

APONECyna SALTATOR (F) (COLEOPTERA: CERAMBYCIDAE),
A STEM-BORER OF SNAKE GOURD.

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Aponecyna saltator (F) which was not previously reported from Sri Lanka was observed for the first time attacking snake-gourd vines in Kelaniya. The adult female is 10 - 12 mm in length and 3.5 - 4.0 mm in width at its widest point while the male is smaller measuring 8 - 10 mm in length and 3.0 - 3.5 mm in width. Both are brown in colour. The sexes could be distinguished from the number of white spots found on each elytrum - the female has 19 - 21 spots whereas the male has only 14 - 16. The preoviposition period is around 18 days. The fecundity, under laboratory conditions ranged from 27 - 67. Eggs are inserted singly into the stem tissue at right angles to the stem surface. Incubation period is 3 - 6 days. There are six larval instars. The duration of larval period is 32 - 39 days. The larvae live and feed within the stem. When fully fed, the sixth instar larva severs the stem at either end of its tunnel causing the tenanted place of stem to drop to the ground. Pupation takes place within this place of stem. The pupal period is 6 - 8 days. The longevity of adult is 6 - 7 weeks.