

**RANGE EXTENSION OF THE MOTH
CEPHONODES HYLAS LINN. (LEPI-
DOPTERA : SPHINGIDAE) FROM
ALIGARH (UTTAR PRADESH)**

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Aligarh Muslim University is situated in the middle of "Doab", a land between Ganga and Yamuna rivers, at a distance of 130 km southwest of Delhi, on the Delhi-Howrah rail route and the Grant Trunk road. The latitude is 27.54'N and longitude is 78.05'E. The AMU campus has maintained gardens and is rich in varied floral species, the climate is hot and dry in summer, and cold and dry in winter with an intervening rainy season, all the factors are good enough to be a house of a variety of floral and faunal species. The arthropods, especially insects, being most successful of all the animal life forms, are abundantly found here. A large number of butterflies and moths can be easily seen all around the campus.

The current paper provides a short report on a moth species, *Cephonodes hylas* Linn. (Fam. Sphingidae, Subfam. Macroglossinae), which was collected as a part of authors' regular course work of M.Sc. to enrich the insect collection. While collecting various moth species, on 6th February, 2016, afternoon one of us encountered a typical moth species, from the vicinity of Zoology Department. The specimen was identified as *Cephonodes hylas* Linnaeus by a teacher, which was later confirmed by experts at the IARI, Pusa, New Delhi.

There are 18 species listed under the genus *Cephonodes*, and 4 subspecies of *C. hylas*, namely *C. hylas hylas* (Linnaeus 1771, mainly found in India, Sri Lanka, China, Japan), *C. hylas virescens* (Linnaeus, 1771), *C. hylas melanogaster* (Cadion, 1998), and *C. hylas australis* (Kitching & Cadion, 2000).

C. hylas hylas (Linn., 1771) is commonly known as Coffee bee hawk moth (Maxwell-Lefroy, 1909) or Pellucid hawk moth or Coffee clearwing. It is largely distributed in East and Middle East Asia, Africa, India, Sri Lanka, Japan, South East Asia and Australia (Queensland). Main larval food plant is Coffee plant. Other alternative host plant species are *Gardenia* sp., *Kraussia lanceolata*, *Guettarda speciosa*, all members of Rubiaceae family (Bell & Scott, 1937).

The adult is a small hawk moth with a stout body like a bumble bee. It has a wingspan of 4-6 cm, and characteristic hyaline wings. It is one of the few diurnal moth species. The 3rd and 4th abdominal segment have a median red band followed by two yellowish segments. The adult moth was hovering above flowers to feed on the nectar of small white flowers of *Gardenia augusta*.

The perusal of literature reveals that the existence of *C. hylas* (Linn.) has been reported in Southern regions of India, namely Chennai, Bangalore (Usman & Puttarudriah, 1955) and Hyderabad. From northern India it has been reported from Dehradun, Uttarakhand (Roonwal & Thapa, 1963). Hence, *C. hylas* constitutes a new locality record from Aligarh (Uttar Pradesh) and has extended its range of distribution. It is likely that with intensive explorations, the species may be reported from other parts of India.

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