

A NEW SPECIES AND NEW RECORDS OF BRACHYDERINAE
(CURCULIONIDAE : COLEOPTERA) FROM INDIA

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ABSTRACT

This paper deals with unnamed collection of Brachyderinae present in Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta. It comprises five species belonging to the genera *Blosyrus* Schönh and *Blosyrodes* Jek., of which, the species *Blosyrus unisulcatus* Mshl., *Blosyrus bengalensis* Mshl, and *Blosyrus asellus* Oliv. recorded for the first time from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and West Bengal respectively and a new species of the genus *Blosyrodes* Jekel from Arunachal Pradesh is described.

In course of sorting out the unnamed collection of beetles made by different survey parties of Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta author has come across 19 examples of Brachyderinae belonging to the family Curculionidae. Marshall (1916) in 'The Fauna of British India' divided the subfamily Brachyderinae into five groups viz. Blosyrides, Naupactides, Cneorrhinides, Cyphides and Tanymecides. So far, the group Blosyrides includes two genera, namely, *Blosyrus* Schönherr and *Blosyrodes* Jekel and the species belonging to them are apterous, slow moving and can be easily recognized by its shape combined with its short, broad, flattened rostrum, with a groove at junction with head and are terrestrial in their habits, sometimes found under stone. Of the two genera, the genus *Blosyrus* is moderately a large genus

and Van Emden (1939) in *Coleopterorum Catalogus* listed 53 species from the World, of which, most of the species are described from Africa, 8 species from Indian subregion and two species from China and one species from Japan whereas, the genus *Blosyrodes* is a small genus and so far eight species were described from North East India and Burma. Later Haaf (1958) revised the African species of the genus *Blosyrus*. In his work he dealt 32 species with the description of a new species from Angola together with 12 new sub species from the region. In the present study a new species under the genus *Blosyrodes* is described and the species *Blosyrus unisulcatus* Marshall, *Blosyrus bengalensis* Marshall and *Blosyrus asellus* Olivier are recorded for the first time from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and West Bengal respectively.

Blosyrus unisulcatus Marshall

Blosyrus unisulcatus Mshl., 1916, *Fn. Brit. India*,
Col : curculionidae, 1 : 32, 38.

Material examined : 1 ex., INDIA : Tamil Nadu : Madras, 5.ix.1962, S. N. Murty ; 3 ex., Tamil Nadu : Madras : Krishna bank, 30.vii.1962, S. N. Murty ; 8 ex. Andhra Pradesh Nagarjunkonda : Dam Survey : Nagarjun hill, 2.x.1963, B. Nath, under stone.

Distribution : INDIA : Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh.

So far, this species was recorded from Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, now is being recorded for the first time from Andhra Pradesh.

Blosyrus bengalensis Marshall

Blosyrus bengalensis Marshall, 1916, *Fn. Brit. India*,
Col. : Curculionidae, 1 : 32, 36.

Material examined : 1 ex. INDIA : Karnataka : Mysore : Manasa Gangotri, 6. ix. 1979, D. R. Anasuya.

Distribution : INDIA : Bihar, Karnataka.

So far, this species was recorded from Bihar (Chhotonagpur, Barwa), now it is being recorded for the first time from Karnataka.

Blosyrus inaequalis Boh. in Schönh.

Blosyrus inaequalis Boheman in Schönh., 1845, *Gen. Curc.*, 8 : 402, pt. 2 ; Labrum & Imhoff, 1845, *Gen. Curc.*, Ic.2, no. 40.

Blosyrus spongifer Boh. in Schönh., 1845, *Gen. Curc.* 8 : 403.

Blosyrus tuberculatus Redtenbacher, 1867, *Reise Novara*, 2 : 145.

Blosyrinus inaequalis Jekel, 1875. *Col. Jekel*, pp. 147 & 149.

Material examined : 1 ex., INDIA : Tamil Nadu, Eastern Ghat : Nadurca, Javadi Hills, altitude 540m, 26-30. vi. 1929, H. S. Pruthi.

Distribution : INDIA : Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu. SRI LANKA. INDONESIA.

This species is closely related to *B. bengalensis* Mshl. but can be easily recognized by its prothorax being more transverse and rugose ; humeral angle of elytra distinct and a transverse row of 6 tubercles present across the top of declivity.

