

Genus	Vol. 12 (4): 489-492	Wrocław, 28 XII 2001
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Notosacantha chandrapurens n. sp. from India
(Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Cassidinae)

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ABSTRACT. *Notosacantha chandrapurens* is described from India (Chandrapur, Maharashtra State). It is close to *N. castanea* (SPAETH) and its relatives.

Key words: entomology, taxonomy, new species, *Coleoptera*, *Chrysomelidae*, *Cassidinae*, *Notosacantha*, India.

The genus *Notosacantha* CHEVROLAT comprises more than 240 species distributed in tropics and sub-tropics of the Old World. Many species have very small distribution areas, especially a large number of species are known from Madagascar and Philippines (BOROWIEC 1999). So far 44 species have been recorded from continental part of the Oriental Region, 16 of them from India (12 endemic to the country). In the material from India (Chandrapur: Maharashtra State), examined recently, we found a specimen of *Notosacantha* belonging to the new species. Its description is given below.

Notosacantha chandrapurens n. sp.

DIAGNOSIS

It belongs to the group of species characterised by the following characters: body short-oval to circular, complete set of costae, principal tubercle with at least three costae, dorsal costa complete, basal tubercle more or less distinctly con-

nected with humeral costa, anterior and posterior branch of dorsal costa in principal tubercle converging in the same point, and furca interna connected with lateral branch of dorsal costa slightly outwards of the top of principal tubercle. The group comprises also *N. castanea* (Sp.) *N. malaisei* (Sp.), and *N. trituberculata* Gr. (it is possible that these three taxa are conspecific). All distinctly differ in body almost rectangular, and pronotum not or only slightly wider than the base of elytra, while in *N. chandrapurensis* body outline is distinctly converging posterad, and pronotum is distinctly wider than the base of elytra. *N. chandrapurensis* is smaller, with length below 5 mm, while in these three relatives body length exceeds 5.5 mm. At first glance, very similar species is *N. tenuicula* (Sp.), especially by its converging posterad elytral sides, but it differs in incomplete furca interna, lower elytral tubercles, and pronotum not or only slightly wider than the base of elytra.

DESCRIPTION

Length: 4.9 mm, width: 4.2 mm, length of pronotum: 1.5 mm, width of pronotum: 4.15 mm, length/width ratio: 1.16, width/length ratio of pronotum: 2.76. Body short-oval, the widest in 2/5 body length, then distinctly converging posterad (fig. 1).

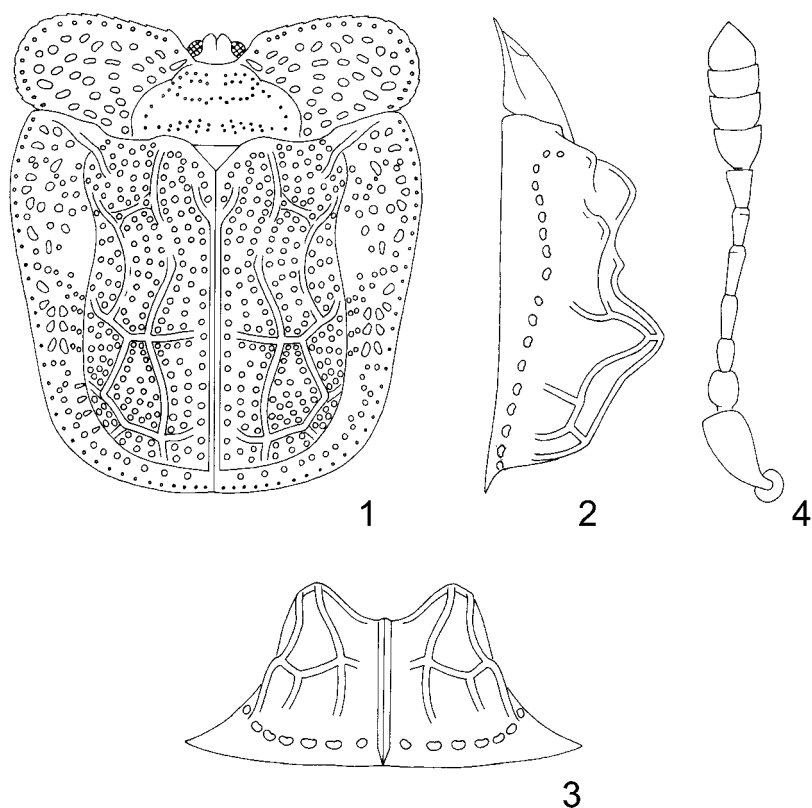
Head yellow. Disc of pronotum yellow with small brown spot at the top in 2/3 basal length and brownish-black spot on each side close to anterior border. Explanate margin of pronotum yellow with brown U-shaped spot along border of central plate. Scutellum yellow with brown basal angles. Disc of elytra yellowish-brown with dark brown spot below humeral callus; basal parts of tubercles and distal parts of costa terminalis and costa ultima, and apical part of dorsal costa dark brown. Tops of tubercles, humeral costa, and anterior parts of costa terminalis and costa ultima yellow (in *N. castanea*, *N. malaisei* and *N. trituberculata* elytral disc is reversely coloured – ground colour and basal parts of tubercles are paler than tops of costae and tubercles). Punctate area along the suture brown. Explanate margin of elytra yellow with distinctly brown humeral and posterolateral spots, both extending to the margin of elytra. Humeral angle, and small spot below humerus, close to marginal row, yellow. Ventral side of explanate margin, before middle, with pale yellow “window” extending to half width of marginalia. Ventrites, legs and antennae yellow.

