

NOTES ON GENUS *TANYMECUS*
GERMAR, 1817 FROM THE
SUNDERBAN BIOSPHERE RESERVE,
W. BENGAL (CURCULIONIDAE:
COLEOPTERA)

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Curculionidae, the largest weevil family has so far been reported to have 4,600 genera and 51,000 described species from all over the world (Talwar, 2014). They feed on living plants or are saprophagous. Weevils are recognizable by their elongate rostrum (or snout), with mouthparts situated at the apex; geniculate antennae; and compact antennal club.

Genus *Tanymecus* belongs to the tribe Tanymecini of the subfamily Brachyderinae. 151 species of it are known from the world. 45 species are reported from India and 16 species are found in West Bengal (Supare et al., 1990). In genus *Tanymecus*, *T. marginalis* Gyllenhal, 1834 has been reported by Marshall (1916) from Port Canning and Matla, Sundarbans. The second species, *T. albomarginatus* Gyllenhal, 1834 has been reported by Mandal & Nandi (1989). Third one, *T. indicus* Faust, 1894 has been reported by Banerjee & Basu (1954) as a serious pest of paddy from Amjhara village in Basanti Tehsil, of South 24 parganas district of Sunderban Biosphere Reserve. Supare et al. (1990) have reported this species as *T. indicus indicus* Faust and described another new subspecies, *T. indicus assamensis*.

Among the three species, two species, *T. marginalis* and *T. indicus* have been collected during the recent survey (2015-16) from different localities of the Sunderban Biosphere Reserve. This is the second report on the occurrence of both the species in W. Bengal, after the first report of Marshall (1916) and Banerjee & Basu (1954). This is also the first report of *T. marginalis* collected from the mangrove plants.

According to Marshall (1916), the morphological differences among these three species are as follows; *T. indicus* is a black colour insect, with brown scaling more or less irrorated with grey, and usually with a few green scales at the apex of the rostrum. *T. marginalis* is also a black colour weevil with thin yellowish-grey scaling dorsally, the prothorax and elytra with a denser lateral yellow stripe, on the elytra this stripe does not reach the margin. The body colour of *T. albomarginatus* is grey or fawn, but the elytra with a broad whitish lateral stripe which does not reach the extreme mar-

gin, prothorax with a broad denuded lateral stripe.

Order Coleoptera
Family Curculionidae
Subfamily Brachyderinae

1. *Tanymecus indicus* Faust, 1894

Material examined: 1 ex. , Pakhirala, Gosaba island , 13.xii.2015. coll. B. Mitra and Party.

Remarks: Talwar (2014) reported that *T. indicus* is primarily a pest of *Triticum* (wheat) and other cereals like *Zea mays* (maize), *Sorghum* (jowar), *Hordeum vulgare* (barley), *Oryza sativa* (rice), *Cicer arietinum* (gram), *Pisum sativum* (pea), *Cortalaria juncea* (sannhemp), *Lens esculenta* (lentil), *Corchorus corchori* (jute), *Beta vulgaris* (beetroot), *Brassica* (mustard), *Eruca sativa* (argula), *Carthamus tinctorius* (safflower), *Papaver* (poppy) and *Gossypium* (cotton). Banerjee & Basu (1953) reported its infestation on paddy of Sunderbans. Present collection was made from a light trap in the mangrove ecosystem.

2. *Tanymecus marginalis* Gyllenhal, 1834

Material examined: 1 ex. , Sagar Island, 10.vi.2015, 1 ex. , Panmazani : Sagar Island, 9.vi.2015. coll. B. Mitra and Party; 2 exs. , Debnibas, Bokkhali, 16-17.vi.2015. coll. B. Mitra and Party; 5 exs, Dulibhasani, 05.x.2016. coll. B. Panja, Host: *Sonneratia apetala* Buch.-Ham.

Remarks: This is the first report of this species from the plants of *Sonneratia apetala* Buch.-Ham.

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