

HABIT AND HABITAT

The representatives of Silvanidae are found in a wide variety of habitats and commonly feed on fungus. Most of the Silvanidae are subcorticolous, found under the bark of fallen trees and logs. Monophagy, corresponding to strict host plant specificity is comparatively rare in Silvanidae. Halstead (1973) reported that fungal spores were observed in the gut of specimens, suggesting that mould occurs in the subcorticolous habitat may form part of their diet. He noted that in Europe and North America the species of Silvanus Latreille are usually prevalent beneath the bark of deciduous trees, chiefly Oak (Quercus spp.) and sweet chestnut (Castanea spp.) and less commonly under bark of Pine (Pinus spp.), whereas African and Oriental species of Silvanus have been found under bark of Ficus sp. In the present investigation the species of Silvanus have been recorded under bark of a number of plant species namely, Shorea robusta, Sterculia campanulata, Terminalia bialata, Boswellia serrata and Bombax sp. The species of Silvanoprus Reitter have been found mainly under bark of Schima wallichii and Castanopsis tribuloides. Protosilvanus Grouvelle is the most widely distributed genus and found under bark of number of plants, and Silvanoides cribricollis (Grouvelle) has been found under bark of fallen log. Several species are saprobionts and are associated with vegetable debris such as, piles of grass clipping, leaf garbage and haystack etc. Representatives of the genera Silvanoprus Reitter, Monanus Sharp, Airaphilus

Redtenbacher and Psammoecus Latreille commonly occur under haystack and leaf garbage. A few species are anthophilous or flower inhabiting, particularly the representatives of Cryptamorpha Wollaston and Silvanolomus Reitter. Monanus (Monanops) himalayicus sp. nov. has been recorded under bamboo (Bambusa aurandaceae) leaf sheath. A few species are stored grain pests namely, Oryzaephilus surinamensis (L.), O. mercator (Fauvel) and Ahasverus advena (Waltl) and whereas Silvanopsis grouvelli sp.nov. inhabits brood lac.