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**ON A NEW SPECIES OF THE GENUS *LECHRIOPS* SCHONHERR COLEOPTERA: CURCULIONIDAE)****P. V. KHAIRMODE AND T. V. SATHE**

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**Received : 28.7.15; Accepted : 29.9.15****ABSTRACT**

Weevils are destructive insects of agriculture and forest crop plants. Therefore, a new species *Lechriops kolhapurensis* sp. nov. has been described for the first time. This species runs close to *L. oculata* (Say) by having following characters

1. Color pattern
2. Eyes completely dorsal
3. Scale color brown, black and pale white

However, it is different from the above species *L. oculata* (Say, 1824) by having following characters-

1. Frons reduced
2. Banding pattern of scales on body
3. Elytral apex truncate
4. White band present on scutellum
5. Eyes more convex than *L. oculata*

Figures : 11

References : 11

Table : 00

KEY WORDS : Description, India, *Lechriops kolhapurensis* sp.nov.**Introduction**

The genus *Lechriops* was erected by Schoenherr in 1826. This genus is grouped under the subfamily Conoderinae which includes 11 genera and 800 species. *Lechriops* is an important genus. From India, no species of *Lechriops* has been reported earlier. Review of literature indicates<sup>1-11</sup> that entomologists have worked on taxonomy of weevil.

**Material and Methods**

Weevils were collected from Kolhapur forest region of India. The weevils were collected by one man one hour insect swept net collection method during morning hours between 8.00 am to 10.00 am. The specimens were pinned, dried and preserved in insect box. Later, the specimens

identified by consulting appropriate literature cited in the references. Genitalia was examined and photographed under Olympus CX-31 stereozoom microscope. Taxonomical studies have been made under compound microscope.

**Results and Discussion**

*Lechriops kolhapurensis* sp. nov.

**Male** (Figs. 1 to 11)

Body length 4.92 mm long and 1.30 mm wide; Head 1.94 mm long and 0.99 mm wide; thorax 1.00 mm long and 1.44 mm wide; abdomen 1.98 mm long and 1.63 mm wide.

**HEAD** (Fig.3)

1.94 mm long and 0.99 mm wide. Head continues with rostrum with, oval in shape, a small

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bean shaped fovea in between eyes, eye separated with 0.01 mm width covers with brown leaf like scales.

**Eyes** 0.80 mm long and 0.35 mm wide, black, elongate, oval covers dorsal and lateral area of head, eyes more convex. Rostrum 1.44 mm long, 0.25 mm wide. bend ventrally, antennal insertion at 1/3 of rostrum, apex narrow; remarkable separation with head; rostrum carinate having one carinae on centre and two parallel to each other; punctures in between carina concealed with white and brown scales; ventrally punctures shallow; apex of rostrum become reddish brown, punctures rare, remaining part black.

**Antenna** (Fig. 4)

Antenna divided into three parts basal scape, middle funicular and terminal club. Funicles 7 segmented, club three segmented. Antenna reddish brown, shiny; black setae on funicle and club; scape elongated, 0.51 mm in long and 0.04 mm wide; I antennomere of funicle 0.24 mm long and 0.03 mm wide; II antennomere 0.21 mm long and 0.025 mm wide; III antennomere 0.03 mm long and 0.02 mm wide; IV antennomere 0.24 mm long and 0.02 mm wide; V antennomere 0.02 mm long and 0.027 mm wide; VI antennomere 0.02 mm long and 0.034 mm wide; VII antennomere 0.020 mm long and 0.034 mm wide. Club I segment 0.07 mm long and 0.027 mm wide; II segment 0.10 mm long and 0.04 mm wide; III segment 0.08 mm long and 0.015 mm wide. Scrobe of antennae at lateral and one third of rostrum.

**Flagellar formula** -  $1L/W=8$ ,  $2L/W=8.4$ ,  $4L/W=1.5$ ,  $A=5.96$

**THORAX** (Fig. 5)

1.00 mm long and 1.44 mm wide; Black with brown and white scales, constricted near anterior margin, middle truncated, wider than long, apex bisinuate, entirely covered with brown and white leaf like scales, center of apex having fovea concealed with white leaf like scales. Scutellum small, black, shiny and triangular.

**Elytra** (Fig.7) 1.60 mm long and 0.80 mm wide, oblong, shoulders rounded, not prominent; distinct striation but hidden under brown and white scales, elytral vestiture with flat elongate leaf like scales, with 10 striations and punctures shallow.

**Hind wing** (Fig. 8) transparent, light brown,

5.05 mm long and 2.29 mm in width.

**Hind Leg** (Fig. 11)

Black, elongated, femur more truncated at apex having wine red tooth at one third region, tibia slender having single long tooth curved inside, tibial grooming consisting a short apical comb of setae. I and II tarsal segment slender and long, III and IV segments oval in shape, V elongated with claw. Tarsal claws separated. Femur 1.81mm long and 0.24 mm wide; tibia 1.13 mm long and 0.16 mm wide; tarsal segments I 0.28 mm long and 0.16 mm wide; tarsal segment II 0.28 mm long and 0.15 mm wide; tarsal segment III 0.10 mm long and 0.06 mm wide; tarsal segment III 0.10 mm long and 0.06 mm wide; tarsal segment V 0.27 mm long and 0.04 mm wide. All legs with black and white scales and with black setae.

**Abdomen** (Fig. 6)

1.98 mm long and 1.63 mm wide; Black, clothed with imbricate leaf like, pale white scales on disc of venter. Male genitalia (Fig. 9 and 10) with exopthallic plate reduced, curly bracket like shape of anterior part of aedeagus, gastral speculum thin.

**Host plant**- Unknown

**Holotype** – Male, Kolhapur, Maharashtra, India. Coll. Khairmode P.V.24- VIII-2014, pinned insect (16/2014) preserved in insect box.

**Paratype** – 8 male and 10 female, coll. Khairmode P.V. June to September (2014-2015).

**Distributional Record** - 2 males Malakpur, 05- IX-2014; 2 males Chandoli, 24-VIII-2014, 4 males Bambavade, 12-VI-2015.

**Remark**

According to key of Say (1824) this species is close to *Lechriops oculata* by having following characters,

1. Color pattern
2. Eyes completely dorsal
3. Scale color brown, black and pale white

However, it is different from the above species *L. oculata* (Say, 1824) by having following characters-

1. Frons reduced
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