & Dillon 1950; Sengupta &



Images 1–8. Various views of *Abryna regispetri*.

1 - Full Dorsal view showing bands and other patterns of pubescence; 2 - Frontal view of head showing pubescence, coarsely faceted eyes and shape of front; 3 - Ventral view of head showing glossy gular area, dark mandibles and palps; 4 - Dorsal view of pronotum showing sparse puncturation and lateral tubercles; 5 - Ventral view of thorax and abdomen showing sterna and abdominal segments and pattern of pubescence; 6 - Dorsal view of elytra showing the coloration and sparse punctures; 7 - Magnified view of elytral band showing different coloration of pubescence; 8 - Full ventral view. © Hemant V. Ghate

Sengupta 1981; Mukhopadhyay & Biswas 2000, 2002; Mukhopadhyay & Halder 2004; Agarwala & Bhattacharjee 2012; Agarwala et al. 2014; Mitra & Majumder 2014; Agarwala & Bhattacharjee 2015). Many of these species were described before 1950 and are data deficient. More recently, Mitra & Majumder (2014) reported 12 species of the family as new records from Arunachal Pradesh, and Vives & Ghate (2015) reported and redescribed two species of longhorn beetles, *Anoeme andrewesi* Gahan, 1906 (Prioninae, Meroscelisini) and *Zodes maculatus* (White, 1855), (Cerambycinae, Hesperophanini), the

latter as new additions from India. With this background, the redescription of *A. regispetri* of Southeast Asia origin with current distribution extending to India is an advancement of the taxonomic study of these insects.

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