



SHORT NOTE

Occurrence of *Stromatium barbatum* (Fabr.) (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) on grapevine in Maharashtra, India

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Grape is an important deciduous, temperate crop, extensively grown in the peninsular India. The major grape growing regions in India are Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and the north-western regions covering Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Western Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. Maharashtra occupies the largest area (0.46 lakh ha) and highest production (1290 thousand Mt). In India, grape is utilized in various forms like table grapes, raisins, wine and juice. Due to its scrumptious nature, several pests and diseases are attracted to the crop. Among the various insect pests reported, mealy bugs, thrips, mites, stem borer attribute substantial loss to the crop both in terms of quantity as well as quality. Stem borer is one among the pests which assumed a serious pest status in the recent past and turned out to be one of the limiting factors in grape cultivation. The grubs of *Coelosterna scabrata* Fabr. (Coleoptera:Cerambycidae) are the commonly occurring stem borer in grapes (Ranga Rao *et al.*, 1979). Adults of *C. scabrata* are 2.0-4.0 cm long with mottled grey elytra and a small projecting spine on metathorax. Nair (2007) reported *C. scabrata* infesting the live wood of *Acacia nilotica* and the management strategies for the same were outlined by Jagginavar *et al* (2008). *Stromatium barbatum* (Fabr.), a polyphagous pest, damaging the wood of about 350 tree species, has been found infesting *Prosopis cineraria* in western Rajasthan (Parihar and Singh, 1993). Many of the previous workers (Nair, 2007) were doubtful about *S.barbatum* infesting live green trees. It makes square shaped holes in dry bamboos and damages wooden boxes and packing cases in the godowns of museum. The pest is reported from Australia, Europe, Northern Asia, South and South- East Asia, India and New Zealand from various forest trees (Walker, 2007, <http://www.padil.gov.au/viewPest.aspx?id=95>).

Four vineyards in Sangli, Solapur and Pune regions of Maharashtra were surveyed for the grapevine pests. A few grapevines showing typical signs of borerholes with powdery deposits and chlorosis of the foliage were examined for the presence of beetles. The beetles were collected by cutting open the affected cordons or the

trunk. In many vines more than one larva were seen in different instars. Moreover, beetles were also found resting under the loose bark of vines. Collected beetles were killed by using ethyl acetate and preserved in wooden boxes. Specimens were identified by Dr. Hemanth Ghate, Professor of Modern College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Pune.

Surveys across the grape vineyards in some regions of Maharashtra revealed the presence of the common bamboo stem borer, *Stromatium barbatum* Fabr. on grapevine apart from the existing stem borer species, *Coelosterna scabrata* Fabr. There was a wide range of variability with respect to body size and antenna length in the collected specimens of *S. barbatum*. Adults (Fig.1) were reddish brown to brownish black with tawny pubescence covering all over the body including face, legs and antennae. Antennae are 11-segmented. Adult body length was 2.12 ± 0.44 cm (excluding antennae) and 4.73 ± 0.84 cm (including antennae). Males can be distinguished from females by the presence of tomentose depression on the pronotum (Fig. 5), strongly rounded or protuberant lateral margins of pronotum (Fig. 6) and antennae 1.3 times longer than the body. In females antennae are shorter or scarcely longer than the body and are devoid of the tomentose depression on the pronotum. Head densely and rather coarsely punctured above and at sides. Elytra coarsely and densely punctured, each with a sutural tooth at apex.

Adults were active during June-July especially in the beginning of rainy season and a few were collected even during September. Gravid female laid eggs in small cracks and crevices on the bark of the main trunk as well as cordons with diameter exceeding 2-2.5cm of the plant. Eggs (Fig. 2) were white, spindle shaped with both the ends slightly pointed, 2.4-3 mm long and 1-1.2 mm wide. Grubs hatch out of the eggs after 7-10 days of incubation. Newly hatched grubs are pale white in colour with brown mandibles and 2-3 mm in size. The full grown grub (Fig. 3) was whitish yellow or cream in colour, thick set, 3-3.5 cm in length with brown head and black mandibles; pale brown thorax, broader than