Blosyrus asellus Olivier

Curculio asellus Olivier 1807, *Ent.*, 5 : 356, t 24, f. 347 ; Fahraeus, Schönh., 1839, *Gen. Curc.*, 5 : 909.

Blosyrus philippinensis Jekel, 1875, *Col. Jekel* 2 : 153.

Blosyrus superciliosus Chevrolat, 1822, *Le Natural*, 2 : 93.

Material examined : 1 ex., INDIA : West Bengal : Calcutta : Canning, Gorosthan, 18. x. 1965, A. N. T. Joseph ; 1 ex., West Bengal : Calcutta : Lakshmikantapur, 15. x. 1965. S. R. C. & K. D. C.

Distribution : INDIA : West Bengal, Assam, Andaman Island. BANGLADESH. BURMA. INDONESIA. PHILIPPINES. CAMBODIA. MALACCA.

So far this species was recorded from Assam and Andaman Island, now it is being recorded for the first time from West Bengal.

Blosyrodes nigricorporis sp. nov.

(Fig. 1)

General appearance (Fig. 1) oblong, black, dorsal surface rather thinly and sparsely covered with whitish brown scales. Head longitudinally rugose and with a indistinct outwardly curved sulcus, rugae on either side, lateral sulci and puncturation indistinct. Rostrum with distinct longitudinal rugae, narrowed at middle and its width at base and apex equal, median carina and lateral grooves

