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**FIRST RECORD OF *BOLETOXENUS TAPROBANA* (LEWIS, 1894)
(COLEOPTERA: TENEBRIONIDAE) FROM INDIA**

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Summary. The darkling beetle species *Boletoxenus taprobanae* (Lewis, 1894) is newly reported for the fauna of India, from the state of Karnataka.

Key words: darkling beetles, Tenebrioninae, Bolitophagini, fauna, new record, Asia.

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Резюме. Впервые для фауны Индии из штата Каматака указывается чернотелка *Boletoxenus taprobanae* (Lewis, 1894).

INTRODUCTION

Boletoxenus taprobanae (Lewis, 1894) is a beetle belonging to the tribe Bolitophagini under subfamily Tenebrioninae of the family Tenebrionidae. Habit of mycophagy is wide spread within the order Coleoptera (Lawrence, 1989) and with no exception; members of this tribe are fungus feeders (Arunraj *et al.*, 2013). They are seen in close association with fungal fruiting bodies, which lasts throughout the life. (Jung *et al.*, 2007). Adults are surface feeders while larvae tunnels inside and feed on fungal tissue (Arunraj *et al.*, 2013).

Bolitophagine beetles have strongly sculptured oblong-oval body which is distinctly convex, sometimes rounded or parallel sided. Horns in pronotum or head may present or absent, partially or completely divided large oval eyes, 11-segmented (rare 10-segmented) antennae, laterally flattened or expanded pronotum, sides finely or roughly serrated, coarsely punctured elytral surface. Tarsal formula 5-5-4, rarely 4-4-4 (Miyatake, 1964; Arunraj *et al.*, 2013; Jung *et al.*, 2007).

The genus *Boletoxenus* Motschulsky, 1858 is known only from Palearctic and Indo-Malay regions (Bouchard *et al.*, 2021). One species under this genus is known to occur in India, namely *B. gibber* Motschulsky, 1858 (Gebien, 1925; Grimm, 2014). Here, the second species of *Boletoxenus* is newly reported from India.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The specimens were collected by direct handpicking from Kansur of the North Kanara district of Karnataka (India). The specimens were examined under LEICA®M205A stereomicroscopes and imaged using LEICA®DFC 500 digital cameras attached. The illustrations

were post-processed for contrast and brightness using Adobe® Photoshop CS5 (Version 12.0) software. Identification up to the genus and species level was done with the key of Gebien (1925). The studied specimens were deposited at Zoological Survey of India, Western Ghat Regional Centre, Kozhikode, Kerala, India (ZSIK).

NEW RECORD

Subfamily Tenebrioninae Latreille, 1802

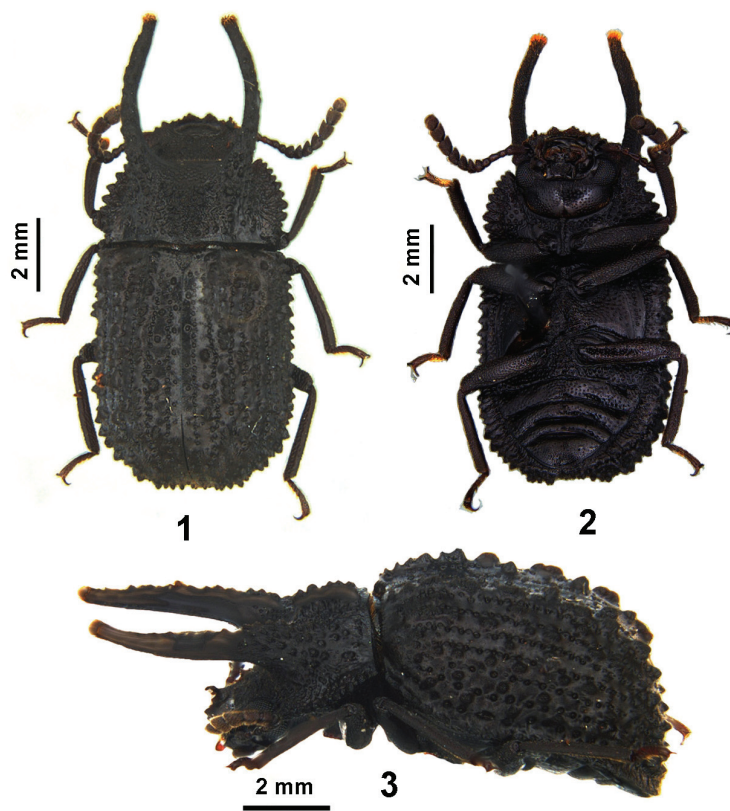
Tribe Bolitophagini, Kirby, 1837

Genus *Boletoxenus* Motschulsky, 1858

***Boletoxenus taprobanae* (Lewis, 1894)**

Figs 1–3

MATERIAL EXAMINED. **India:** Karnataka, North Kanara District, Benadmane, Kansur, 14°30'51" N, 74°50'33" E, altitude 516 m, 21.III.2022, 6 ♂, leg. V.D. Hegde, ZSIK Regd. Nos. ZSI/WGRC/I.R.-INV. 21866–21871.



Figs 1–3. *Boletoxenus taprobanae* (Lewis, 1894), male, habitus. 1 – dorsal view; 2 – ventral view; 3 – lateral view.

DIAGNOSIS. MALE. Large, body length about 10 mm, pronotal surface coarsely punctured, pair of pronotal horns present which is slightly curved at the middle and the tip covered by tuft of hairs, area between the horns strongly punctured, lateral parts of pronotum explanate and sides roughly serrated, 11 segmented antenna, last antennal segment not free, embedded in tenth, ninth antennal segment almost as wide as long, frontal carina being raised and denticulate, round head, labrum sub-quadrate and small, bidentate mandibles, tarsal formula 5-5-4.

DISTRIBUTION. India (new record): Karnataka; Sri Lanka: Southern province.

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