

First Record of New Species of Whitegrubs in Gujarat

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* Several species of whitegrubs are destructive to crops in various parts of India. Four species of whitegrubs viz., *Holotrichia consanquinea* Blanchard, *Holotrichia fregei* Mittel, *Holotrichia serrata* Fabricius and *Maladera nathani* Frey have been reported damaging various crops in central Gujarat (Patel et al., 1982 and Anonymous, 1984). Authentic record of whitegrub species occurring in north Gujarat is not available in literature except that of *H. consanquinea* (Patel et al., 1995). Therefore, scarabaeid beetles were collected by operating a light trap during *kharif* 1997-98 to monitor incidence of different species of whitegrubs at Gujarat Agricultural University, Sardar Krushinagar in north Gujarat. The taxonomic studies revealed an occurrence of a total of 14 species of whitegrubs. Out of these, eight species

belonging to sub-family melolonthinae viz., *Apogonia* sp., *Autoserica calcuttae* Brenske, *Autoserica nagporeana* Brenske, *Cyphochelus* sp., *Holotrichia reynaudi* Blanchard, *Holotrichia tetarana* Brenske, *Holotrichia consanquinea* Blanchard and *Schizonycha ruficollis* Fabricius and six species belonging to sub-family rutelinae viz., *Adoretus bicolor* Brenske, *Adoretus versutus* Harold, *Anomala bengalensis* Blanchard, *Anomala dorsalis* Fabricius, *Anomala* sp. and *Mimela macleayana* (Vigor). Scanning of published literature revealed that all thirteen species other than *H. consanquinea*, were not reported hitherto from Gujarat State. This is therefore, the first record of the occurrence of these new species from the Gujarat State. Similar studies are needed to record the vast array of whitegrub species occurring in other regions of the State.

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