



Report of *Nonartha birmanicum* (Jacoby) (Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae) on mango inflorescence

J. Nayanathara* and R. Narayana

Department of Agricultural Entomology, College of Agriculture, Vellayani, Thiruvananthapuram
695522, Kerala, India.

Email: jnayanathara@gmail.com; narayana.r@kau.in

ABSTRACT: *Nonartha birmanicum* (Jacoby) from the tribe Aliticini, is reported on mango for the first time. The chrysomelid beetles were found in abundance; nearly around 60 to 90 numbers on a panicle in full bloom stage. The beetle population was spotted particularly during the month of November, on the panicles in full bloom. These are bluish-black minute beetles and were noticed feeding mainly on pollen.
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KEY WORDS: New report, bloom panicles, floral pollen

Mango is one among the predominant fruits of twenty first century. The delicious fruit is renowned for its aroma and flavor with blended nutritional benefits (Dhenge *et al.*, 2022). Mango production and cultivation has turned out to be a hopeful venture in the global scenario. India with a share of more than 54 per cent is one of the leading mango producers (Tharanathan *et al.*, 2006). The crop suffers heavy incidence of invasion from insect and non insect species of varying orders comprising Coleoptera, Lepidoptera, Thysanoptera and Hemiptera (Kannan *et al.*, 2002).

Mango panicles/ inflorescence samples were collected from Athiyannur block (8° 25' 21. 71'' N; 76° 58' 37. 23" E) of Thiruvananthapuram district in Kerala. As a part of it, insect species from different orders were recorded and documented. Copious amount of minute bluish black beetles, of around 60 to 90 beetles from a full bloom panicle/ inflorescence were noticed from the collected samples. They were mainly feeding on the floral pollen. The insect was identified as *Nonartha*

birmanicum (Jacoby), belonging to the tribe Aliticini of Chrysomelidae under Coleoptera. The beetle population was spotted particularly during the month of November, on the panicles in full bloom.

The incidence of *N. birmanicum* on mango as a host plant was noticed for the first time. There were reports of *N. cyaneum* on host plants of *Besella rubra*, *Hibiscus syriacus*, *Prunus tomentosa*, *Pyracantha angustifolia*, *Rosa borboniana*, *Spiraea thunbergii*, *Itea parviflora*, *Lythrum anceps*, *Swida stolonifera*, *Syringa vulgaris*, *Vitex cannabifolia*, *Cirsium nipponica*, *Baccharis trimera*, *Stenactis annuus* and *Liriope platyphylla* in Japan. They were primarily considered as floral visitors in these hosts (Kakutani *et al.*, 1990). *N. patkia* reported in India was under the Wildlife protection Act (1972) (Kriti and Sidhu, 2015).

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* Author for correspondence

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