

Two new species of the tribe Pteropliini Thomson, 1860 (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) from the Philippines

Arvīds Barševskis

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Two new species of the tribe Pteropliini Thomson, 1860 (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) from the Philippines are described and illustrated: *Pseudocomeron vitalii* sp. nov. from Leyte and *Synixais fantii* sp. nov. from Luzon. The world fauna of the genus *Pseudocomeron* Breuning, 1963 now contains two species distributed in the Philippino Archipelago, and the genus *Synixais* Aurivillius, 1911 contains eleven species distributed in the Oriental Region.

Key words: *Pseudocomeron*, *Synixais*, long-horned beetles, taxonomy, new species, Philippines.

Arvīds Barševskis, Daugavpils University, Institute of Life Sciences and Technologies, Coleopterological Research Center, Vienības Str. 13, Daugavpils, LV-5401, Latvia, e-mail: arvids.barsevskis@du.lv

INTRODUCTION

The long-horned beetles (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) of the Oriental Region is being actively studied. Nevertheless, many tribes are insufficiently known. The tribe Pteropliini is represented in the world fauna by 2118 species of 218 genera. More than half of all known species (1278 species) of this tribe are found in Asia (Roguet 2004-2021). This article presents descriptions of two new species belonging to *Pseudocomeron* Breuning, 1963 and *Synixais* Aurivillius, 1911.

The genus *Pseudocomeron* is represented in the world's fauna by the nominative species, *P. luzonicum* Breuning, 1963, which was described from Luzon (Breuning 1963). During my visit to SNSD (Senckenbergen Naturhistorische Sammlungen Dresden, Germany) some time ago, I studied the holotype of this species. New faunistic data for this species in Luzon has been

published by Vives (2017). This species is also represented in the beetle collection of the Daugavpils University (DUBC, Ilgas, Latvia). Besides that, in the present article I described and illustrated additional species for this genus, which was collected in Leyte Island (the Philippines).

The genus *Synixais* was represented in the world's fauna by ten species, distributed in the Oriental Region, four of them are known from the Philippine Archipelago (Tavakilian, Chevillotte 2021). Vives (2015) described *S. apoensis* Vives, 2015, the first species of this genus from the Philippines. Later, Barševskis (2018a, 2018b, 2019a, 2019b, 2020) published new faunistic data for this species in Mindanao. Besides that, Barševskis (2018b) *S. willietorresi* Barševskis, 2018 from Mindanao, Zamboanga del Norte, and later the same author (Barševskis 2019b) described two species: *S. mindoroensis* Barševskis, 2019 from Mindoro and *S. luzonica* Barševskis, 2019 from

Luzon. This article presents the description of a new species from Luzon. This is the second currently known species from Luzon and the fifth species of this genus from the Philippine Archipelago.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The studied material is deposited in the beetles collection of Daugavpils University, Institute of Life Sciences and Technology, Coleopterological Research Centre (DUBC; Ilgas, Daugavpils Distr., Latvia).

The laboratory research and measurements have been performed using Nikon AZ100, Nikon SMZ 745T and Zeiss Stereo Lumar V12 digital stereomicroscopes, NIS-Elements 6D software. The habitus photograph was obtained with a digital camera Canon EOS 6D with Canon MP-E 65 mm macro lens, using Helicon Focus automontage and subsequently was edited with Photoshop. All measurements are given in millimeters. In the present paper I followed the taxonomic nomenclature provided by Tavakilian, Chavillotte (2021 and Berzak (2021).

RESULTS

Synixais fantii sp. nov.
(Fig. 1)

Type material. HOLOTYPE, female: Philippines: / Luzon isl., / Nueva Viscaya, / Belance / 05.2015. loc. coll. [handwritten]; // HOLOTYPE: / *Synixais / fantii* sp. nov. / A.Barševskis det. 2021 [red label, handwritten] (DUBC).

General distribution: Philippines: Luzon island.

Description. Body length: 11.8 mm, body width: 4.1 mm. Dorsal surface of body grey, with black spots of different shapes.

Head quadrangular, transverse, flattened, with fine dorsal punctation, microsculpture and grey

tomentum. Surface of head shiny, with a lot of abradet pubescence. Eyes relatively small, not extended, markedly bilobate, upper and lower lobes connected with very thin line, poorly visible from above and therefore each lobe seems like separate eye. Cheeks narrow, not extended, without grey tomentum, with dark elongated hairs. Clypeus covered with yellow-grey pubescence. Labrum dark, with yellow-grey pubescence and long setae. Mandibles shiny, with acute apices, laterobasal parts without yellow-grey tomentum. Antennae relatively short, with dark-brown antennomeres; antennomeres 4-5 with grey pubescence in basal portions; inner side of all antennomeres with numerous long setae.

