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A new species of *Notosacantha* Chevrolat (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Cassidinae: Notosacanthini) from southern India

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Abstract

Notosacantha bertounesquei sp. nov. is described from Kerala state in southern India. This new species belongs to the group of two large species hitherto known only from Sri Lanka. Checklist and key to *Notosacantha* species of Sri Lanka and southern India are provided.

Key words: taxonomy, new species, key to species

Introduction

Notosacantha Chevrolat, 1836 with 269 described species is one of the most speciose genera within Cassidinae (Borowiec and Świętojańska 2012). This exclusively Old World genus has several centres of diversity, especially on islands such as Madagascar, the Philippines and the Sunda Islands. North-eastern and southern regions of India are also rich in species of *Notosacantha*.

The genus has recently been intensively studied, especially the Oriental species (Borowiec and Świętojańska 1999, Świętojańska and Borowiec 1999, Świętojańska 2000 a, b, 2001 a, b, 2002 a, b, 2003, 2004, 2006 a, b, Świętojańska and Sekerka 2007, Borowiec *et al.* 2008, Sekerka 2008, 2009, Świętojańska and Stach 2011, Borowiec *et al.* 2012). However, the Oriental Region still hides a large number of undescribed species since they are scarcely collected and many species are known only on the basis of the types. Biology or host plant associations are known only for ten species (Borowiec and Świętojańska 2012), which is incredibly low for such a speciose genus.

Oriental species of *Notosacantha* were keyed by Spaeth (1933), but several new species were described after this publication and hence the key is not useful. Southern India together with Sri Lanka is a globally recognized hotspot of biodiversity. Species from India and Sri Lanka were keyed by Maulik (1919), but his treatment encompasses only half of the species currently known from the region.

Photos were prepared using Nikon SMZ 1500 stereomicroscope and Nikon Coolpix 4500 photo camera, and Helicon Phocus software.

Terminology of elytral sculpture (after Spaeth, 1931) is illustrated in Fig. 1.

Notosacantha bertounesquei sp. nov.

Etymology. This species is named after our friend André Bertounesque (1937–2005). André was a Canadian painter-artist known worldwide and was also an avid collector of spectacular and exotic insects. His collection of birdwings butterflies and beetles is now housed at the Montreal Insectarium, Québec, Canada.