



First record of a cerambycid beetle (*Purpuricenus temminckii*) from India

While documenting cerambycid beetles collected by ZSI during routine surveys of Arunachal Pradesh, India, we came across an interesting specimen of the genus *Purpuricenus* Dejean, 1821. Generic characters of this beetle were confirmed to be of *Purpuricenus* using Gahan (1906) but the characters did not match with any species described therein. However, it matched closely with *Purpuricenus sinensis* described very briefly in Latin and English by White (1835). It was then compared with the pictures, presented as a photo gallery of the genus *Purpuricenus*, prepared by Denis Kasatkin (<http://www.zin.ru>) and also many other images from a recent paper (Danilevsky, 2012) as well as with comments in MacRae (2000) and identified as *Purpuricenus temminckii* Guérin–Méneville. *Purpuricenus sinensis* is, in fact, now a synonym of *P. temminckii* and is treated as a subspecies *Purpuricenus temminckii sinensis* White which is distributed in many parts of China, Taiwan and Laos (Danilevsky, 2012). Therefore, the current valid name of the species that we have found in India is *Purpuricenus temminckii* Guérin–Méneville. The original species was described by Guérin–Méneville as *Purpuricenus (Sternoplistes) temminckii*, from specimens collected in Japan (Guérin–Méneville, 1844). In the want of a series of specimens it is not possible to assign it to any subspecies as defined recently by Danilevsky (2012) but it seems close to *Purpuricenus temminckii sinensis* White. *Purpuricenus sanguinolentus* (Olivier, 1795); *P. malaccensis* (Lacordaire 1869), *P. haussknechti* Witte 1871 and *P. montanus* White 1853 are the other 4 species of this genus that are known from India (Gahan, 1906). All these species are distinctive in coloration and will not be confused with *P. temminckii*. Although Gahan (1906) attributed the genus *Purpuricenus* to Latreille 1829, the genus is correctly attributed to Dejean 1821

(see MacRae, 2000; Danilevsky, 2012). MacRae (2000) also noted presence of *P. temminckii* in North America. As recently as 2011 there is another report of this species from North Dakota, USA (Beauzay, 2011). Since no earlier literature reports this species from any part of India, this is to be the first report of the species and, thus, an addition to the Cerambycidae fauna of India. *Purpuricenus temminckii* appears to utilize only bamboo species (live and felled) as hosts (Beauzay, 2011).

***Purpuricenus temminckii* Guérin–Méneville 1844 (Fig. 1)**

Material examined: ZSI 19697/H4A (Body length, 13 mm; maximum breadth at prothorax, 4 mm; breadth at humeral angles, 5 mm); male, Ziro, Lower Subansiri District, Arunachal Pradesh; T. K. Pal; 18 September 1988.

Medium sized beetle. Head, antennae, entire underside and legs black; prothorax and elytra pinkish or red; prothorax with 5 black spots as shown in Fig. 1A. Head with antennal tubercles slightly raised on their inner side, with a narrow deep sulcus in between; mandibles small, black, with gray and black pubescence at the base; clypeus sunken and with a slight reddish tinge at base; front separated from clypeus by a transverse impression; eyes moderately large, deeply emarginated; antennae black and typical of the genus. Prothorax almost rectangular, broader than long, constricted at base behind the lateral tubercle, anterior margin gently rounded with a fine groove behind, posterior margin gently sinuate on either side and with a more deep transverse sulcus in front. Entire dorsal surface of prothorax rugulose, central area of the disc distinctly convex and granular. Prosternum black, densely punctured at sides, covered with sparse white pubescence. All legs compressed, moderately long, femora subclavate, finely punctured and with fine black pubescence; Elytra moderately convex,

coarsely punctured and dull; the margins of the punctures distinctly raised and confluent with each other forming a network on the entire elytra. Some punctures carry a fine long seta, especially in the apical region as well as on the edge of the distal 1/4th of elytra. Elytral apex with a cover of rather dense, long and black pubescence, each elytron with two indistinct costae on the disc that do not extend beyond anterior 2/3rd of elytra. Overall, elytra broadest at the middle. Scutellum small, triangular, its apex somewhat acute. Abdomen entirely black, covered with long, sparse, shining whitish as well as black pubescence; each abdominal sternite is punctured – coarsely in the middle and finely at the lateral side (Fig. 1B).



Figure 1: *Purpuricenus temminckii* (ZSI 19697/H4A) **A**, dorsal view; **B**, ventral view.

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H.V. Ghate¹ & Bulganin Mitra²

¹Modern College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Shivajinagar, Pune 411005, India.
E-mail: hemantghate@gmail.com

²Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata 700053, India. E-mail: bulganinmitra@gmail.com