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### NOTE

#### FIRST RECORD OF LONGHORN BEETLE *CALOTHYRZA MARGARITIFERA* (CERAMBYCIDAE: LAMIINAE: PHRYNETINI) FROM WESTERN INDIA

Vishwas Deshpande & Hemant V. Ghate

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A specimen of a beautiful cerambycid beetle, intact but in moribund state, was collected in Konkan area (Chiplun, Maharashtra, date 25.vii.2018) during monsoon of 2018, by the first author. A similar specimen was only photographed, some 200km north, in Pen, Maharashtra a few years earlier (please see <https://thebutterflydiaries.files.wordpress.com/2009/07/dsc04976.jpg>), but it was not collected; a blog on this species, *Calothyrsa margaritifera*, was also floated on the internet. Presence of the same species again in Western Ghats indicated presence of a viable population of this Cerambycidae member in Konkan area. The purpose of this short note is to provide the first illustrated record of this species from western part of India. Since the original description of the species is quite good, we are only adding some salient points and additional illustrations in support.

The beetle was studied under Leica SMZ 6 and photographed using Canon Powershot S50 as described by Sarode et al. (2018).

The recent specimen was identified as a member of the Lamiinae tribe Phrynetini (claws divaricate, scape without cicatrix, metasternum of normal length, metepisterna short) based on classification by von Breuning (1950). It was further identified as *Calothyrsa margaritifera* (Westwood, 1848) based on keys to the genera / species of Phrynetini by von Breuning (1937).

Original description of this beetle by Westwood (1848), under the genus *Phrynetia*, is short but sufficient to identify this species as the colour illustration provided

## FIRST RECORD OF LONGHORN BEETLE *CALOTHYRZA MARGARITIFERA* (CERAMBYCIDAE: LAMIINAE: PHRYNETINI) FROM WESTERN INDIA

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is equally perfect. Westwood's original diagnosis and description is given below verbatim.

In the words of Westwood: "Diagnosis: *Phrynetia* of a velvety brown colour; the sides of the pronotum with two white lines and the elytra with six large irregular-shaped patches of a pearly white colour; the legs incrassated. Length of the body one and fourth of an inch. Breadth of the base of the elytra one half inch. Inhabits Nepal".

Description: "The entire insect is clothed with a fine velvety pile, with the base of the elytra rather coarsely punctured. The parts of the mouth are very short, the eyes strongly incised at the base of the antennae, which are rather short and thick, as are also the spines at the sides of the pronotum. This part of the body has two white lateral lines on each side, and the elytra have six large pearly-white spots, of irregular form, besides two minute white dots. The sterna are simple; and the legs (especially the femora) are thickened. The tips of the elytra are unarmed. The specimens in my collection, presented to me by the Rev. F.W. Hope, are smaller than

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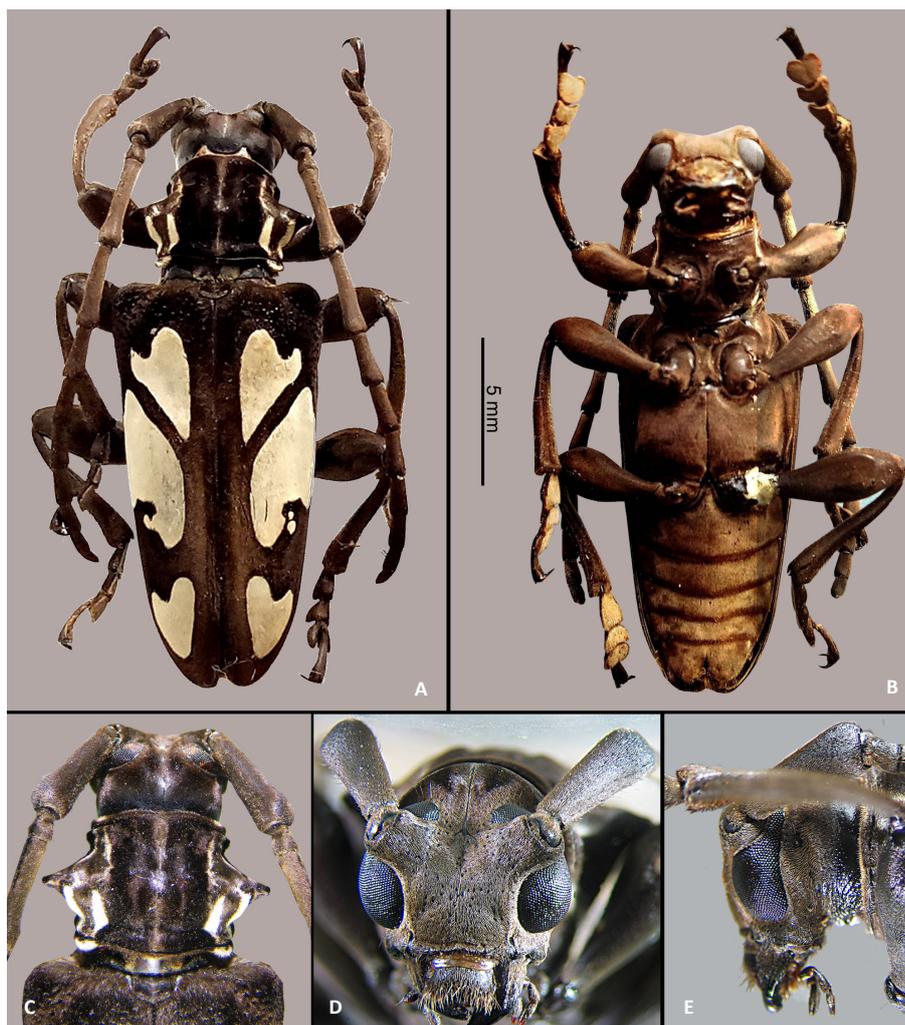


