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# Journal of Threatened Taxa



Open Access

10.11609/jott.2025.17.1.26331-26442

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26 January 2025 (Online & Print)

17(1): 26331-26442

ISSN 0974-7907 (Online)

ISSN 0974-7893 (Print)

zOreach @ 40





ISSN 0974-7907 (Online); ISSN 0974-7893 (Print)

Publisher  
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[www.wild.zooreach.org](http://www.wild.zooreach.org)

Host  
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continued on the back inside cover

Cover: Illuminating the cruelty of Pangolin trade in India for the purpose of black magic, for the sanctity of protection. Using an animal's shell, ripping its armor against the world to protect oneself. When does one become the evil they are trying to ward off? — Acrylic on wood. © Maya Santhanakrishnan.



and terminologies used follow Ahrens & Fabrizi (2016). The specimen was studied under a Leica EZ 4 E stereozoom microscope with a photographic facility. The images were stacked using Combine ZP software and then processed with Adobe Photoshop CS Version 8. To study the males, the genitalia was carefully removed from the abdomen. Then, it was boiled in 10% KOH for 5–10 minutes to remove the adhered tissues and soft muscles and rinsed with distilled water. The genitalia was stored in separate vials containing 70% ethanol with the same catalogue number as the specimen. The identified specimens were duly labelled and deposited in the National Zoological Collections of the Zoological Survey of India, Western Regional Centre, Pune.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The three beetles identified in this study are *Maladera keralensis* (Frey, 1972), *Maladera burmeisteri alternans* (Frey, 1975), and *Neoserica grava* Ahrens & Fabrizi, 2016.

### Systematic account

Order Coleoptera Linnaeus, 1758

Superfamily Scarabaeoidea Latreille, 1802

Family Scarabaeidae Latreille, 1802

Subfamily Melolonthinae Leach, 1819

Tribe Sericini Kirby, 1837

### Genus *Maladera* Mulsant & Rey, 1871

#### 1. *Maladera keralensis* (Frey, 1972) (Image 1A–D)

*Autoserica keralensis* Frey 1972, *Entomologische*

*Arbeiten aus dem Museum Frey* 23: 186.

*Maladera keralensis*: Krajcik, 2012, *Animma. X*, supplement 5: 154.

*Maladera keralensis* Ahrens & Fabrizi, 2016, *Bonn Zoological Bulletin* 65 (1 & 2): 197.

**Material examined:** Male, India, South Goa, Aranyak Nature campsite, 28.v.2023, coll. A.S. Kalawate (ZSI-WRC-ENT-1/4736); Male, India, Karnataka, Nagzari watch tower, KTR, Uttara Kannada, 08.vi.2022, coll. A.S. Kalawate (ZSI-WRC-ENT-1/4741); Male, India, Karnataka, Mandurli FRH, KTR, Uttara Kannada, 09.vi.2022, coll. A.S. Kalawate (ZSI-WRC-ENT-1/4742).

Male genitalia (Image 1): Length, 3.30 mm; width, 0.869 mm. Sclerotised; phallobase longer than parameres; Right distal phallobasal apodeme is solid invagination and hence the phallobase is not movable, position of placement of parameres medially.

Distribution: India: Goa (present study), Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra (Ahrens & Fabrizi 2016).

Remark: Endemic to India. New record to Goa.

#### 2. *Maladera burmeisteri alternans* (Frey, 1975) (Image 2A–D)

*Autoserica alternans* Frey, 1975, *Entomologische Arbeiten aus dem Museum Frey* 26: 186.

*Maladera alternans*: Krajcik, 2012, *Animma. X*, supplement 5: 154.

*Maladera burmeisteri alternans*, Ahrens & Fabrizi, 2016, *Bonn zoological Bulletin* 65 (1 & 2): 186.

