

# *Leucopholis* Dejean, 1833

### Taxonomy

Sub family: Melolonthinae / Tribe: Leucopholini / Genus: *Leucopholis*

### Distinguishing Features

Large ovoid/cylindrical beetles. Body length 21-38mm. Body colour ranging from grey, yellow, brown, reddish brown to black. Scales present over the body, varying in size and shape. Clypeus rounded to emarginate. Labrum deeply bi-lobed. Antennae with 10 segments, and a 3-segmented lamellate club. Prosternal process present, anteriorly ovoid to spindle-shaped, usually flattened and glabrous. Mesometasternal process present and sometimes very large, extending in front of mesocoxae and commonly glabrous. Metepisternum densely covered in scales, with setae also present near anterior margins. Metasternum more sparsely scaled and setose laterally, medially glabrous with only scattered scales. Elytra commonly with an apical knob, sometimes quite prominent. Tarsal claws with a median tooth.

### Related and Similar Species

There are around 50 species of *Leucopholis*, though little information is available for most. The genus can be readily confused with *Lepidiota*, due to overlapping features and possible widespread misplaced identifications within institutions. Species of *Leucopholis* are said to possess scales over the entirety of the body, a mesometasternal process and a flattened prosternal process. The presence or absence of body scales is variable for *Lepidiota*, and the mesometasternal process, while absent in all Australian *Lepidiota*, appears to occasionally be present in exotic *Lepidiota* species from South East Asia. Calcetas and Aldorada (2019) note some separating features for *Leucopholis* and *Lepidiota* but they are not always reliable for species found outside of the Philippines. Further work needs to be undertaken to provide clearer delineating features between the genera.

Species level identification usually requires male genitalia examination.

### Biological Data

Larvae of *Leucopholis* are root feeders, with some species significant pests of sugarcane, coffee, arecanut, rice, maize and coconut. Larval development can take 1-2 years. Adult beetles emerge after heavy rains and are active at dusk or at night. Some adults indiscriminately feed on leaves of crops such as mango, cashew and hibiscus. *L. zollantans* has been recorded heavily feeding on Mango flowers in Indonesia but not touching leaves.

### Distribution

*Leucopholis* are absent from Australia. They are found in the Oriental region, from India and across South East Asia.

### References

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*Leucopholis* sp. dorsal view

Photographer:

Pia Scanlon



*Leucopholis* sp. lateral view

Photographer:

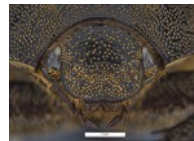
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*Leucopholis* sp. ventral view

Photographer:

Pia Scanlon



*Leucopholis* sp. head front

Photographer:

Pia Scanlon



*Leucopholis* sp. clypeus

Photographer:

Pia Scanlon



*Leucopholis rorida* dorsal view. Payalebar, Singapore. Col. K.S.Tay, March, 1962.

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Photographer:

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*Leucopholis rorida* head front view.  
Payalebar, Singapore. Col: K.S.Tay,  
March, 1962.

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*Leucopholis rorida* ventral view.  
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*Leucopholis rorida* lateral view. Payalebar,  
Singapore. Col: K.S.Tay, March, 1962.

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