



Longhorn beetle incidence on *Sida cardifolia* in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh



Adult longhorn beetles *Aristobia reticulator* seen scraping stem.

In the present note, stem scrapping behaviour by the longhorn beetle *Aristobia reticulator* (Fabricius, 1781) (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) on the Heart-leaf *Sida cardifolia* L. (Malvaceae) from Arunachal Pradesh is reported. Three specimens (numbered 3–5 in Table 1) collected are duly pinned and deposited in APRC/ZSI Museum (APRC/ZSI/IV/2493). For each plant, scrapping on the main stem and on axillary branches was recorded. A total

of 81 stem scrapings were counted on a random survey of 28 plants in the campus with an average count of 2.9 scrapings/plant and the highest recorded was 27. Twelve plants did not show mark of scrapings on their stems. Previously, *A. reticulator* was reported damaging economically important crops like litchi, guava, red gram, and China-rose (Kumawat et al. 2017); the authors have earlier reported beetles feeding on barks, thereby girdling stems, branches and



Table 1. Morphometric measurements (mm) of eight adult specimens. Specimen number 3, 4 and 5 were collected in the present study; other specimens (number 1, 2, 6, 7 and 8) were used from the collections of the APRC museum.

	Morphometric parameters	Specimens examined							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Total length	42	28.3	32.74	27.92	34.99	35.6	29.56	25.75
2	Max. body width	11.99	9.99	10.8	9.92	12.31	11.34	11.1	9.1
3	Head length	3.75	7.28	3.61	7.47	8.27	8.8	8.43	6.78
4	Head width	5.88	5.52	6.03	5.57	6.17	6.24	6.04	5.41
5	Antennal length	33.6	28.48	32.17	28.34	36.02	29.84	26.4	25.09
6	Max. pronotum length	6.1	5.26	5.74	5.19	7.17	8.13	8.68	6.96
7	Max. pronotum width	10.08	8.52	9.53	7.89	10.01	10.46	9.11	7.68
8	Elytron length	23.64	21.13	22.06	20.84	25.67	25.7	23.23	19.42
9	Max. elytron width	5.57	6.14	6.84	6.09	7.69	7.12	6.46	4.82
10	Length of anterior leg	16.82	15.26	17.77	15.03	19.71	19.59	13.74	13.44
11	Length of middle leg	18.21	16.38	18.68	15.24	20.39	18.06	16.68	16.27
12	Length of posterior leg	19.39	19.83	17.67	18.28	21.5	21.44	16.27	15.96

soft twigs in East Siang District, Arunachal Pradesh. Agarwala & Bhattacharjee (2015) reported *Microcos paniculata* as the plant food of adult *A. reticulator* in the state of Tripura. The species is also reported from Sikkim, Assam, Manipur, and Meghalaya (Mukhopadhyay & Biswas 2000; Shylesha et al. 2000; Agarwala & Bhattacharjee 2015; Kariyanna et al. 2017). The incidence of *A. reticulator* on *Sida cardifolia* is a new record as food of adults.

The longhorn cerambycid beetles were seen scrapping on the stems or resting on the

stem during dusk and dawn. Beetles flew away or fell to the ground when disturbed. Morphometric parameters of eight individuals (three collected in this study and the remaining five are preserved specimens in APRC Museum) measured using digital callipers are provided in Table 1 and these show conformity with the size range recorded by Agarwala & Bhattacharjee (2015). The Heart-leaf Sida is a herb native to India with ayurvedic properties, its tonic is reported to possess rejuvenating, anti-inflammatory, libido-enhancing, and fat-burning properties due to the presence of a number of active



compounds, including alkaloids ephedrine, phytosterol, and potassium nitrate (<http://www.himalayawellness.com/herbfinder/sida-cordifolia.htm>).

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