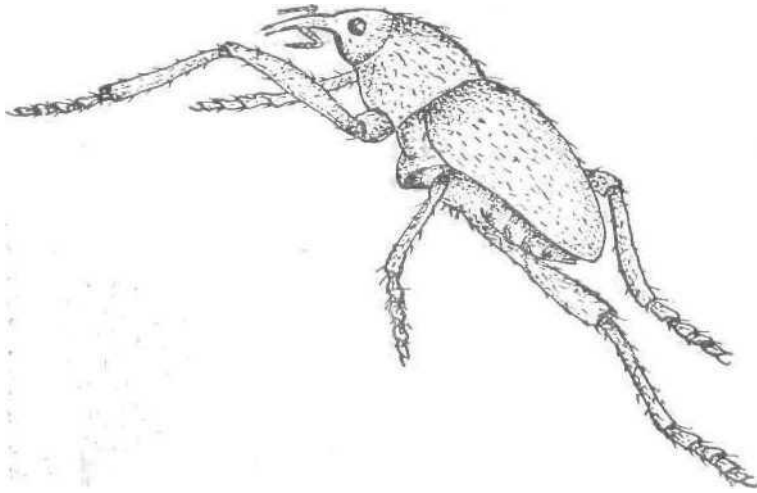


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### NOTE ON A NEW PEST OF *SALVINIA* Sp (AFRICAN PAYAL) IN KERALA

A weevil pest *Baxous* sp (Order: Coleoptera, Family: Curculionidae) has been recorded on *Salvinia* sp from Trichur District, Kerala State for the first time.

The adult weevil is 2.5 to 3.5 mm. in length and 1 to 2 mm. in breadth and is dark brown in colour with small grayish white hairs all over the body (Fig. 1). The adults are generally sluggish and found on the upper surface of the leaves of the water weed.



The grubs of the weevil are seen mining into the tender leaves of *Salvinia*, making tunnels in the leaves and feeding from within. The adults cut circular holes of size 1 to 2.5 mm. diameter on the leaves. One adult weevil on an average makes 12 to 18 such holes on a single cluster during a day. The infested leaves gradually lose their turgidity.

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