

FIRST RECORD OF *PRIONOMMA BIGIBBOSUM* (COLEOPTERA: CERAMBYCIDAE) FROM NEPAL

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Introduction

The Cerambycidae fauna of Nepal has been well, if not extensively studied. Weigel (2006) and Lazarev (2019) reported some 470 species of Cerambycidae recorded in Nepal.

Prionomma (*Ancyloprotus*) *bigibbosum* (White, 1853) (syn. *Ancyloprotus bigibbosus* White, 1853) (Cerambycidae: Prioninae: Prionini) is a large and striking longhorn beetle, with two characteristic bumps in the middle of pronotum after which it is named "bigibbosum". It measures about 20 lines in length (White, 1853) which roughly converts to 42.3 mm. It is known from Assam, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya in India up to Myanmar (Mitra *et al.*, 2016), so it was always expected to be found in Nepal. The other related *Prionomma* is *P. atratum* (Gmelin, 1789), recorded from southern India, Arunachal Pradesh and Sri Lanka (Kumawat *et al.*, 2015) but lacks the bumps on pronotum. The peak period for *P. bigibbosum* adult activity is July (Behere *et al.*, 2017).

White (1853) described the color as blackish brown, although in the present specimen it appeared more blackish, probably because it was observed at night in the rain. Two transverse bumps on the pronotum were clearly visible. The shoulders of elytra were somewhat prominent and punctured. Deeply excavated head between the eyes and in front with a slight keel in the middle of excavation. Femora of forelegs with many small warts are visible in the photo as well. Tibiae of forelegs were flattened and curved. Metathorax with

longish ferruginous hairs which are visible on other segments of the thorax as well.

Observation

An individual was observed on the rainy night of 5.vii.2019 at 8:52 PM in Pokhara, Nepal at Sarangkot (28°14'41.7"N 83°58'18.8"E), 1157 masl, inside the premises of Belgian Hotel, about 6 meters away from a light-trap set up during National Moth Week, 2019. It was photographed a few times after which it flew away.

Identification was further confirmed by Sangamesh Hiremath of India, which was corroborated by Mr. Alain Drumont of Belgium on the basis of photographs. It was advised to look for the species again and get a specimen, but unfortunately, the species was never found again.

Discussion

Prioninae are mostly large and very conspicuous Cerambycids. It is very unlikely that they go unnoticed and the fact that it was not included in any of the previous checklists, even in the most recent one, and that this particular species was sighted only once despite many efforts, suggests that it occurs at low density at the extremity of its northern distribution.

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Fig.1: Two characteristic bumps in the middle of pronotum



Fig.2: *Prionomma (Ancyloprotus) bigibbosum* (White, 1853)