**Material examined:** Male, India, South Goa, Aranyak Nature campsite, 30-v-2023, coll. A.S. Kalawate (ZSI-

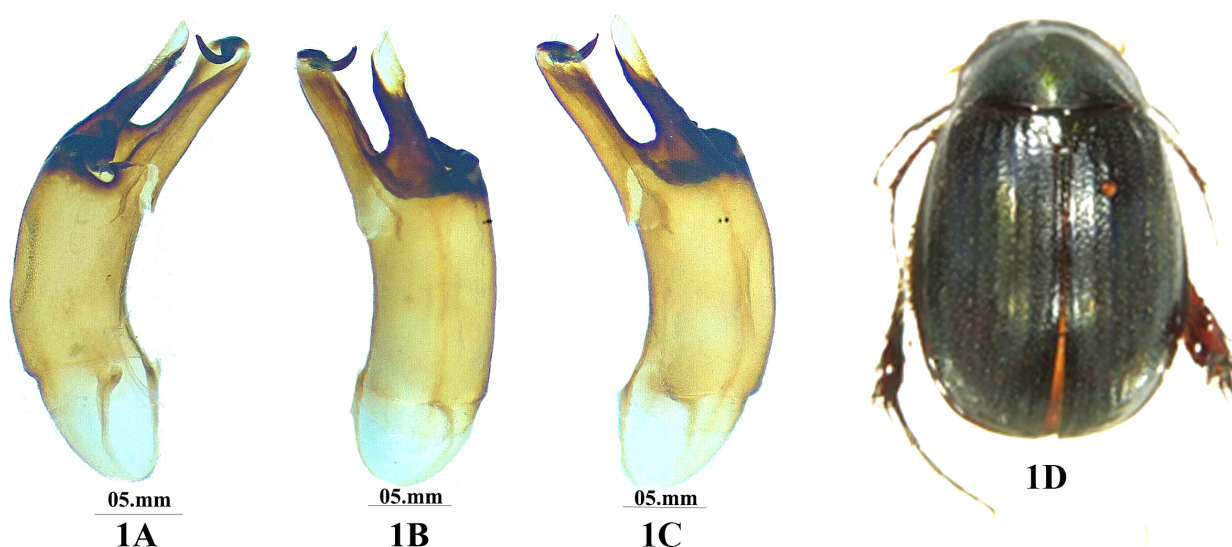


Image 1A–D. *Maladera keralensis*: A—aedeagus in lateral view (left) | B—aedeagus in dorsal view | C—aedeagus in lateral view (right) | D—habitus, dorsal view adult. © Aparna Kalawate.

WRC-ENT-1/4737); Male, India, Maharashtra, Waki, Yawal, Jalgaon, 22-vi-2021, coll. S.S. Talmale (ZSI-WRC-ENT-1/4738); Male, India, Maharashtra, Bhosgaon, Patan, Satara, 15-vii-2017, coll. A.S. Kalawate (ZSI-WRC-ENT-1/4739); Male, India, Maharashtra, Ambegaon, Pune, 23-vi-2017, coll. A.S. Kalawate (ZSI-WRC-ENT-1/4740); Male, India, Karnataka, Kulgi Nature Camp, Uttara Kannada, 10-vi-2022, coll. A.S. Kalawate (ZSI-WRC-ENT-1/4745); Male, India, Karnataka, Mandurli, FRH, KTR, Uttara Kannada, 09-vi-2022, coll. A.S. Kalawate (ZSI-WRC-ENT-1/4746); Male, India, Karnataka, Kumberli, Phansoli range, Nala, Uttara Kannada, 11-vi-2022, coll. A.S. Kalawate (ZSI-WRC-ENT-1/4747); Male, India, Karnataka, Nagzari watch tower, KTR, Uttara Kannada, 08-vi-2022, coll. A.S. Kalawate (ZSI-WRC-ENT-1/4748); Male, India, Maharashtra, Karanjpani, Yawal, Jalgaon, 21-vi-2021, coll. S.S. Talmale (ZSI-WRC-ENT-1/4749); Male, India, Maharashtra, Dhebewadi, FRH, Bhosgaon, Satara, 02-iii-2017, coll. S.R. Patil (ZSI-WRC-ENT-1/4750).

Male genitalia (Image 2): Length, 2.65 mm; width, 1.11 mm. Sclerotised; phallobase broader towards the apex and narrowed towards the base; distal median lobe of phallobase fused with the more basal portion of the phallobase; basally left paramere not widened.

Distribution: India: Goa (present study), Maharashtra (present study), Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu (Ahrens & Fabrizi 2016), Madhya Pradesh (Chandra et al. 2021)); Nepal (Ahrens & Fabrizi 2016).

Remark: New Record to Goa and Maharashtra.

### Genus *Neoserica* Brenske, 1894

#### 3. *Neoserica grvida* Ahrens & Fabrizi, 2016 (Image 3A–D)

*Neoserica grvida* Ahrens & Fabrizi, 2016, *Bonn Zoological Bulletin* 65 (1 & 2): 76–77.

**Material examined.** Male, India, South Goa, Aranyak Nature campsite, 30.v.2023, coll. A.S. Kalawate (ZSI-WRC-ENT-1/4735); Male, India, Karnataka, Nagzari watch tower, KTR, Uttara Kannada, 08.vi.2022, coll. A.S. Kalawate (ZSI-WRC-ENT-1/4743); Male, India, Karnataka, Mandurli FRH, KTR, Uttara Kannada, 09.vi.2022, coll. A.S. Kalawate (ZSI-WRC-ENT-1/4744).

Male genitalia (Image 3): Length, 5.00 mm; width, 1.90 mm. Extremely sclerotized; parameres are extremely sclerotised, long, slender, and sharp, without lateral teeth externally, and equal to the length of the phallobase.

