

Wright, have been recorded by Bartsch<sup>2</sup> (1922) in his *Monograph of American Shipworms*. Elsewhere, it has been recorded from the Philippines, Australia, Tavoy in Burma and Singapore (Malaya).

It is interesting to note that a single specimen of *Bactronophorus thoracites* (Gould) was obtained for the first time during May 1955, from a beam of *Tectona grandis*, from Sewree Timber Pond, on the east coast of Bombay (Island). It measured about 100 mm. long and 12.5 mm. in width. It has a close resemblance to *Teredo* in its external features, except that its pallets bear typical stilt-like processes at the ends (Fig. 1). Later collections in the same locality, brought out the occurrence of this genus twice, during the year 1956, once during October and again during November, though only a single specimen was collected in each month. These two specimens appeared remarkably stunted in growth, each measuring about 44.5 mm. long and 12.5 mm. in breadth (Fig. 1).

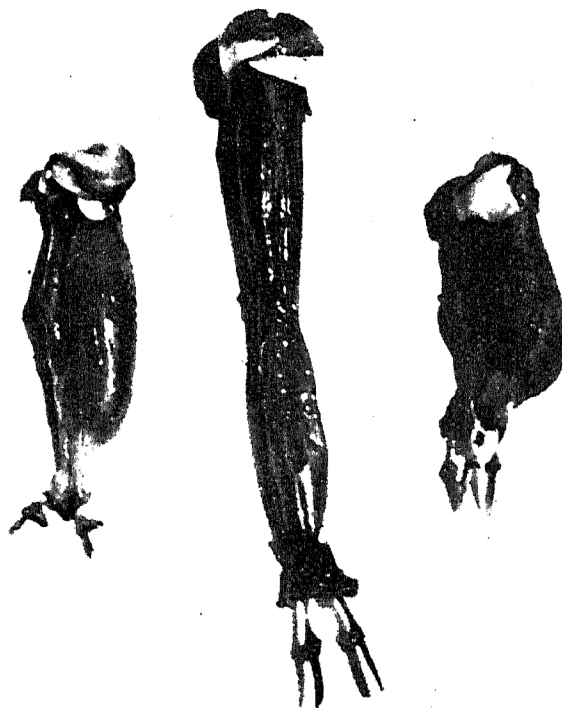


FIG. 1

They were carefully removed from fairly hard timbers, one from *Tectona grandis* and the other from *Terminalia* sp.

Since their first record from living mangrove trees (West Bengal), subsequent efforts were made to collect them from mangrove in the Southern and Northern parts of Bombay (Island), but without success. However, the dead stems of the mangrove trees were generally found to be severely infested by species

#### OCCURRENCE OF *BACTRONOPHORUS THORACITES* (GOULD), A MARINE WOOD BORER, IN BOMBAY

THE occurrence of *Bactronophorus thoracites* from India as a pest on living and dead trees in the mangrove swamp forests of the 24-Parganas Forest Division in the Sunderbans, West Bengal, observed by Dr. M. L. Roonwal,<sup>1</sup> Director, Zoological Survey of India, has been noted with great interest. Since no Teredinid borers have so far been known to attack living trees, this is perhaps the first record in this respect. Nagabhushanam (*vide* Roonwal, 1954, 98), mentions its occurrence in Visakhapatnam harbour (Andhra State), on the bottoms of catamarans. In no other place in India this species has been reported to be as destructive to living trees or timber under seawater as in the Sunderban Swamp Forests of West Bengal.

Two species of the genus *Bactronophorus*, namely, *B. thoracites*, Gould and *B. australis*,

of *Bankia* and *Teredo*. This indicated a great affinity of shipworms to dried mangrove trees.

Wood Preservation Centre, V. C. PALEKAR.

(F.R.I., Dehra Dun),

Dept. of Zoology,

D. V. BAL.

Institute of Science,

Bombay, July 24, 1957.

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