

On the distribution of *Metopides nivosus* (White, 1858) (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) in Pakistan

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The paper provides new information about the distribution of *Metopides nivosus* (White, 1858) in Pakistan. The results of the study show that this species is more widely distributed in Pakistan than previously thought. New faunistic data presents material near the border of Afghanistan. It can be assumed that the distribution of the species is wider in Asia and it potentially can be found in Afghanistan.

Key words: *Metopides nivosus*, Lamiinae, Lamiini, long-horned beetles, Pakistan, fauna

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INTRODUCTION

Metopides nivosus (White, 1858) (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) belongs to the subfamily Lamiinae tribe Lamiini. This species is common in India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri-Lanka (Tavakilian & Chavillotte 2024), but it is probably more widespread in the Himalayan and related regions and its range is not well studied.

This species was originally described by White in 1858 from Ceylon (Sri Lanka) as the genus *Monochammus* and indicating that it may occur in India (White, 1858). Gemminger & von Harold (1873) included

this species in their catalog of beetles. Maxwell-Lefroy (1909) refers this species to India. Aurivillius (1922) cited it in the catalog of beetles and provided the distribution of this species for Ceylon and south-eastern India. Later, the same author (Aurivillius 1923) transferred this species to the genus *Dihammus*. On the other hand, Breuning (1961) included this species to the genus *Acalolepta*. On the other hand, in the 6th volume of the Palearctic beetle catalogue published in 2010 (Weigel 2010), this species is indicated for Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka and "Himalaya". Bhawane et al. (2015) published new records of this species from India. Rapuzzi et al. (2019) published

the first faunistic data from Pakistan: Sindh, Thar district, Naukot, Umarmkot and Mithi. Lazarev & Murzin (2019) included this species to the catalogue of long-horned beetles of Nepal. Finally, Vitali (2024) transferred this species from the genus *Acalolepta* to the genus *Metopides* and published new faunistic data from Sri Lanka and Pakistan (“Kohat, Darra Adam Kehl, VII-2022, ex coll. A. Filatov, in coll. F. Vitali”).

Summarizing information provided above, *M. nivosus* must be concluded that since the description of the species for more than 150 years, the distribution of this species in Asia is not well studied. Only in the last nine years some fragmentary faunistic data were published. The present study provides new faunistic data of this species in Pakistan. The information was obtained by identifying the material in the Daugavpils University beetle collection (DUBC) and private collection of the second author (ZACP).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Determined specimens of *Metopides nivosus* are deposited in the collection of the Daugavpils University, Coleopterological Research Centre, Ilgas, Daugavpils District, Latvia (DUBC) and in the collection of second author (ZACP).

The laboratory research have been performed using Nikon AZ 100, Nikon SMZ 745T digital stereomicroscopes, NIS-Elements 6D software. The habitus photograph was obtained with a digital camera Canon EOS 6D with Canon MP-E65 mm macro lens, using Helicon Focus automontage and subsequently was edited with Photoshop.

In the present paper we followed the taxonomic nomenclature provided by Vitaly (2024) and Tavakilian & Chavillotte (2024).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Metopides nivosus (White, 1858) (Fig. 1)



Fig. 1. *Metopides nivosus* (White, 1858)

References:

- White, 1958: 409 (*Monochammus nivosus*) - Ceylon, India?
- Gemminger & von Harold, 1873: 3017 (*Monochammus nivosus*) - Ceylon
- Maxwell-Lefroy, 1909: 376 (*Monochammus nivosus*) - India
- Aurivillius, 1922:96 (*Monochamus nivosus*) - Ceylon, SE India
- Aurivillius, 1923: 607 (*Dichammus nivosus*)
- Breuning, 1961: 371 (*Acalolepta nivosus*) - Ceylon, S India

Weigel, 2010: 275 (*Acalolepta nivosus*) - Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka and "Himalaya"
Bhawane et al., 2015: 683 (*Acalolepta nivosus*) - India
Rapuzzi et al., 2019: 74 (*Acalolepta nivosus*) - Pakistan
Lazarev & Murzin, 2019: 810 - Nepal
Vitali 2024: 7 - Pakistan, Sri Lanka

General distribution: India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka.

Material examined: 7 exs.: Pakistan, Sindh Prov., Tharparkar distr., Nagarparkar,

08.05.2009 (1, local collector leg.) [DUBC]; Sindh Prov., Tharparkar Distr., the road from Vijolo village to Mithi City, 01.-03.06.2019 (2, local collector leg.) [DUBC]; Sindh Prov., Sanghar Distr., Sandhar env., 06.04.2013 (2, local collector leg.) [DUBC]; Punjab Prov., Rahim Yar Khan Distr., Firoza, 23.03.2018 (1, without data about Collector) [DUBC], Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Prov., Bajaur Distr., Bajaur env., 15.04.2005 (1, without data about Collector) [DUBC]; Fazal Abad, Lara banda post office, Loi Sum, Tehsil Khar, District Bajaur, KP, Pakistan, 18.07.2023, leg Dawood (ZACP).



Fig. 2. Habitat of *Metopides nivosus* (White, 1858) in Pakistan

Type deposited: The Natural History Museum, London, UK (syntypes).

Despite the fact that for a long time after the description of *M. nivosus*, there was no published information about the distributional limits and most of the known localities are known from the southern Sindh

province of Pakistan. New faunistic data show that this species is distributed practically throughout the territory of all Pakistan. Apparently, the distribution range of this species is more widely distributed in the Oriental and Palaearctic regions. Some localities published in this paper and

published by Vitali (2024) are close to the border of Afghanistan, and it is likely that this species could be found also in this little-explored country. Given that a local school of coleopterology is currently developed in Pakistan, it can be predicted that in the near future we will see new faunistic and biogeographical data that will change our incomplete knowledge on the distribution of many long-horned beetles in the fauna of Pakistan. This paper only confirms that our knowledge of the distribution of many species is insufficient.

Habitat of *Metopides nivosus* (White, 1858) see in Fig. 2.

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