



# New Record of *Kalidasa Lanata* (Drury, 1773) From *Ailanthus Triphysa* in Kerala, India

Deepakkumar R\*

Department of Forest Management and Utilisation, College of Forestry, KAU, Thrissur – 680656, Kerala

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### ABSTRACT

*Ailanthus triphysa* is a multipurpose tree which is affected by the number of pests. The sap sucking bug called *Kalidasa lanata* (Drury, 1773) is newly recorded from *Ailanthus triphysa* (Dennst.) Alston. It was belonging to the order *Hemiptera* and family *Fulgoridae*. Adult body length  $38\pm 3$ mm. Tegmina of bug was pale greenish-testaceous in colour with numerous black spots and one third of tegmina tip is ashy coloured band with small numerous black spots. Abdomen is red in colour. This paper presents detailed taxonomic characters of the species and a list of species reported in the family *Fulgoridae* from Kerala.

## 1. Introduction

*Ailanthus triphysa* is a medium sized evergreen tree widely cultivated in Indian humid tropics (Kumar *et al.* 2001). Since it has greater growth rates, less space, ready market, significant revenue and adaptability in various traditional Agroforestry systems like home gardens and coffee based Agroforestry make this species as more attractive to the farmers (Kumar, 2011). Also, there is huge demands from their wood for matchwood and plywood industries also largely encourages cultivating this trees outside the forest areas (Kumar *et al.* 2001). While making improved rill incision on trunks of tree will ooze oleo-resin which is widely used in pharmaceuticals and agarbatti industries in India. It is commonly affected by the two pest viz., shoot webber (*Alteva fabriella*) and defoliator (*Eligma narcissus*) (Orwa *et al.* 2009). However, the objective of current study was to find out the new minor sucking bugs from Halmaddi (*Ailanthus triphysa*).

## 2. Materials and Methods

A field survey is aimed to improvement of resin tapping techniques from *Ailanthus triphysa* plantation occurs in Vellanikkara, Thrissur during November 2015 to till now. While oleoresin tapping, it was observed that

abnormal behaviour of the bug during April 2017. So, the bugs were collected using the sweeping net. It was preserved into a bottle containing 40% ethanol soaked with cotton and stored in laboratory for identification. The morphological character of adults was observed and identified by referring “the fauna of British India (Distant, 1906). Fully developed adult was measured in mm by ruler. It also conformed to prominent entomologist in IFGTB, Coimbatore and KFRI, Thrissur, India.

## 3. Results and Discussion

The collected bug is a sap sucking bug *Kalidasa lanata* (Drury, 1773) from *Ailanthus triphysa* (Simaroubaceae) for the first time in Thrissur, Kerala (Fig. 1). *Kalidasa lanata* belongs to the order *Hemiptera* and family *Fulgoridae*. Adult body length (Apex to tip of anal appendage)  $38\pm 3$ mm; tegmina  $39\pm 2$ mm; wing span  $81\pm 2$ mm and hind wing  $33\pm 3$ mm. It is smaller than *Kalidasa nigromaculata* (Distant, 1906). A long slender mobile and reflexed head is emitting from the base of the face. Tegmina of bug was pale greenish-testaceous in colour with numerous black spots and ground colour in reverse side. One third of tegmina tip had ashy colour band with small numerous black spots. Piceous suffusion in sternum. Rostrum reaches the abdominal anal appendages which is a slender, flexible, black coloured stalk-like rostrum arising from above snout tip. These characters are almost coinciding with notes of “The fauna of British India” (Distant, 1906; Bourgoin, 2017).

\*Corresponding author: [deepakkumarforestry@gmail.com](mailto:deepakkumarforestry@gmail.com)



### Conclusion

From this study, it can be concluded that there are number of pests affecting *Ailanthus triphysa*. The minor sap sucking bug *Kalidasa lanata* (Drury, 1773) from *Ailanthus triphysa* (Simaroubaceae) for the first time in Thrissur, Kerala.

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