

## *Sticholotis chittagongi* sp.n. (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae), a predator on aphids on *Ziziphus* in Bangladesh

T. G. VAZIRANI

Commonwealth Institute of Entomology, c/o British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, UK

### Abstract

*Sticholotis chittagongi* sp.n., reported as feeding on aphids infesting *Ziziphus mauritiana* in Bangladesh, is described. It is compared with *S. amator* Kapur from which it differs in size, shape of pronotum and male genitalic characters.

### Introduction

Recently, the Commonwealth Institute of Entomology received a couple of specimens belonging to the genus *Sticholotis*. These specimens resemble *S. amator* Kapur (1958) in its elytral colour pattern and hemispherical form of body, but a closer examination of the clypeus, pronotum, male genitalic characters, etc., showed it to be a different species.

The genus *Sticholotis* Crotch comprises nearly 60 species occurring in the Oriental and Australasian Regions, and about 20 of them are reported from the Indian subcontinent. They generally feed upon diaspidid scale insects but occasionally on aphids.

### *Sticholotis chittagongi* sp.n.

Length 2.0 mm. Breadth 2.0 mm.

Body hemispherical, dorsal surface strongly convex and generally glabrous. Head, pronotum and scutellum reddish testaceous; elytra black with moderately broad testaceous band about one-third of elytral width, along external border. Underside testaceous except for darker median portion of meso- and metasternum.

Head (Fig. 4) very finely and rather sparsely punctate, interspaces with strong reticulation, eyes small, interocular space about three times width of an eye. Anterior margin of clypeus straight, not emarginate. Pronotum (Fig. 5) with punctation fine, shallow, separated by less than its own diameter; punctures larger and closer on sides, interspaces reticulate but less impressed than on head; anterior corners strongly rounded, posterior corners obtuse; lateral sides narrowly margined. Elytra with outer borders expanded; humeral callus distinct; punctation shallow, moderate, well-impressed, separated by nearly its own diameter, no punctures arranged in longitudinal rows.

Ventral surface, prosternum with subparallel carinae enclosing quadrangular flat area; coxal lines of first abdominal sternite incomplete, reaching its posterior border and running along it but not reaching lateral borders; apical abdominal sternite not emarginate in male.

Male genitalia: tegmen (Fig. 1) with parameres almost as long as median lobe which is narrowed towards apex; siphon (Fig. 2) much longer than tegmen, its capsule not well-defined, its apex slightly bulbous. Female genital plates as in Fig. 3.

*Material examined.* Holotype ♂, BANGLADESH: Chittagong, 11.ii.1982, Chittagong University colln., ex aphids on *Ziziphus mauritiana* [= *mauritiana*], genitalia mounted

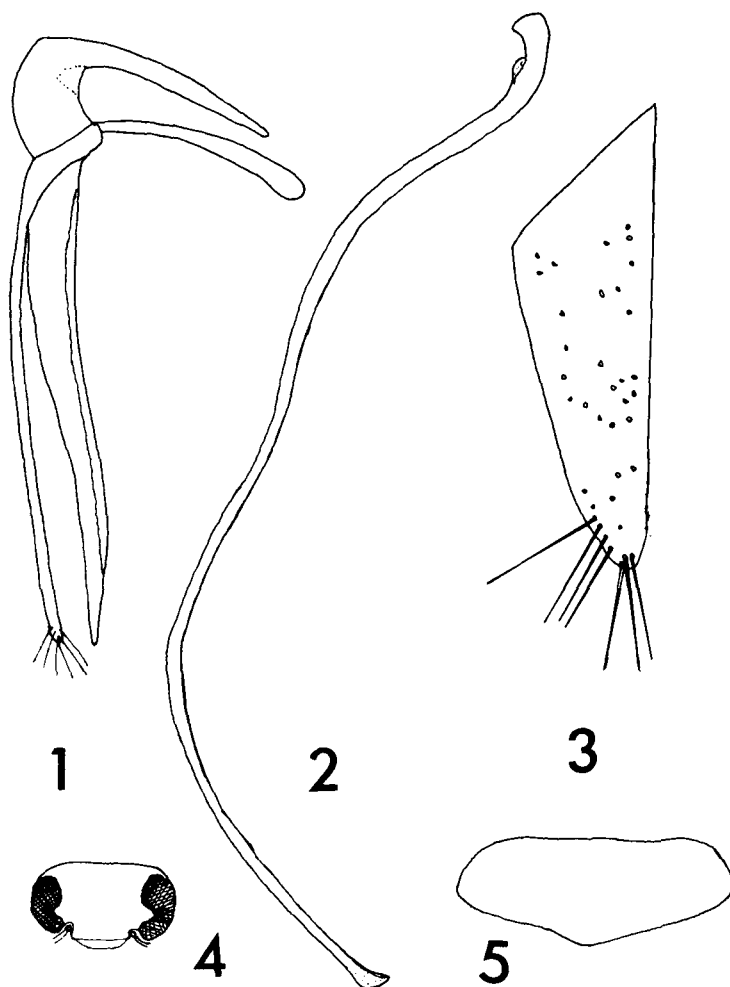


Fig. 1-5.—*Sucholotis chittagongi* sp.n. 1, tegmen of ♂ genitalia; 2, siphon of ♂ genitalia; 3, ♀ genital plate; 4, front view of head; 5, pronotum.

between coverslips and pinned to specimen. Paratype, 1 ♀ with same particulars; deposited in British Museum (Natural History), London.

*Comments.* This species is very close to *S. amator* in coloration and form of body, but can be distinguished from it by (i) smaller size (2.0 mm as against 2.5 mm long), (ii) anterior margin of clypeus straight as against emarginate, (iii) median lobe of tegmen (♂ genitalia) narrowed at apex as against conical, (iv) punctation on pronotum less impressed, (v) anterior corners of pronotum more rounded, (vi) interocular space on head 3 times width of an eye as against 3.5 times.

#### Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Mr R. D. Pope of the British Museum (Natural History), London, for his kind help and for going through the manuscript. I am also grateful to Dr N. C. Pant, Director, Commonwealth Institute of Entomology, for his interest and encouragement.

**Reference**

KAPUR, A. P. (1958). Coccinellidae of Nepal.—*Rec. Indian Mus.* **53**, 309–338.

*(Received 14 September 1982)*

© Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux, 1983