

A new species of the genus *Lamprobityle* Heller, 1923 (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) from Mt. Talomo, Mindanao island, Philippines

Arvīds Barševskis, Analyn Anzano Cabras

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Lamprobityle danae sp. nov. (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae, Lamiinae) from Mt. Talomo (Mindanao Island, Philippines) is described and illustrated. For the first time, a habitat characterization of new species is given. At present, the genus *Lamprobityle* Heller, 1923 represented by 14 species and all are endemics of the Philippine archipelago.

Key words: Lamiinae, *Lamprobityle*, new species, Philippines, fauna.

Arvīds Barševskis. *Daugavpils University, Institute of Life Sciences and Technology, Coleopterological Research Center, Vienības Str. 13, Daugavpils, LV-5401, Latvia; email: arvids.barsevskis@du.lv*

Analyn Anzano Cabras. *Math and Science Department, College of Arts and Sciences Education, University of Mindanao, Matina, Davao City, 8000, Philippines; e-mail: ann.cabras24@umindanao.edu.ph*

INTRODUCTION

Biodiversity in the Philippine archipelago has been intensively studied in recent years (Cassola 2011; Cabras & Rukmane, 2016; Barševskis & Jager, 2014; Barševskis, 2014, 2017, 2018; Bollino & Sandel, 2017; Cabras et al., 2019; Medina et al., 2019). This also applies to the longhorn beetle (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) fauna (Barševskis, 2014, 2017, 2018; Cabras & Barševskis, 2016; Barševskis & Cabras, 2016). In this article a new species of the genus *Lamprobityle* Heller, 1923 from the Mt. Talomo, Mindanao Island, Philippines is described and illustrated. For the first time, a habitat characterization is given where the new species is found. Materials were collected during a joint expedition of the University of Mindanao (Davao City, Philippines) and

Daugavpils University (Daugavpils, Latvia) last April 2019 at the periphery of Mt. Talomo which belongs to a mountain range referred as Mt. Apo Natural Park (MANP). Mt. Talomo is the guardian mountain and volcanic edifice of the country's highest peak- Mt. Apo. It is virtually unexplored as compared to Mt. Apo with many species that awaits discovery. This mountain range plays key role in conservation as it is a Key Biodiversity Area, ASEAN heritage site and Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs).

The genus *Lamprobityle* belongs to the tribe Apomecynini Thomson, 1860 of the subfamily Lamiinae Latreille, 1825. In present moment genus *Lamprobityle* includes 14 species, endemic to the Philippines with very restricted distribution range.

In the past seven years, nine new species from the genus *Lamprobityle* were described (Barševskis 2014, 2017, 2018; Barševskis & Jaeger, 2014; Vives 2012, 2013, 2014).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Examination of the type specimen were made under a *Nikon SMZ745T* binocular stereomicroscope, *NIS-Elements 6D* software. Photographs were taken with a *Canon EOS 6D* camera and *Canon MP-E 65mm* macro lens, and processed using *Helicon Focus* auto montage computer software and subsequently was edited with *Photoshop CS6 Extended*. Measured were maximum body length from anterior margin of labrum to apex of elytra, but maximum body width behind the middle of elytra.

Type material of new species deposited in DUBC, Daugavpils University Coleopterological Research Center, ILGAS, Daugavpils Distr., Latvia.

RESULTS

Lamprobityle danae sp. n.

(Fig. 1)

Type material. Holotype: Male. PHILIPPINES: Mindanao Isl., / Davao del Sur, Mt. Talomo, / 27.04.2019. D.Krasnopolska leg. / [handwritten on white label]; **HOLOTYPE:** / *Lamprobityle danae* sp. n. / A.Barševskis & / A.A.Cabras descr. 2019/ [handwritten on red label].

General distribution: Philippines; Mindanao island.

Description. Body length: 10.2 mm, body width: 3.8 mm. The tegument of body black, with bluish luster. Elytra before middle with transverse white band and with sparse small spots of whitw pubescence.