Pronotum narrower than elytra, with transverse basal impressions, covered with grey pubescence. Basal angles of pronotum rounded, not visible. Legs dark, covered with grey fine pubescence, with numerous long hairs. Tarsomeres dark, without sparse and grey pubescence on dorsal side.

Scutellum widely rounded apically, covered with dense grey pubescence, rubbed in many places. Pars stridens not visible under basal margin of pronotum.

Elytra covered with grey pubescence and black spots of different shapes. Pubescence of dorsal part of elytra in some places damaged. Lateral sides of each elytron with one black spot behind extended shoulders and with three preapical smooth spots: lateral spot U-shaped, concave and connected with dorsal spot near suture, but in front of apex with third smaller and elongate spot. Elytra covered with sparse, coarse, setiferous punctures, with one long dark setae in each puncture. Lateral sides of elytra slightly curved.

Ventral side of body covered with dense grey pubescence.

Male unknown.

Differential diagnosis. The new species is similar to *S. willietorresi* from Mindanao, but differs from it by other shape of spots on dorsal part of elytra. Elytra of a new species with one spot behind shoulders and with three preapical smooth spots: one U-shaped and concave lateral spot, connected with dorsal spot near suture, and one smaller spot in front of apex. The elytra of *S. willietorresi* have six well-defined spots on each elytron: one black spot behind shoulders, one small spot in front of middle, one large and transverse spot behind middle, one elongate oval spot in preapical portion and two elongate apical spots.

Etymology. Patronymic. This species is named after my colleague, Italian entomologist Fabrizio Fanti (Piazzese, Italy) in appreciation of cooperation, and in gratitude for his great contributions to the knowledge of Cantharoidea of the world fauna.

***Pseudocomeron vitalii* sp. nov.**
(Fig. 2)

Type material. HOLOTYPE, male: Philippines: Leyte isl., / St. Bernard, / 04.2017. loc. coll. [handwritten]; // HOLOTYPE: / *Pseudocomeron vitalii* sp. nov. / A.Barševskis det. 2021 [red label, handwritten] (DUBC).

General distribution: Philippines: Leyte island.

Description. Body length: 9.9 mm, body width: 4.3 mm. Dorsal surface dark-brown, with grey, yellow-brown and white pubescence. Each elytron with postbasal discal gibbosity.

Head quadrangular, flattened, with fine dorsal punctation, microsculpture, and white and yellow pubescence, forming symmetric broad and pale spot resembling a butterfly with open wings. Eyes relatively small, slightly extended, bilobate. Cheeks narrow, not extended, with pale tomentum. Clypeus narrow, transverse, shiny, brown. Labrum dark, covered with yellowish pubescence and long setae. Mandibles with acute apices, relatively narrow, laterobasal parts with yellow pu-

bescence. Antennae relatively short and thin, with dark-brown antennomeres; antennomere 2 with coarse punctures and dark tomentum; inner side of all antennomeres with row of setae.

Pronotum narrower than elytra, with transverse basal impression, dorsally covered with yellow and laterally with yellowish-white pubescence and numerous sparse and coarse dark punctures. Basal angles of pronotum rounded, not visible.

Legs dark-brown, covered with grey and yellowish fine pubescence. Tarsomeres dark-brown, with very fine and sparse tomentum dorsally.

Scutellum subpentagonal, with slightly pointed apex, covered with dense, yellowish pubescence. Pars stridens not visible under basal margin of pronotum.

Elytra uneven. Each elytron with distinctly elevated postbasal discal protuberances, covered with yellow-brown pubescence; lateral part behind middle of each elytron with transverse and oblique spot of white pubescence, behind the pubescence is slightly scrubbed. Elytra covered with sparse, coarse setiferous punctures, coarser in basal portion around discal protuberances.

Ventral side of body covered with dense yellow-brown pubescence, and sparse and coarse punctation.

Female unknown.

Differential diagnosis. The new species is similar to *P. luzonicum* from Luzon, but differs from it by different coloration of elytra. Elytra of a new species with transverse, oblique spot of white pubescence, lateral sides of pronotum and head with pale yellowish pubescence, while elytra, pronotum and head of *P. luzonicum* covered with unicolor brown pubescence, without transverse spot of white pubescence.

Etymology. Patronymic. This species is named after my colleague, cerambycidologist Francesco Vitali (Luxembourg) in appreciation of cooperation, and in gratitude for his great contributions



Fig. 1. Holotype of *Synixais fantii* sp. nov.

to the knowledge of Cerambycidae of the world fauna.

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Fig. 2. Holotype of *Pseudocomeron vitalii* sp. nov.

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