

## Two new species of *Merionoeda* Pascoe, 1869 (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) from Palawan Island, Philippines

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Two new species of *Merionoeda* Pascoe, 1869 from the Palawan Island (Philippines) are described and illustrated: *Merionoeda borodinae* sp. nov and *M. semenyaki* sp. nov. The world fauna of *Merionoeda* by 126 species and subspecies. Additional faunistic records for *Merionoeda aurorensis* Vives, 2009 and *M. barligi* Vives, 2015 are provided.

Key words: Cerambycinae, Cleomenini, *Erythrus*, *Merionoeda*, fauna, new species, taxonomy, Philippines.

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### INTRODUCTION

The genus *Merionoeda* Pascoe, 1869 (Sternopterini Thomson, 1860) belong to the subfamily Cerambycinae Latreille, 1804. The genus *Merionoeda* is distributed in the Oriental, Afrotropical and the southern part of the Palearctic Region (Tavakilian, Chevillotte 2020).

Three species of the genus *Merionoeda* are known from the Philippines, *M. merocephala* Heller, 1916, and two species recently described by Vives (2009, 2015), *M. aurorensis* Vives, 2009 and *M. barligi* Vives, 2015.

This article presents the descriptions of two new species of *Merionoeda* both from Palawan Island in the Philippines. These species are most likely local endemics for this island. Moreover, this study provides new faunistic data about Philippine species of *Merionoeda* which were described by E. Vives.

The genus *Merionoeda* is divided into three subgenera: sensu stricto, *Macromolorchus* Pic, 1922, and *Ocytasia* Pascoe, 1869 (Tavakilian, Chevillotte 2020). Two new species of this genus belong to *Merionoeda* (s. str.). Thus, 126 species and subspecies of *Merionoeda* are currently known in the world's fauna.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

The laboratory research and measurements have been performed using Nikon AZ100, Nikon SMZ745T and Zeiss Stereo Lumar V12 digital stereomicroscopes, NIS-Elements 6D software. The habitus photograph was obtained using a digital camera Canon EOS 6D with Canon MP-E 65 mm macro lens, using Helicon Focus auto montage and subsequently edited with Photoshop. All measurements are in millimeters.

The studied materials are deposited in Daugavpils University, Institute of Life Sciences and Technologies, Coleopterological Research Center, beetles collection (DUBC).

## RESULTS

### *Merionoeda borodinae* sp. nov.

(Fig. 1)

**Type material:** HOLOTYPE, male: Philippines: Palawan isl. / Roxas, 09.2020. / local collector leg. [handwritten]; HOLOTYPE / *Merionoeda borodinae* sp. nov. / A.Barševskis det. 2021. [red, handwritten] (DUBC).

Paratypes: 1 male, 1 female: Palawan isl. / Roxas, 10.2020. / local collector leg. [handwritten]; PARATYPE / *Merionoeda borodinae* sp. nov. / A.Barševskis det. 2021 [red, handwritten] (DUBC). All type specimens are damaged.

**General distribution:** Palawan isl., Philippines.

**Description.** Body elongated, narrow. Coloration black, dorsal surface of elytra dark-brown, with two yellow elongated spots. Length: 4.3 – 4.5 mm, maximal width: 1.3 - 1.4 mm. Head flattened, relatively short, with convex, bilobate eyes. Dorsal surface of head black or dark-brown, shiny, with very sparse, fine punctures, without visible pubescence, with wide triangular impression between eyes. Labrum dark-brown, slightly pubescent, shiny. Apical margin of labrum concave. Clypeus brown, transverse, shiny. Mandibles

dark-brown, with sharp apex, massive, wide, shiny, relatively short, with lateral pubescence. Cheeks small, with sparse pubescence. Antennal bases flattened, smooth, shiny. Antennae slender, relatively long, longer than body, covered with coarse punctures and fine, sparse pubescence; antennomeres 1–4 brown or dark-brown, relatively narrow, but widened apically; remaining antennomeres widened, dark-brown, three apical antennomeres yellow. Pronotum black, cylindrical, neck-shaped narrowed and impressed in apical and basal portions, with several long and indistinct elevations on dorsal and lateral surfaces, with coarse punctation between them. Dorsal and lateral portions of pronotum without pubescence. Scutellum relatively large, rounded apically, with dense dark pubescence. *Pars stridens* not visible below base of pronotum. Elytra flattened, with very distinct and smooth shoulders humps. First half of elytra almost parallel-sided, slightly narrowed in middle. Elytra are shorter than the body. Suture short, both elytra begin to move away from each other soon behind the scutellum. Elytra dark-brown, with two elongated yellow spots. Punctation of elytra arranged in longitudinal rows. Apical margins of elytra sharp, with small and sharp apical extensions near suture. Lateroventral surface of body with dense, grey pubescence. Forelegs and middle legs black, hind legs with significantly widened apical parts of femora, with yellow-red base of each femur and dark tibia; tarsus and apical part of femora covered with very fine pubescence.

