**SHORT NOTE**

*Iphialaulax* sp. — A NEW BRACONID PARASITOIDE OF COFFEE WHITE STEM BORER, *Xylotrechus quadripes* (Chevr.)
(COLEOPTERA : CERAMBYCIDAE)

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The coffee white stem borer, *Xylotrechus quadripes* (Chevr.) is a major pest of arabica coffee, *Coffea arabica* L. in India. Ten *X. quadripes* infested arabica stems were collected from the field and split open to record parasitized borer grubs and adult parasitoids at weekly interval from October, 1995 to April, 1997. Two hymenopteran ectoparasitoids *Iphialaulax* sp. (Braconidae) and *Apnesia* sp. (Bethylidae) were recorded on full grown grubs of *X. quadripes*. The ectoparasitoids, *Iphialaulax* sp. is the first record on the pest in India.

The body, legs and anterior half of the head and hind wings of the parasitoid adults are golden yellow and posterior half of both wings are dull black. The female possesses 4 mm ovipositor which is covered by two halves of dark sheaths. The parasitoid cocoon is dull white. The male and female parasitoids is 9 mm and 9.5 mm, respectively. Usually two *Iphialaulax* sp. larvae developed on a single *X. quadripes* grub.

The males of *Apnesia* sp. are shiny metallic black and winged whereas, the females are apterous and ant like. The head, thorax and legs of the female are yellowish-brown and the abdomen is dark brown, possess 0.5 mm long sharp ovipositor. The mean length of the female and male parasitoids is 7.67 mm (SD ± 0.10, range 7.50 - 7.95, n = 4) and 6.19 mm (SD ± 0.26, range 5.95 - 6.50, n = 4), respectively. The antennae of both sexes are 13 segmented. In one of the samples, 17 larvae of *Apnesia* sp. developed on a mature grub of *X. quadripes*. During advanced parasitic larval development, more than half of the larval body was embedded within the host though, it is an ectoparasitoid. The prepupal parasitoid larvae detached from the host and spun brownish cocoons in a compact mass. Males emerged one to two days earlier than females.

*Iphialaulax* spp. have been recorded on various species of cerambycidae namely, *Dirphya nigricornis* (Ol.) (Crowe, 1962), *Oberea schaumi* Lec. and *Seperda incornata* Say (Grimble and Knight, 1971; Grimble et al., 1971), *Seperda populnea* (L.) (Brammanis, 1963) and *Phoracantha* spp. (Austin, et al., 1994), *Iphialaulax varipalpis* Cam. caused 10.70 per cent mortality of arabica coffee borer, *D. nigricornis* in Kenya (Wanjala and Khaemba, 1987). In India, *Apnesia* sp. has been recorded on *Serixia (S,str.) andromonica* Gardner (Coleoptera : Cerambycidae) and it caused 16.31 - 22.20 per cent parasitism in the field (Khan, 1990). In the present study, *Apnesia* sp. and *Iphialaulax* sp. accounted for 0.08 and 0.38 per cent mortality of *X. quadripes* grubs in the field, respectively. The very low parasitism in the field may be attributed to the inability of the parasitoids to detect the concealed grubs of *X. quadripes* in tightly packed tunnels.

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REFERENCES


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