



A new record of the longhorn beetle *Astathes (Tetraophthalmus) bimaculata* (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) from Maharashtra, India

S. V. More¹ and M. S. Prashanth*²

¹ Department of Zoology, R. B. Madkholkar Mahavidyalaya, Chandgad 416509 Maharashtra, India; ² A.V.S. College of Education, Department of Zoology, Gantekanive, M C Halli 577 221 India.
Email: sadamore6046@gmail.com; drmsprashant@gmail.com

ABSTRACT: The long horned beetle *Astathes bimaculata* included in flat faced long horned beetles belongs to the subfamily Lamiinae of the family Cerambycidae. *A. bimaculata* is a very rare species in India, but it is common in Southern India and is a new record from Maharashtra state.

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KEYWORDS: Cerambycidae, Coleoptera, *Astathes bimaculata*, Maharashtra

The members of Cerambycidae are commonly known as long-horned or longicorns or long-horn beetles. They are widely distributed, but mostly found in tropical region. The members of the Cerambycidae family are xylophagous and phytophagous (Ozdikmen and Caglar, 2004). Both the larva and adult of Cerambycidae are serious pests in forest area. The larvae of this family are voracious feeders and they often bore into trees (Mango, Citrus, Bamboo and Ain etc.). Cerambycidae includes numerous species almost more than 35,000 species under 4,000 genera distributed in 11 subfamilies (Lawrence, 1982) out of which more than 20,248 of lamiid species under 3,052 genera are known (Roguet, 2012). A total of 1500 species of long horn beetles are described from India (Beeson, 1941; Gahan, 1906; Breuning, 1960-62, 1963a, 1963b, 1964, 1965, 1966; Mukhopadhyay and Biswas, 2002), but in the recent past and many new records of Cerambycidae described and reported from India (Ghate and Sen, 2006; Ghate *et al.*, 2011, 2012; Ghate and Mitra,

2013; Ghate and Agarwala, 2015; Vives and Ghate, 2015). The long-horn beetle *Astathes bimaculata* was first described by Fabricius in 1792, and after this species was identified by (Rondon and Breuning, 1970). The species *Astathes bimaculata* recently reported from Kerala by (Sen and Ghate, 2005). This species has been, in recent years, called as *Tetraophthalmus* and some directly place it in the genus *Tetraophthalmus* (<http://cerambycidae.org/taxa/bimaculata-> (Fabricius-1793).

The long-horned beetle *Astathes bimaculata* collected using insect net. The identification was done with the help of the available literature (Gahan, 1901; and Sen and Ghate, 2005).

Single specimen *Astathes bimaculata* female was collected on 10/vi/ 2016, in the mining area, near Chandgad city. Coll. Sadashiv More (Department of Zoology, R. B. Madkholkar Mahavidyalaya, Chandgad, Maharashtra, India).

* Author for correspondence



Fig.1 & 2. *Astathes bimaculata* (dorsal view)



Fig. 3. *Astathes bimaculata* (ventral view)

Fig. 4 & 5. *Astathes bimaculata* (elytra)

***Astathes bimaculata* (Fabricius, 1793)**

Cerambyx maculatus Fabricius, 1793 ([Syntypes] India Orientali ZMUC)

Astathes externa Pascoe, 1859 ([Holotype] India BMNH)

Astathes bimaculata Gahan, 1901 (Sen and Ghate, 2005)

Astathes (Tetraophthalmus) bimaculata Breuning, 1956

Diagnostic Character:

It is small sized insect with yellowish and orange colored body. Antennae somewhat fuscous and covered with black and golden pubescence with a little shorter than the body and they are not reaching



Fig. 6 & 7. *Astathes bimaculata* (lateral view)

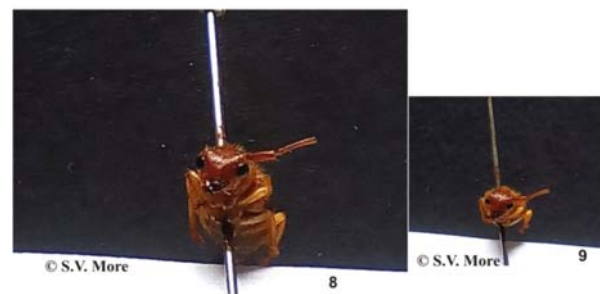


Fig. 8 & 9. *Astathes bimaculata* (front view)

the apex of elytra, first three segments of antennae are nitid, others are punctured and setose, apical segment sharply pointed (Fig. 1 & 2). Head reddish to orange, punctate, and covered with black and golden pubescence; eyes faceted (Fig. 8 & 9), ocelli black in color (Fig. 1 & 2). Thorax orange in colour, with short, blunt tubercle on each side of the prothorax (Fig. 1 & 2). Elytra yellowish, transverse violaceous patch on each side near the apex region on the elytra (Fig. 4 - 7), and covered with long, stiff, black and golden pubescence, the apex of each elytron rounded (Fig. 4). Scutellum slightly U shaped, with yellow in colour. Legs are yellowish, shorter and slender and covered with golden pubescence (Fig. 2), claws widely separated, with slightly black color. All the body covered with long, stiff, black and golden pubescence (Fig. 4). Ventral side the body covered with pale colors (Fig. 3).

Length: 12mm; Breadth: 5mm

Distribution: Southern India (Tranquebar, Madras, Trivandrum and Bangalore), Maharashtra.

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