Image 1. *Calothyrsa margaritifera*: A—Dorsal view | B—Ventral view | C—close up dorsal view of head and pronotum | D—Head in frontal view | E—Head in lateral view. © Hemant V. Ghate.

the one figured, and have the sides of the pronotum occupied by a large white oblong patch instead of two lines, as in Mr. Melly's specimen".

Description of our Chiplun specimen (female):

All measurements are in mm. Total length 34; breadth at humeral angles 12; breadth of prothorax at spine 11; foreleg: femur 8, tibia, 8, tarsus 6.5; midleg: femur 8.5, tibia 9, tarsus 7; hindleg: femur 9, tibia 9, tarsus 8; antennal segments 1 to 11: 5, 1.5, 5.1, 4.6, 3, 2.5, 2.5, 2.4, 2, 1.5, 1.7

Robust, medium size beetle with thick antennal segments and strong, incrassate femora. Overall colour dark brown to blackish with a bilaterally symmetrical pattern of thick, yellowish white or white patches of pubescence dorsally; this includes lateral white lines on pronotum and large patches on elytra, which do not extend to lateral margin (Image 1 A, C; Image 2A). Entire

other body, dorsally and ventrally (Image 1B), uniformly dark brown and thickly covered with pubescence.

Head vertical, typical of Lamiinae; vertex convex above with a fine sulcus that extends up to base of antennae; eyes large, deeply emarginated with lower lobe much large and more than twice long as gena (Image 1C,D,E), one of the character that separates this species from similar looking *C. sehestedi* (Fabricius). Frons squarish, lower lobe of eye partly visible from front. Mandibles strong, curved at tip; labium setose; clypeus leathery and pale brown. Antenniferous tubercles strong, elevated, slightly divergent, with shallow groove in between. Antennae shorter than body, antennomeres moderately thick, scape without cicatrix.

In thorax pronotum broader than long, with maximum breadth only slightly less than base of elytra; distinct transverse grooves present near anterior and



Image 2. *Calothyrsa margaritifera*: A—Lateral view showing elytral maculae | B—Mid leg tarsus and claw in dorsal view | C—As in B ventral view | D—Claw. © Hemant V. Ghate.

posterior borders; disc elevated, slightly convex above; lateral spine strong with broad base and blunt apex; a median longitudinal, smooth and shining sulcus present (Image 1C). Prosternum narrow, with rugulose, smooth and shining area near anterior margin; prosternal process slightly elevated between procoxae, flat in middle but its lateral borders elevated. Prosternal process dilated behind procoxae with its distal part almost vertical. Mesosternum with anterior border shining and smooth, with half-moon shaped shining and sunken area without pubescence; lateral parts rugulose punctate. Mesosternal process broad, raised between mesocoxae and bifid at distal tip. Metasternum broad, long, with median shining smooth sulcus (Image 1B). Elytra elongate, slightly narrowed posteriorly, rounded at apex; each elytron sparsely but coarsely punctured near base but punctures very sparse and indistinct in posterior half, thick pubescence masking all punctures. All legs rather short and robust; all femora incrassate or 'claviform', as stated by von Breuning. Tarsal segments distinct, apical one more deeply cleft dorsally, with

dense light brown setae underside; claws dark brown, divaricate (Image 2 B,C,D)

Abdomen, as seen ventrally, with first segment longest and broad, its anterior tip projecting forward between metacoxae.

The type locality of *C. margaritifera* is Nepal; von Breuning (1937) mentions 'Cochinchina' (sometimes spelled Cochin-China, a colony of former French Indochina, encompassing the Cochinchina region of present southern Vietnam); a recent checklist of longicorn beetles of India (Kariyanna et al. 2017) notes only *C. sehestedtii* (Fabricius, 1798) but not *C. margaritifera*. A website on Cerambycidae, namely 'Worldwide Cerambycoidea Photo Gallery' Vitali (2019), however records 'India, Nepal, Myanmar and Thailand' as distribution of *C. margaritifera*. 'ICAR-National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources' website also lists this beetle and an image (probably of other species) on their website, without locality data, (see ICAR 2013). Apparently, there seems to be no published record of *C. margaritifera* from India. *C. sehestedtii* has,

however, been recently recorded from Madhya Pradesh (Majumder et al. 2015) and the distribution was stated as present in 'Himalayas, Madhya Pradesh (Jabalpur) within India and Sri Lanka'.

This illustrated record should, therefore, be treated as the first authentic report of *Calothyrsa margaritifera* from India. It remains to be seen if this species has recently invaded or is present for a long time but was overlooked so far.

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