

New record of *Scirpophaga fusciflua* Hampson from North India

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White stem borer is the species of increasing significance in rice though its dominance has neither been consistent nor widespread. But, in certain pockets of Kerala in southern India and Himachal Pradesh in the hills of northern India, it is continuously present. However confusion and misconceptions exist in the precise identification of white stem borer species prevalent in different ecosystems of the country. The adult insects were collected either from the fluorescent tubes or by using a portable light trap fitted with mercury vapour lamp (125W), especially designed by Common (1959) for the collection of Lepidopteran fauna. The collected insect specimens were kept individually in corked glass tubes and the insect specimens were killed and used for wing and genitalia studies. The wings were prepared as described by Zimmerman (1978) and genitalia slides prepared as per Robinson (1976).

Material examined: Himachal Pradesh: Dist. Kangra Malan, 2006, 5 & 3 ; 2007, 6 & 8 ; 2008, 2 & 2 , 2009, 2 & 11 ; 2010, 5 & 9 ; 2011 & 12 & 9 ; 2011, Chatha, J&K ; 2011, 8 & 3 , Ludhiana, Punjab; 2011, 12 & 8 ; Kaul, Haryana; 2011, 2 & 5 . The specimens were identified from keys of pyralid borers and *Scirpophaga* genera (Lewvanich, 1981; Arora, 2000)

Lewvanich (1981) and Arora (2000) recorded the specimens from Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. Most of the examined in this study were found to contain single frenulum spines in females, smaller labial palpi and R₁ curved in forewing towards Sc. Besides, all male specimens were found to have bifid subteguminal process. The specimens were thus

References

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