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Cover: *Euphaea pseudodispar* shot at Kalindi River, Thirunelly, Wayanad district, Kerala. © Muneer P.K.



## New distribution records of two species of metallic ground beetles of the genus *Chlaenius* (Coleoptera: Carabidae: Chlaeniini) from the Western Ghats, India

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*Chlaenius* Bonelli, 1810 is one of the largest and taxonomically most diverse genera of Carabidae. There are approximately 855 species and 62 subgenera of *Chlaenius* in the world (Lorenz 2005) and new species are continually being described (Anichtchenko 2018). The beetles belonging to this genus are popularly known as 'metallic ground beetles' because of their vivid metallic colour of most species (Hegde & Manthen 2017). They emit some chemical compounds (m-Cresol, 2,5-dimethylphenol, 3,5-dimethylphenol) as defensive secretions (Schildknecht et al. 1968a,b; Balestrazzi et al. 1985). The representatives of this genus are found in all zoogeographical regions of the world (Bousquet 2012).

While analysing the earlier collections of carabid beetles of the Western Regional Centre of Zoological Survey of India, we came across two unidentified specimens, which on examination turned out to be *Chlaenius* species—*Chlaenius* (*Chlaeniellus*) *cookei* Andrewes, 1933 and *Chlaenius* (*Pseudochlaeniellus*) *puncticollis* Dejean, 1826. Perusal of published works on the *Chlaenius* species of India (Andrewes 1930, 1933; Saha 1986, 1992, 1995; Saha et al. 1991; Anichtchenko & Kirschenhofer 2017; Chanu & Swaminathan 2017; Hegde

& Manthen 2017) revealed that these two species have not been reported from the Western Ghats region earlier, and hence our findings represent new distribution records. The specimens were set-pinned, labelled, and assigned registration numbers. Identification was based on the literature (Andrewes 1933; Jedlička 1964). The photographs were taken with Leica EZ4HD stereo zoom microscope.

### *Chlaenius* (*Chlaeniellus*) *cookei* Andrewes, 1933

*Chlaenius deserti* Jedlička, 1964.

Material examined: Ent-1/3595, 01.x.2016, 1 male, collected at light, near Gagangiri mountain, Kolhapur District, Maharashtra (16.5380 N & 73.8238 E), coll. V.D. Hegde & party.

Diagnostic characters: Head metallic green, with small scattered punctures; antennomeres 1–3 light brown, remaining antennomeres dark brown. Pronotum wider than long, rounded at sides, punctate pubescent, metallic green, with narrow lateral margins brown; basal margin longer than apical margin; apical angles rounded; basal angles obtuse. Elytra dark green, with a small, oblique, narrow pale spot on each side, reaching

**Editor:** Anonymity requested.

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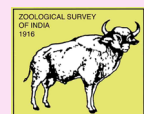
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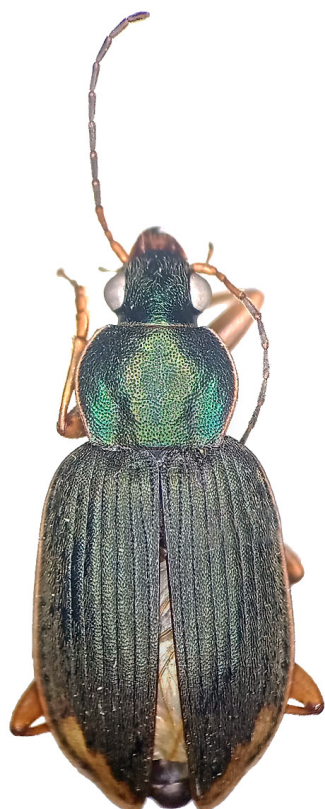


Image 1. *Chlaenius (Chlaeniellus) cookei* Andrewes, 1933; Scale bar = 2 mm. © Vasanthakumar D.

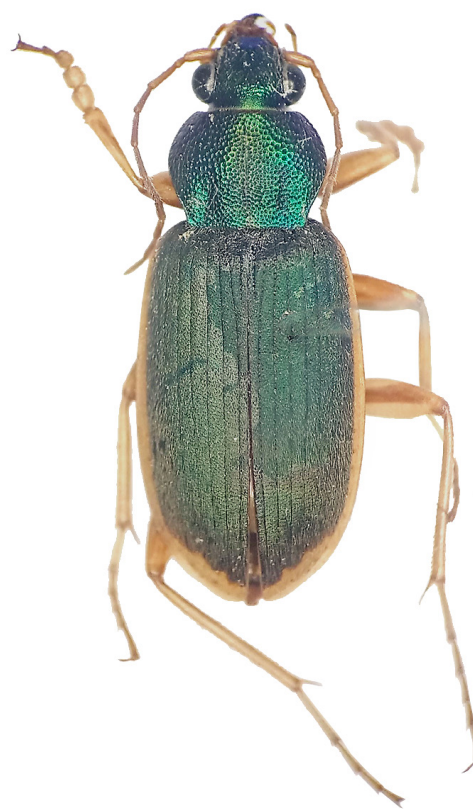


Image 2. *Chlaenius (Pseudochlaeniellus) puncticollis* Dejean, 1826; Scale bar = 2 mm. © Vasanthakumar D.

apex as reported by Andrewes (1933) (Image 1).

Distribution: India (New Delhi, Rajasthan, and Western Ghats region of Maharashtra (new record)); Pakistan (Azadbaksh & Rafi 2017).

Remarks: This species was originally described by Andrewes (1933) from New Delhi. Jedlička (1964) described *Chlaenius deserti* from Barmer, Rajasthan which was then synonymised as *C. (Chlaeniellus) cookei* by Kirschenhofer (2003).

***Chlaenius (Pseudochlaeniellus) puncticollis* Dejean, 1826**

Material examined: Ent-1/3596, 13.vii.2017, 1 male, Near Tamhini, Pune District, Maharashtra (18.450 N & 73.416 E), coll. Shripad Manthen.

Diagnostic characters: Head metallic green, moderately punctate. Pronotum also metallic green, very coarsely punctate, densely at the base and less densely in anterior half of pronotum; lateral grooves narrow; basal angles right. Elytra metallic green, with narrow yellow lateral band, strictly limited to two external intervals; apical part of band narrow; elytral striae fine, finely punctured; all intervals flat (Image 2).

Distribution: India (Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, and Western Ghats region of Maharashtra (new record)); Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, Nepal, Myanmar, and Sri Lanka (Anichtchenko & Kirschenhofer 2017).

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