

**A STUDY ON THE OVIPOSITOR OF *PTINUS TECTUS* BOIELDIEU
(COLEOPTERA : PTINIDAE)**

V. K. Ganesalingam

(Dept. of Zoology, University of Jaffna)

Ptinus tectus Soic. is a pest of stored products. Although much work has been done on its biology, the structure and mechanism of its ovipositor has not been studied.

◊ This study was made by making a whole mount of the insect, microscopic sectioning and scanning of the ovipositor by stereoscan electron microscope.

The vagina tapers into the ovipositor posteriorly. When not in use the ovipositor is retracted and concealed inside the oviposition chamber, forming a double walled tube.

Internally the ovipositor has numerous infoldings and its wall contains longitudinal muscles. The ovipositor has two hemisternites dorsally, each possessing a stylet and a single lobe ventrally. The vulva lies between the two hemisternites and the ventral lobe.

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The distal region of the hemisternites and the stylets possess structures presumably the sensory organs. They are in the form of pegs, papillae or setae. The distal end of the ventral lobe carries two spines pointing posteriorly.

Prominent genital muscles are attached to the ovipositor. A pair of prominent longitudinal muscles originate from the apex of the apedome, diverge posteriorly and insert themselves into either side of the base of the ovipositor.