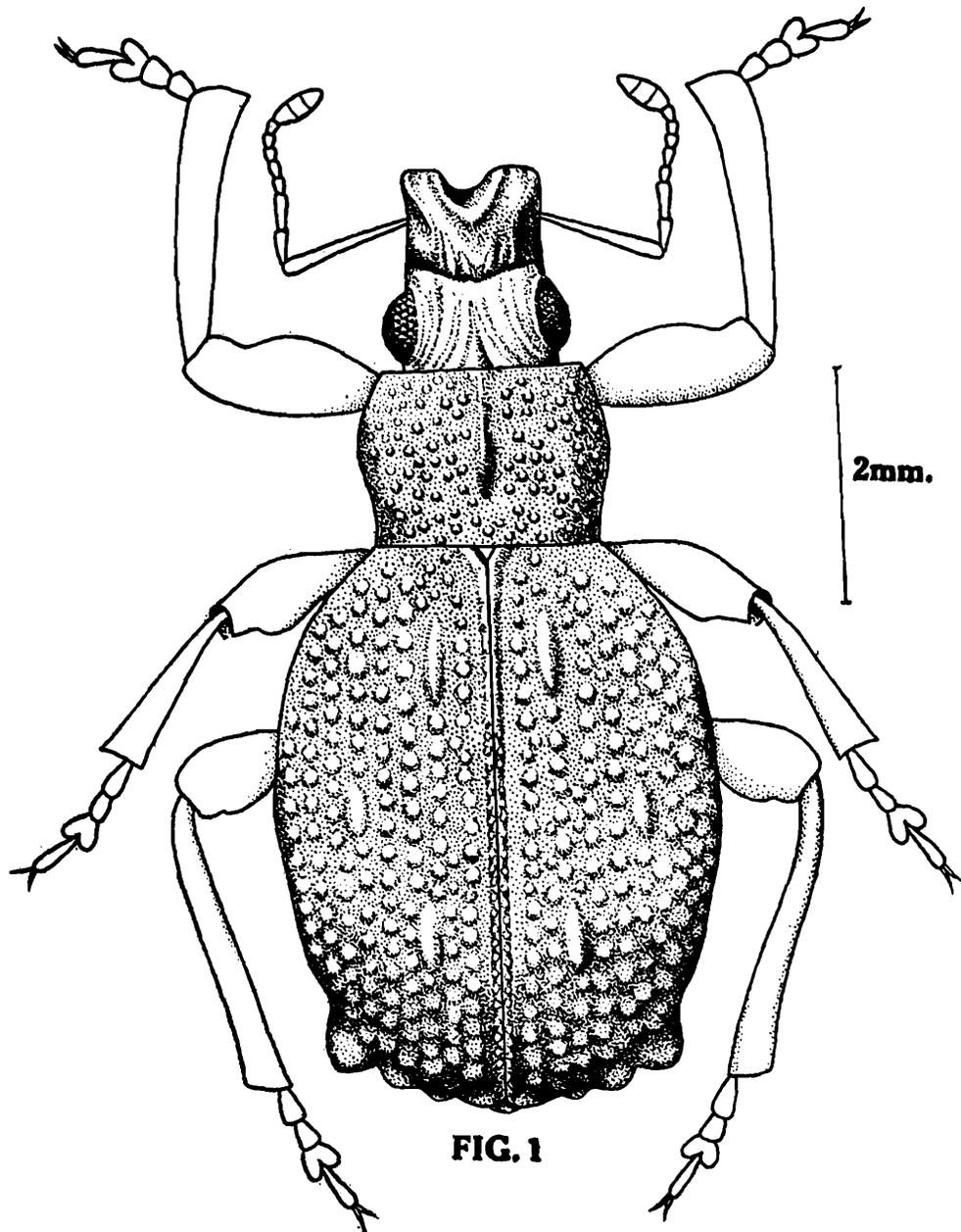


Fig. 1. Dorsal view of *Blosyroides nigricorporis* sp. nov.

absent. Antennae reddish brown except the apex of the scape and club brownish black, scape elongated and reaching the hind margin of the eye, funicle with segment 2 slightly longer than segment 1, segments 3-7 subequal, club three segmented and compact. Mandibles pincer like, obtuse and with a scar, Scrobes of the rostrum forming a sublinear

furrow which is curving downwards in front of the eye. Rostrum separated from the head by concave furrow. Eyes large, black, convex and moderately coarsely faceted. Prothorax 1.4 times broader than long, lateral margin slightly sinuated behind the middle, median carina broad, shiny and extending almost from base to apex, uniformly covered with

small rounded granules. Elytra oblong-oval, basal margin truncate, lateral margin slightly rounded and upper surface with irregular rows of large but shallow punctures. Each elytron with three rows of tubercles, of which, inner two rows at anterior half somewhat indistinct. In flexed margin of elytron with two shallow sulci containing regular rows of large punctures. Intercoxal process of

ventrite 1 slightly narrowed and rounded anteriorly. Ventrites 2-4 subequal, ventrite 5 distinctly longer than ventrite 3 & 4 together. Legs stout, unarmed, piceous brown and densely covered with whitish brown setae.

Measurements: Total length including rostrum 7.8 mm; width of head across eyes 1.7 mm; length of antenna 2.6 mm; length of prothorax 1.4 mm; width of prothorax