Distribution: India: Karnataka (Ahrens & Fabrizi 2016), Goa (present study).

Remark: New record to Goa. Endemic to India.

### CONCLUSIONS

From the studied specimens, two beetles, *Maladera keralensis* (Frey, 1972) and *Neoserica grvida* Ahrens & Fabrizi, 2016 are endemic to India. In the collections from the three states, *Maladera burmeisteri alternans* is found to be the most dominant beetle. Earlier records show that these species were mostly confined to southern India. It may due to less studies undertaken on this particular fauna from other regions of India. The



Image 2A–D. *Maladera burmeisteri alternans*: A—male aedeagus in lateral view (left) | B—male aedeagus in dorsal view | C—male aedeagus in lateral view (right) | D—adult beetle, dorsal view. © Aparna Kalawate.

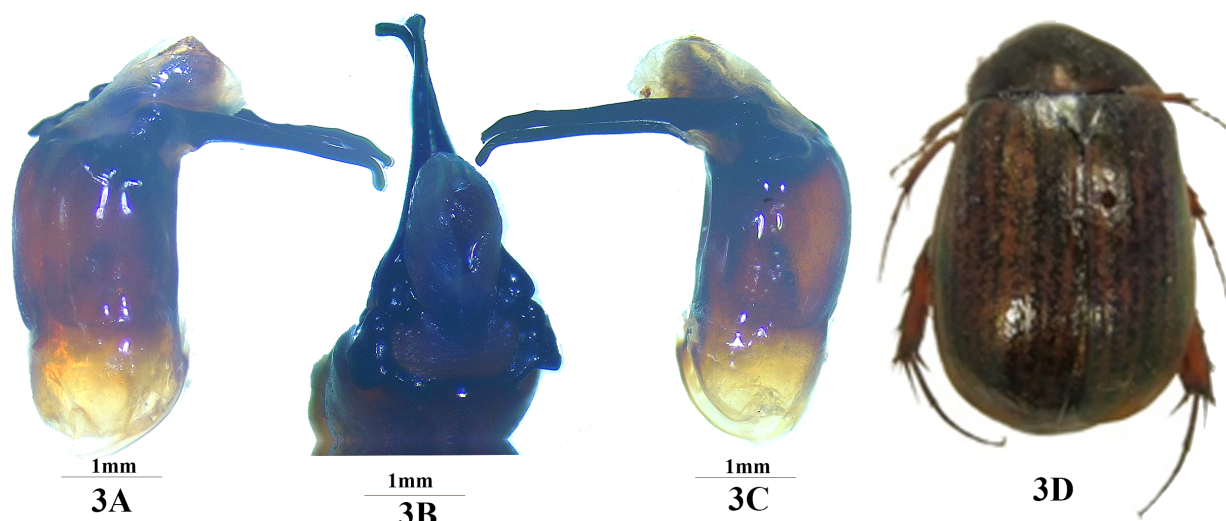


Image 3A–D. *Neoserica grvida*: A—aeedeagus in lateral view (left) | B—aeedeagus in dorsal view | C—aeedeagus in lateral view (right) | D—habitus, dorsal view adult. © Aparna Kalawate.

reason behind this is the Linnean and the Wallacean Shortfall. The Linnean shortfall is created when there is lack of taxonomic work in a particular group. On the other hand, when a group of organism lacks its distribution data a Wallacean Shortfall is created. In case of SCB group both these shortfalls are responsible for less data. This paper is a small attempt towards filling the gap areas towards these shortfalls and to generate the data for the secondary users like agriculturist, farmers, students, and researchers as these beetles are phytophagous pest. Hence, the need of the hour is to increase the taxonomic studies, expeditions, and funding to undertake such studies.

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Print copies of the Journal are available at cost. Write to:  
The Managing Editor, JoTT,  
c/o Wildlife Information Liaison Development Society,  
3A2 Varadarajulu Nagar, FCI Road, Ganapathy, Coimbatore,  
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**Journal of Threatened Taxa** is indexed/abstracted in Bibliography of Systematic Mycology, Biological Abstracts, BIOSIS Previews, CAB Abstracts, EBSCO, Google Scholar, Index Copernicus, Index Fungorum, JournalSeek, National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, NewJour, OCLC WorldCat, SCOPUS, Stanford University Libraries, Virtual Library of Biology, Zoological Records.

NAAS rating (India) 5.64



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ISSN 0974-7907 (Online) | ISSN 0974-7893 (Print)

January 2025 | Vol. 17 | No. 1 | Pages: 26331–26442

Date of Publication: 26 January 2025 (Online & Print)

DOI: 10.11609/jott.2025.17.1.26331-26442

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