

# BugsRAll

Invertebrate Conservation & Information Network of South Asia (ICINSA)

Newsletter of the

## First record of *Macrosiagon ferruginea* from Barabar Hills, Bihar, India

*Macrosiagon ferruginea* (Fabricius, 1775) is reported here for the first time from Bihar, northeastern part of India. *M. ferruginea* is previously known to occur in the Himalayan Range (Kashmir, Gilgit, 35.920834 N, 74.308334 E).

*Macrosiagon* Hentz 1830 is the genus belongs to Ripiphoridae (Coleoptera: Tenebrionoidea) and is widely distributed in the Palaearctic region contributing to 16 recognized taxa worldwide (Batleka 2011a). Batleka (2008) previously reported seven species of *Macrosiagon* Hentz, 1830 including *M. bimaculata* (Fabricius, 1787), *M. ferruginea* (Fabricius, 1755), *M. fortieri* (Chobaut, 1893), *M. meridionalis* (A.Costa, 1859), *M. obertherii* (Fairmaire, 1879), *M. praeusta* (Gebler, 1829), and



Female of *M. ferruginea* on *Ziziphus jujuba* plant in Barabar Hill area.

# Bugs R All

Newsletter of the Invertebrate Conservation & Information Network of South Asia (ICINSA)

*M. terminata* (Laporte, 1840) from different countries.

In old India, *M. ferruginea* was only known to occur in the Himalayan Range but now it has expanded its distribution range from the Himalayan Range to plains of Bihar and authors have observed and photographed this species during a nature walk in Barabar Hills area during morning hours on 23 August.

Due to diverse host preferences and parasitic lifecycles, Ripiphorid beetles are one of the most interesting families for researchers worldwide. The subfamily Ripiphorinae is restricted to hymenopteran hosts including Apidae, Hictidae, Scolidae, Crabronidae, Sphecidae, Pompilidae, Vespidae, and Tiphiidae (Selander 1991; Falin 2002; Batelka & Hoehn 2007).

In India, the biology, ecology, and biogeography are poorly studied and not more data is available about *Macrosiagon*.

## Synonyms

1. *Mordella ferruginea* (Fabricius, 1775)
2. *Macrosiagon ferruginea* (Bedel, 1895)
3. *Ripiphorus indicus* Hope, 1831

## Distribution

Kashmir (Gilgit), Bihar (25.0055° N, 85.0680° E; first record).

## Diagnostic Features

1. Elytra as long as abdomen.
2. Median lobe of pronotum without a short-elevated process at apex, uncoloured elytra without marking or black spots.
3. Eyes black, head dorsally orange, thorax black.
4. Femur black, tibia orange, tarsus orange and black at joints.
5. Hind wings black at the tip and the last abdominal segments also black.
6. Base of antennae orange rest black.

The adult female of *M. ferruginea* was observed on flowers of *Ziziphus jujuba* (Rhamnaceae) in the grasslands of Barabar Hill near Nagarjuni Museum. No mud wasp nest was observed on nearest plant for confirmation of host preferences and larval development. The female was observed resting on flowers in morning hours. Further studies will be needed to confirm host preferences and larval development in the new flora and fauna as compared to the Himalayan Range.

## References

**Batelka, J. (2004).** Contribution on the synonymy of Palaearctic and Oriental species of *Macrosiagon* (Coleoptera: Ripiphoridae). Part II. *Acta Societatis Zoologicae Bohemicae* 68: 9–13.

**Batelka, J. (2011).** Contribution to the synonymies, distributions, and bionomics of the Old-World



# Bugs R All

Invertebrate Conservation & Information Network of South Asia (ICINSA)

Newsletter of the

species of *Macrosiagon* (Coleoptera: Ripiphoridae).  
*Acta Entomologica Musei Nationalis Pragae* 51(2):  
587–626.

**Batelka, J. & P. Hoehn (2007).** Report on the host associations of the genus *Macrosiagon* (Coleoptera: Ripiphoridae) in Sulawesi (Indonesia). *Acta Entomologica Musei Nationalis Pragae* 47: 143–152.

**Bedel, E.M.L. (1895).** II. - Synopsis des *Macrosiagon* méditerranéens, pp. 184–192. In: Chobaut A. & E.M.L. Bedel (eds): *Étude sur les Macrosiagon Hentz (Emenadia Lap. -Cast.) de la région méditerranéenne. L'Abeille, Journal d'Entomologie* 28: 181–192.

**Falin, Z.H. (2002).** Ripiphoridae Gemminger & Harold 1870 (1853), pp. 431–444. In: Arnet. R.H., M.C. Thomas, P.E. Skelley & J.H. Frank (eds) *American beetles, Volume 2: Polyphaga: Scarabaeoidea through Curculionoidea*. CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL, USA.

**Schilder, F.A. (1923).** Sauter's Formosa-Ausbeute Rhipiphoridae (Col.), (Zugleich: Rhipiphoriden-Studien III). *Entomologische Mitteilungen* 12: 202–204.

**Selander, R.B. (1991).** Rhipiphoridae (Tenebrionidea), pp. 509–512. In: Stehr, F.W. (eds) *Immature Insects Volume 2*. Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company, Iowa.

**Waterhouse, C.O. (1883).** Descriptions of new species of Coleoptera belonging to the Rhipiphoridae. *Annals and Magazine of Natural History, Series* 5(11): 279–281.

**Acknowledgements:** We are highly grateful to Dr. S.N.P. Yadav “DEEN” (Head, P.G. Department of Zoology, Magadh University) and Dr. Kumari Aditi for supporting and motivating us for field observation and documentation. We are also very thankful to DFO, Gaya Forest Division for his generosity to support us during survey.

## Mohammad Danish Masroor<sup>1</sup> & Zakkia Masrroor<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> P.G. Department of Zoology, Magadh University, Bodhgaya, Bihar 824234, India.

<sup>2</sup> Dr. B.R. Ambedkar college of education, Matiyani, Bodhgaya, Bihar 824234, India.  
Email: <sup>1</sup>mohammaddanishmasroor@gmail.com (corresponding author)

**Citation:** Masroor, M.D. & Z. Masrroor (2022). First record of *Macrosiagon ferruginea* from Barabar Hills, Bihar, India. *Bugs R All* #232, In: *Zoo's Print* 37(2): 21–23.

Bugs R All is a newsletter of the Invertebrate Conservation and Information Network of South Asia (ICINSA) published with the financial support of Zoological Society of London.  
For communication, Email: zp@zooreach.org