Head elongated, narrower as pronotum, dorsally covered with white, sparse, very fine pubescence. Fron flat, black, with metallic bluish luster. Eyes

not extended, bilobate. Cheeks narrow, not extended, with fine and sparse pubescence. Clypeus black, narrow, shiny. Labrum black, shiny, covered with sparse pubescence and numerous long setae. Mandibles black, massive, shiny, sharp at end, but laterally with white pubescence. Antennae slender. First and second antennomeres black, shiny, with bluish metallic luster. Third antennomere black, basally with grey pubescence, apically with dark pubescence. Fourth and remaining antennomeres, dark, with fine grey pubescence, except darkened apex.

Pronotum subcylindric, slightly elongated, with parallel side. Pronotum on basal and apical margin emarginated with thin, transverse, parallel, slightly curved line. Pronotal disc with coarse punctures and pubescence, shiny, with bluish metallic luster. Pronotum is wider than head and more narrower as elytra. Basal margin of pronotum with white pubescence.

Forelegs dark, shiny, with bluish metallic luster and very fine microsculpture. Front tibia widened, flat, covered with fine pubescence and with dark dense setae. Tarsomeres metallic, shiny, covered with grey pubescence and dark setae. Middle and hind legs are yellow-red, with darkened apical part of femora and tibia and black tarsomeres.

Scutellum apically rounded, shiny, in middle portion covered with fine grey pubescence. Only small apical part of *Pars stridens* visible under basal margin of pronotum.

Elytra very convex, black, shiny. Shoulders visible, but not extended. Behind shoulders dorsally with wide extended humps. Elytra black, with bluish metallic luster. Before middle with perpendicular to suturae transverse white band. Basal third of elytra (especially in area of extended humps) with coarse punctures and dark pubescence, but behind white band with very fine white pubescence and some small white spots.

Upper side of body black, shiny, with bluish metallic luster and white pubescence.



Fig. 1. Holotype of *Lamprobityle danae* sp.n.



Fig. 2. *Lamprobityle zeltitae* Barševskis, 2016

Differential diagnosis. The new species similar to *Lamprobityle zeltitae* Barševskis, 2018 (Fig. 2) from Bukidnon, Mindanao island, but differs from it by following characters: 1) the middle and hind legs of the new species are yellow-red, but all legs of *L. zeltitae* – black; 2) transverse white band on elytra of new species perpendicular to suturae but on *L. zeltitae* – inclined; 3) tegument of new species black, with bluish metallic luster, but on *L. zeltitae* – with light bronza luster.

Etymology. The species named in honor of our colleague, collector of type specimen, Latvian botanist Dana Krasnopoļska, in appreciation of cooperation. [Dana – *danae*]

Habitat characterization. (Fig. 3 A – D)

The locality where the holotype was collected is in the periphery of Mt. Talomo which is one of the two peaks of Mt. Apo Natural Park. Mt. Talomo has 3 main vegetations namely agro-ecosystem, montane and mossy forest. The area where the new species was collected is a mixed agro-ecosystem and secondary forest with an elevation of 1260 masl at the foot of the mountain. It is adjacent to a massive banana and tiger grass (*Thysanolaena maxima*) plantation of which the latter is being used by the indigenous community (Bagobo-Klata) in producing soft broom. Some portions of the remaining secondary forests is being cleared for tiger grass plantation but despite anthropogenic disturbances several important species of flora and fauna such as *Cyathea* spp., *Angiopteris* sp., *Medinilla* spp., *Agathis philippinensis*, *Cinnamomum mercadoi*,



A



C



B

Fig. 3 A – D. Habitats of *Lamprobityle danae* sp. n. near Mt. Talomo, Mindanao isl., the Philippines (A - C: Photo: A.Barševskis; D: Photo: A.A.Cabras)



D

Pithecophaga jefferyi, *Alcedo argentata*, *Sus philippensis* among others are found in the area. The habitat of the species *Lamprobityle danae* is predominated by *Cyathea* spp. and *Thysanolaena maxima* and is characterized by a rugged terrain. Temperature in the area ranges from 26.4 to 27.9 °C during summer season and can drop to 16 °C in January due to its high elevation. Humidity is also high and ranges from 78-82% which explains its high biological diversity. Aside from its rich biodiversity, Mt. Talomo is the headwater catchment area of Talomo-Lipadas Watershed which under the law is mandated to have protection of its water resources, forests and wildlife.

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