

## A Host Plant Record of *Hoshihananomia auromaculata* (Coleoptera, Mordellidae)

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*Hoshihananomia auromaculata* (CHŪJŌ), a large beautiful mordellid beetle is found in Japan (Hokkaido to the Ryukyu Islands), Taiwan, and Thailand (TAKAKUWA, 2006). The adults of *H. auromaculata* can be collected from flowers of several tree species (TAKAKUWA, 2006), but the host plant of its larval stage has hitherto been unknown. We had a chance to find the host plant of *H. auromaculata* larvae in the Kinki District, Central Japan.

We found *H. auromaculata* adults resting on a rotten log of *Sapium sebiferum* (Euphorbiaceae) at the Wakakusa-yama hill, Nara City, Central Japan on a sunny day, on the 4th of July 1996. The rotten wood was located on the ground at a forest edge, and was 83 cm in length and 30 cm in diameter. Periphery of the wood was well rotten but the core part was still relatively hard. Six adults were collected by searching the surface of the wood. We then removed the bark from the log and collected 15 adults from under the bark. In addition, ca. 10–20 pupae and ca. 10 mature larvae of *H. auromaculata* were found. Cylindrical pupal cells were formed vertical to the bark, with pupal heads and heads of new adults facing the bark. Adults appeared to exit the rotten wood easily by breaking the bark. These observations indicate that *S. sebiferum* is the host plant for *H. auromaculata* larvae.

*Sapium sebiferum* is an exotic tree originally from China whose seeds are easily dispersed by birds and its saplings are avoided by the Japanese deer *Cervus nippon centralis* (MAESAKO, 2001). Therefore, the numbers of this tree species are increasing in Japan. It is very likely that *H. auromaculata* also uses other species of trees for its development. To clarify the host range of larval stages of this species, further studies are required.

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### References

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