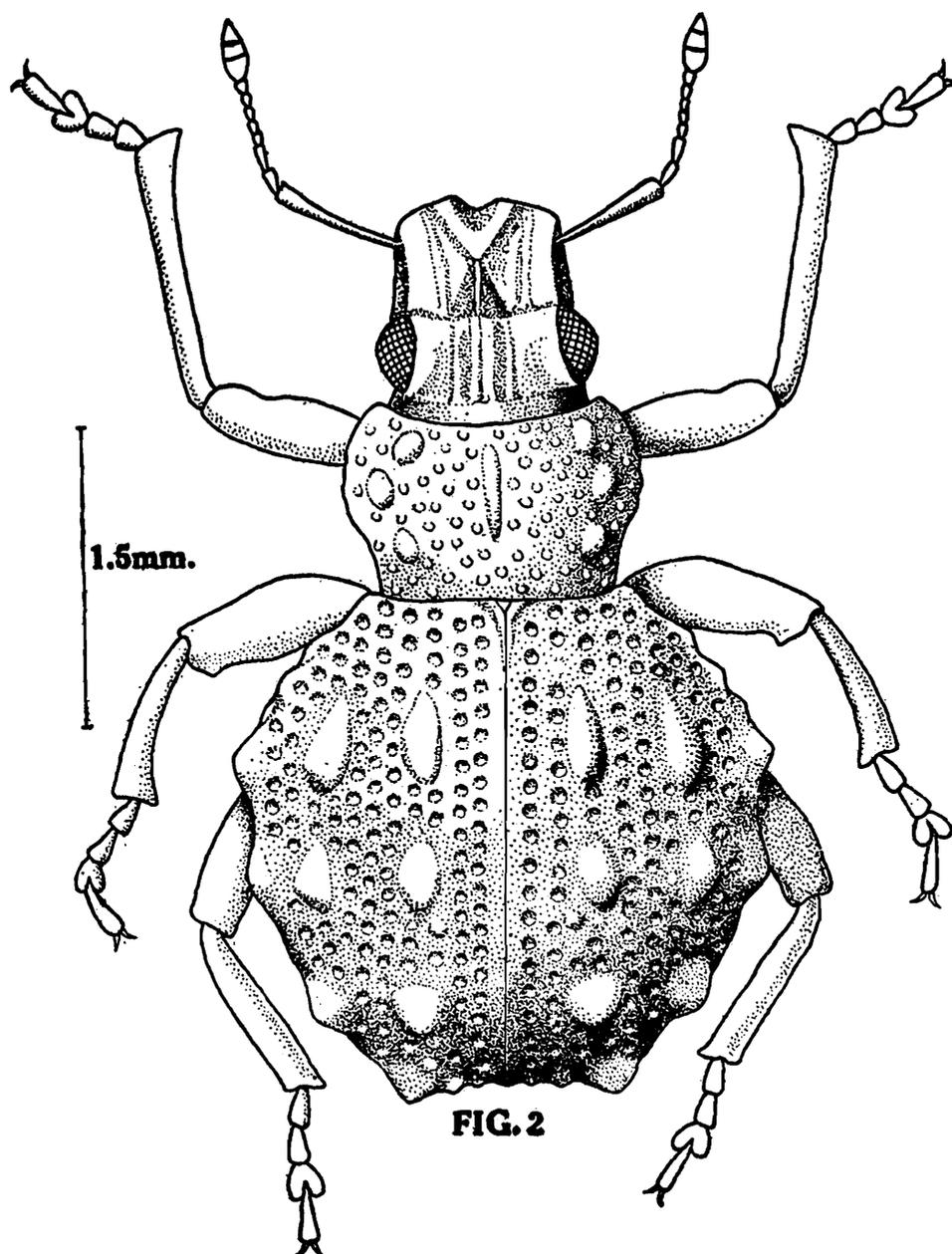


Fig. 2. Dorsal view of *Blosyodes verrucosus* Marshall.

<i>Blosyodes nigricorporis</i> sp. nov.	<i>Blosyodes verrucosus</i> Mshl.	<i>Blosyodes nodulosus</i> Mshl.
1. Dorsal surface black, rather thinly and partly covered with whitish brown scales	Dorsal surface black, rather thinly covered with brown scales with copery reflexion	Dorsal surface black and covered with uniform brown scales
2. Head with an indistinct median sulcus and not extending upto base and lateral sulci on either side indistinct	Median sulcus and two distinct lateral sulci extending upto base	Head with a short, distinct median sulcus.
3. Rostrum dilated towards the apex	Rostrum gradually narrowed from base to apex	Rostrum dilated towards the apex
4. Median carina on rostrum absent but with a depression	Median carina on rostrum distinct	Median carina on rostrum rather fine
5. Central carina on prothorax broad and extending almost from base to apex	Central carina on prothorax short, narrow and less shiny	Prothorax with a broad shiny central carina at base
6. Prothorax uniformly covered with small rounded granules	Prothorax covered with somewhat irregular large granules	Prothorax uneven and rugosely punctate above.

across middle 2.0 mm ; length of elytra 4.5 mm ; width of elytra across middle 3.8 mm.

Holotype 1 ex., INDIA : Arunachal Pradesh ; Kameng : Moshing, altitude 2250m. 26. iii. 1961, *KCJ*. *Paratypes* 2 ex. 1 ex, INDIA : Arunachal Pradesh : Kameng : Moshing, altitude 2250m, 26. iii. 1961, *KCJ* ; 1 ex, Sikkim : Changu, altitude 3693m., 22. v. 1962, *G. Ramakrishna* (deposited in Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta).

Distribution : INDIA : Arunachal Pradesh ; Sikkim.

Remarks : This species is closely related to Burmese species *Blosyodes verrucosus* Marshall (Fig. 2) with somewhat little affinity with north western species *Blosyodes nodulosus* Marshall (Uttar Pradesh : Allahabad) which can easily separated from both species by the following characters :

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