Head with moderately large, triangular frontal plate having a shallow, V-shaped, apical cleft.

Pronotum broad, with maximum width in middle, sides regularly rounded. Disc with two rows of punctures along the base, oblique row of punctures in the middle, two rows of punctures along anterior border and single row along sides. Explanate margin with large, mostly elongate pores, disposed regularly. Anterior half of pronotal margin serrate, sides crenulate.

Base of elytra distinctly narrower than pronotum (fig. 1). Elytral disc with complete set of costae and tubercles (figs 1-3). Principal tubercle the highest, approximately as high as wide, c. twice higher than basal tubercle, with sharp top

and four costae. Dorsal costa complete, its anterior and posterior branches curved towards suture. Anterior branch of dorsal costa, between basal and subbasal tubercles, slightly less elevated than its remaining parts. Anterior and posterior branch of dorsal costa converging in the same point at the top of principal tubercle. Sutural branch of principal tubercle runs only slightly anterad, extending to first row of punctures. Lateral branch of principal tubercle complete, runs obliquely anterad, extending to submarginal row of punctures. Apicosutural costa extending to the first row of punctures. Apicolateral costa complete, apically bifurcate, with complete furca interna, costa terminalis and complete costa ultima. Furca interna connected with lateral branch of principal tubercle distinctly outwards of the top of principal tubercle. Anterior part of humeral costa distinctly elevated and distinctly curved outwards, not connected with costa of humeral callus. Posterior part of humeral costa barely marked. Between basal tubercle and humeral costa there is an elevated connection, but it is not as sharp as in related species of *N. castanea* group. Punctuation between costae coarse, distance be-



1-4. *Notosacantha chandrapurensis*: 1 – dorsal view, 2 – lateral view, 3 – hind view, 4 – antenna

tween punctures as wide as or slightly wider than puncture diameter. Punctuation of explanate margin mostly coarser than on disc, only in posterior part of marginalia and close to elytral disc it is as coarse as on disc; pale "window" on marginalia impunctate.

Antennae stout, with distinct 4-segmented club. Pedicel (segments 1-7) c. 2.1 times as long as the club (segments 8-11). Second antennal segment slightly longer than wide, segment 8 as wide as long, segments 9 and 10 transverse (fig. 4).

TYPE MATERIAL

Holotype: "INDIA, Chandrapur, Tadoba Tiger Res., IX 1999, R. MARATHE" (preserved at the Department of Systematic Zoology and Zoogeography, University of Wrocław, Wrocław, Poland).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

H.V. GHATE and Rahul MARATHE would like to thank the authorities of Modern College, Pune, for facilities.

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