**Differential diagnosis.** Regarding the shape of the body, the new species is similar to *M. makiharai* Yokoi & Niisato, 2012 from Borneo, but differs by longer elytra and smaller yellow dorsal spot, which are shorter, more rounded for the new species, and black middle and front legs, which are brown in *M. makiharai*.

**Etymology.** This species is named after our colleague, Belarusian entomologist Olga Borodina (Daugavpils, Latvia) in appreciation of cooperation.

***Merionoeda semenyaki* sp. nov.**  
(Fig. 2)

**Type material:** HOLOTYPE, male: Philippines: Palawan isl. / Roxas, 06.2020. / local collector leg. [handwritten]; HOLOTYPE / *Merionoeda* / *semenyaki* sp. nov. / A.Barševskis det. 2021. [red, handwritten] (DUBC).

Paratypes: 1 male: Philippines: Palawan isl. / Roxas, 09.2020. / local collector leg. [handwritten]; 1 female: Philippines: Palawan isl. / Roxas, 10.2020. / local collector leg. [handwritten]; 1 female: Philippines: Palawan isl. / Roxas, 12.2020. / local collector leg. [handwritten]. All paratypes with additional red, handwritten label: PARATYPE / *Merionoeda* / *semenyaki* sp. nov.

/ A.Barševskis det. 2021 [red, handwritten] (DUBC).

**General distribution:** Palawan isl., Philippines.

**Description.** Body black, elongated, narrow, dorsal surface of elytra yellow-brown. Length: 5.34 – 5.9 mm, maximal width: 0.9 - 1.0 mm. Head flattened, relatively short, with convex, bilobate eyes. Dorsal surface of head black, shiny, with very sparse, fine punctures and without visible pubescence, with wide triangular impression between eyes. Labrum dark-brown, slightly pubescent, shiny. Apical margin of labrum concave. Clypeus brown, transverse, shiny. Mandibles black, with sharp apex, massive, wide, shiny, relatively short, with lateral pubescence. Cheeks



Fig. 1. *Merionoeda borodinae* sp. nov. (paratypus)



Fig. 2. *Merionoeda semenyaki* sp. nov. (paratypus)

small, with sparse pubescence. Antennal bases flattened, smooth, shiny. Antennae slender, relatively long, longer than body, covered with coarse punctures and fine, sparse pubescence, black, except for brown apical antennomere; antennomeres 1–4 thickened apically, relatively narrow; remaining antennomeres widened. Pronotum yellow - brown, cylindrical, neck-shaped narrowed and impressed in apical and basal portions, with several long and indistinct elevations on dorsal and lateral surfaces, with coarse punctation between them. Dorsal and lateral portions of pronotal disc without pubescence. Scutellum relatively large, rounded apically, with dense yellow pubescence. *Pars stridens* not visible below base of pronotum. Elytra flattened dorsally, with distinct, smooth

shoulders humps. Elytra almost parallel-sided, slightly narrowed in middle, shorter than the body. Suture short, both elytra begin to move away from each other soon behind the scutellum. Elytra yellow-brown. Punctation of elytra arranged in longitudinal rows, stretching almost to preapical portion. Apical margins of each elytron smooth except for sharp and small extension near suture. Lateroventral surface of body with dense, grey pubescence. Legs dichromatic, covered with very fine pubescence, with yellow-red base of femur and dark tibia, tarsus and apical part of femur.

Male unknown.

**Differential diagnosis.** Regarding the shape of the body, the new species is similar to *M. formosana* Heller, 1924 from Taiwan, China & Japan, but differs by the coloration of legs: femora of forelegs dark-brown and apical widened portion of middle and hind femora black. *Merionoeda formosana* Heller, 1924 have black thickened part of femora in hind legs only. Besides that, the new species have larger smooth apical portion of elytra compared with *M. formosana* Heller, 1924.

**Etymology.** This species is named after our colleague, Belarusian coleopterologist Alexey Semenyak (Daugavpils, Latvia) in appreciation of cooperation.

***Merionoeda aurorensis* Vives, 2009**

**Material examined:** Philippines: Luzon island, Mountain prov., Bontoc, Mainit, 01.2020 (1 female, local collector leg.), 10.2020. (1 male, 1 female, local collector leg.), 11.2020 (1 female, local collector leg.); Bontoc, Barlig, 04.2017 (1 female, local collector leg.); Quirino, Sierra Madre, 08.2014 (1 female, local collector leg.); Quirino, Madela, 08.2018 (1 male, 4 females, local collector leg.), 10.2017 (1 female, local collector leg.); Quirino, Madela, Disimongal, 10.2014 (1 female, local collector leg.), 12.2015 (1 male, local collector leg.), 04.2016 (1 male, 2 females, local collector leg.), 05.2016 (1 male, local collector leg.), 07.2016 (2, females, local collector leg.), 11.2017 (1 female, local collector leg.), 01.2020 (1 female, local collector leg.); Quirino, Tapsoy, Nagripunan, 07.2016 (1 male, 1 female, local collector leg.); Tanay, Rizal, 03.2016 (1 female, local collector leg.).

***Merionoeda barligi* Vives, 2015**

**Material examined:** Philippines: Luzon island, Ifugao, Pola, 08.2014 (1 male, local collector leg.).

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