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New record of *Thysia wallichii* Hope, 1831 (Coleoptera, Cerambycidae) from Arunachal Pradesh, India

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ABSTRACT: The study reports the first confirmed occurrence of *Thysia wallichii* Hope, 1831 (Coleoptera, Cerambycidae, Lamiinae) from Sangram circle, Kurung Kumey district, Arunachal Pradesh, India. This new locality record extends the known geographical distribution of the species within the state and contributes valuable information to the expanding documentation of cerambycid diversity in the region.

KEY WORDS: Long horned beetle, occurrence, Sangram, Eastern Himalaya, biodiversity hotspot

Arunachal Pradesh, one of the eight northeastern states of India, is globally recognized as a component of the Eastern Himalaya biodiversity hotspot (Myers *et al*., 2000). Its diverse altitudinal gradients and varied forest types from tropical to alpine support a remarkably rich assemblage of flora and fauna, including numerous endemic and threatened species (Mao and Hegde, 2002; Choudhury, 2013). Kurung Kumey is relatively underexplored district. In the present study, the occurrence of *Thysia wallichii* Hope, 1831 is reported from Sangram circle, Kurung Kumey district (Fig. 1), one of the 27 districts of Arunachal Pradesh. This species is a member of the family Cerambycidae, a highly diverse group within the order Coleoptera, encompassing more than 36,000 recognized species distributed globally under 5,000 genera (Lawrence, 1982; Švácha and Lawrence, 2014).

During a faunistic survey conducted in Sangram circle Kurung Kumey (formerly known as Lower Subansiri district), Arunachal Pradesh, a male adult specimen of *T. wallichii* was collected from outside old wooden logs by Temjenmongla and team in March 2025 from Leel village, Sangram circle. Identification was carried out following the keys and diagnostic characters described by Stebbing (1914), Beeson (1941) and Sengupta and Sengupta (1981). The specimen is housed in the National Zoological Collection of the Arunachal Pradesh Regional Centre, Zoological Survey of India, Itanagar. The map of the collection locality was generated using the open-source QGIS software

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(version 3.22.0). Location coordinates for the distribution site (Fig. 1) was obtained with the aid of a GPS (Garmin Oregon 550).

Systematic Account

Tribe: Ceroplesini Thomson, 1860; Genus: *Thysia* Thomson, 1860.

Thysia wallichii Hope, 1831 (Figs. 2, 3)

Lamia wallichi Hope, 1831. The Zoological Miscellany 1: 27.

Thysia wallichi Thomson, 1861. Essai d'une classification de la famille des Cérambycides, et matériaux pour *servir à une monographie de* cette famille 404pp.

Material examined: 01♂, Reg. No. ZSI/APRC/IV-7290, 25.iii.2025, India, Arunachal Pradesh, Kurung Kumey Dist., Sangram, Leel village, 27.84232°N, 93.4577°E; 915m asl., Coll. Temjenmongla & party.

Diagnostic features: Antennae with 10 segments, greenish and ornamented with tufts of long silky black pubescence; total body length 25 mm; elytra exhibiting a dull metallic bluish to bronzy-green to purplish coloration covered with minute, dense, scale-like pubescence that produces a variable iridescence under light; head length 7 mm, prognathous, brownish with green and purple lustre with finely facetted eyes. Prothorax greenish with a pair of small somewhat blunt median spines along its lateral margins. The scutellum is broad and slightly narrowed posteriorly, brownish with a purple lustre. Elytra elongate and parallel sided, each bearing a pair of rounded spots covered with long black erect hairs and a transverse velvety-black band on the posterior half. The legs are glossy

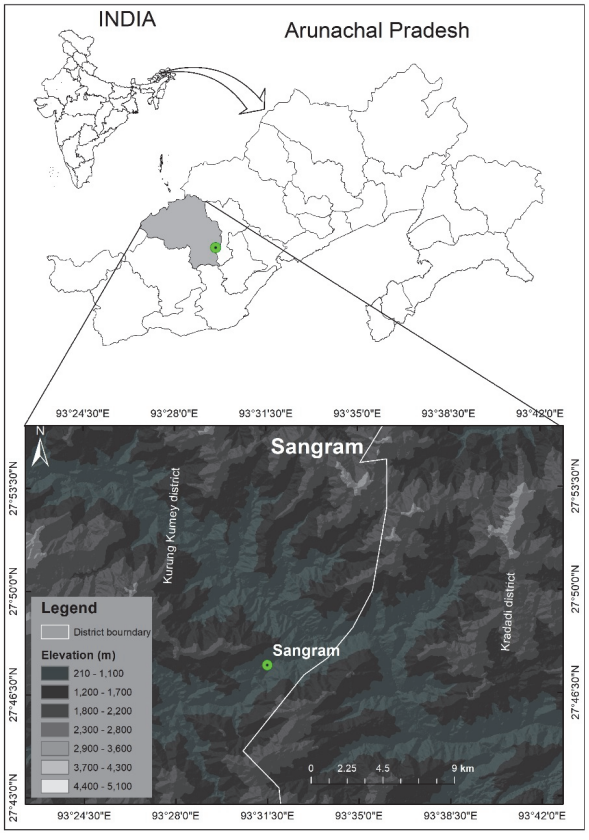

Fig. 1 Map of Sangram circle in Kurung Kumey district, Arunachal Pradesh

Fig. 2 Dorsal view of *T. wallichii* (Live specimen);

Fig. 3 Ventral view of *T. wallichii* (Preserved specimen)

indigo-green and comparatively short (Stebbing, 1914; Beeson, 1941; Sengupta and Sengupta, 1981).

Distribution: India: Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Sikkim (Sengupta and Sengupta, 1981, Mitra *et al*., 2017b) as well as West Bengal (Mitra, 2015), Bihar, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh (Saha *et al*., 2013).

Elsewhere: Borneo, China (Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Sichuan, Yunnan), Iran, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand and Vietnam (Özdikmen *et al*., 2009, Kariyanna *et al*., 2017, Mitra *et al*., 2016).

The record of *T. wallichii* from Sangram circle, Kurung Kumey district, represents the first confirmed occurrence of this species from the area, extending its known distribution within Arunachal Pradesh. *Thysia wallichii* Hope, 1831 was first reported by Sengupta & Sengupta (1981) from the Kameng division of Arunachal Pradesh (now bifurcated into West and East Kameng districts) under the name *Diastocera wallichii* Hope, 1831, based on a specimen collected by K.C.J in 1961. The species has now been recorded by the present authors from Kurung Kumey district, which was originally part of the Subansiri Frontier Division, later renamed Lower Subansiri district. On 1st April 2001, Kurung Kumey was created as a separate district by bifurcating Lower Subansiri. This district lies adjacent to the Kameng districts. The present finding represents a new locality record within Arunachal Pradesh but does not necessarily indicate an extension of the species distributional range. Being a relatively uncommon longhorn beetle (Kariyanna *et al*., 2017; Mitra *et al*., 2017a; Kiewhuo *et al*., 2024), its presence in this remote locality highlights the largely unexplored entomofaunal richness of Arunachal Pradesh. It is the sole representative of the monotypic genus *Thysia*, although it is occasionally recorded under the synonym *Diastocera wallichii* (Thomson, 1857).

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