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### Short Communication

## **SPHAENISCUS QUADRINCISUS (WIEDEMANN, 1824) (DIPTERA : TEPHRITIDAE), A NEW RECORD FROM HIMACHAL PRADESH, INDIA**

### INTRODUCTION

Members of family Tephritidae include several economically important pest species across the globe. 325 species of fruit flies are known to occur in the Indian subcontinent, of which 243 species in 79 genera are from India alone under four subfamilies, namely Dacinae, Phytalmiinae, Tephritinae and Trypetinae (David and Ramani, 2011; Agarwal and Sueyoshi, 2005). 40 species in 26 genera have been reported from the state of Himachal Pradesh (Agarwal and Sueyoshi, 2005). The genus *Sphaeniscus* Becker, 1908 is represented by two species in India, i.e., *S. quadrincisus* (Wiedemann, 1824) and *S. atilius* (Walker, 1849). The objective of this paper is to make *S. quadrincisus* known from Himachal Pradesh for the first time.

#### Genus *Sphaeniscus* Becker

1908. *Sphaeniscus* Becker, *Mitt. Zool. Mus. Berl.*, 4 : 138.  
Type-species, *Sphaeniscus brevicauda* Becker.

#### *Sphaeniscus quadrincisus* (Wiedemann)

1824. *Trypeta quadrincisus* Wiedemann, *Analecta Ent.* : 55.  
Type-Loc : "Ost Indien."

1849. *Trypeta tucia* Walker, *List Dipt. Ins. Coll. Brit. Mus.*, 4 : 1021, Lectotype India (N. Bengal).

1896. *Trypeta tacia* Wulp, *Cat. Desc. Diptera South Asia, Dutch Entomol. Soc.*, P. 192. Lapsus calami.

1897. *Euxesta parvula* Wulp, *Termeszetr. Fuz.*, 20 : 141. Holotype, Sri Lanka.

1913. *Spheniscomyia quadrincisa* : Bezzi, *Mem. Indian Mus.*, 3 : 147. India (Orissa : Puri; W. Bengal : Kolkata).

1956. *Sphaeniscus quadrincisus* : Hering, *Verh. Naturforsch. Ges. Basel*, 67(1) : 67. Sri Lanka.

*Material examined* : 1, ♀ Regd. No. 9830/H6, Dist. Kullu, Loc. Premkhud, Lugarbhathi, 77°13'E, 31°99'N, Dt. 11.iv.06, Coll. R. Babu.

*Diagnosis* : Body shining black, lightly grey pollinose on mesonotum; arista short pubescent; wings predominantly dark brown, base hyaline with a hyaline wedge in middle of anterior margin, 3 hyaline wedges extending across the wing from the hind margin; vein R4 + 5 bare except for a few setae at the basal portion, r-m crossvein situated near apex of cell 1<sup>st</sup> M2;

### PLATE-I



*Sphaeniscus quadrincisus* (Wiedemann)

piercer thickened at base, sharply tapered at apex, ovipositor extended, spermathecae weakly sclerotized. (Plate-1).

*Distribution* : India : Himachal Pradesh (new record), Andaman Is., Karnataka, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Orissa, West Bengal.

*Elsewhere* : China, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand.

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- David, K.J. & Ramani, S., 2011. An Illustrated Key to Fruit flies (Diptera : Tephritidae) from Peninsular India and Andaman & Nicobar Islands, *Zootaxa*, **3021** : 1-31.
- Evenhuis, N.L., Pape, J., Pont, A.C. and thompson, F.C., 2008. Biosystematic Database of World Diptera, Version 10, <http://www.diptera.org/biosys.htm>.

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