



Two new species of *Notosacantha* Chevrolat, 1834 from India (Coleoptera: Cassidinae: Notosacanthini)

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Abstract

Notosacantha cherrapunjiensis and *N. dembickyi*, new to science, are described and figured from Meghalaya state, NE India.

Key words: entomology, taxonomy, new species, India

Introduction

The genus *Notosacantha* is quite unique within Cassidinae. It is the only genus with mining larvae included in Cassidinae in the old sense. With 258 described species, it represents the second largest genus among true Cassidinae (Borowiec 1999; Borowiec and Świętojańska 2002). However, specimens are collected scarcely and many species are known only from the type specimen(s). Most species have small ranges and occur largely in the upland tropics and subtropics of the Old World. The genus displays its greatest diversity on islands, Madagascar, Philippines and also New Guinea (Świętojańska & Sekerka unpublished data). Fifty-one species have been recorded from continental regions within the Orient, 20 of those reported from India (Świętojańska et al. 2001; Świętojańska 2006; Świętojańska & Sekerka 2007).

Two new species from NE India have been found in the collections of the British Museum of Natural History and in private collections. Their descriptions are given below. Nomenclature of elytral structures follows the figure given in Spaeth (1931).

Notosacantha cherrapunjiensis sp. nov.

Etymology. Named after its locus typicus Cherrapunji in Meghalaya state, NE India.

Diagnosis. *Notosacantha cherrapunjiensis* belongs to the group of species without elytral costae, only with isolated tubercles. The group comprises five described species: *N. circumdata* (Wagner, 1881) from Burma, Indonesia (Kalimantan, Sumatra), Malaysia and Thailand; *N. clavareai* (Spaeth, 1900) from Sumatra; *N. moultoni* (Spaeth, 1912) from Malaysia: Sarawak; *N. odiosa* (Boheman, 1856) from Java and Sumatra; and *N. malaysiana* Świętojańska, 2004 from Malaysia: Pahang. *Notosacantha circumdata* and *N. moultoni* are distinctly larger (length 6–7 mm) and differ in body colouration. *Notosacantha circumdata* has dorsum bright redish-brown and *N. moultoni* somewhat pitchy brown. Both species have tubercles of same colour as elytra. *Notosacantha cherrapunjiensis* has elytra deep red and tubercles somewhat darkened, pitchy brown to black. *Notosacantha cherrapunjiensis*, *N. clavareai*, *N. malaysiana* and *N. odiosa* are distinctly