Records of the histerid beetles (Coleoptera: Histeridae) at the Crocker Range Parks, Sabah, East Malaysia
– A report of the Scientific Expedition to the Crocker Range, Sabah, Malaysia (Crocker XPDC '99) –

Masahiro ŌHARA¹, Sławomir MAZUR², Kōji MIZOTA³ and Maryati MOHAMED⁴

¹ The Hokkaido University Museum, Hokkaido University, N10 W8, Sapporo, 060-0810 Japan
² Katedra Ochrony Lasu i Ekologii SGGW-AR, 02-528 Warszawa, Rakowiecka 26/30, Poland
³ Systematic Entomology, Faculty of Agriculture, Hokkaido University, N9 W9, Sapporo, 060-8589 Japan
⁴ Institute for Tropical Biology and Conservation, Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Locked Bag 2073, 88999 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia

Abstract

Seventeen species of histerid beetles were collected from the Crocker Range Parks, in Sabah, East Malaysia, and are listed here, along with figures for most of the species. Six species are reported as new records from Borneo, Hololepta nepalensis, Platysoma (Platylister) birmanus, P. (Pl.) abruptus, P. (Pl.) humilis, Bacanus (Mullerister) lotus, and Eulomalus vermicypygus.

Key words: Coleoptera, Histeridae, Sabah, Borneo, new records

Introduction

The Scientific Expedition to the Crocker Range, in Sabah, Malaysia (Crocker XPDC '99), jointly organized by the Sabah Parks (SP), Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS), and Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), was held from October 14 to 23 with the aim of inventorying the biodiverse components and their ecological relationships found within the park area. The third author (K. Mizota) mainly surveyed the beetle fauna of Crocker Range Parks (CRP) during the expedition.

This report provides the results of the survey concerning histerid beetles (Coleoptera: Histeridae). The vast majority of the beetles are predators and found in most kinds of decaying organic matter, such as droppings, decomposing bodies of animals, compost piles, and other decaying plant materials (Ōhara, 1994). A total of 83 species of the family Histeridae has been previously recorded for the island of Borneo (Mazur, 1997). Seventeen species of histerid beetles belonging to 4 subfamilies, 5 tribes, and 11 genera (including 2 subgenera) were collected at this time, of which 11 species are referable to ones already described, with the rest remaining undetermined due to a scarcity of materials and/or knowledge. Six of the collected species were newly recorded for Borneo. These are mentioned in the following list, in which collecting sites are abbreviated as follows: MBC = Mahua base camp, PHQ = Park Headquarters, USG = Ulu Senagang. All of the specimens were collected by the third author and will be retained by SP.

Enumeration

Family Histeridae
Subfamily Tribalinae
1. Parepierus sp. (Fig. 2A)
Specimen examined: 1 ex., USG, 18.X.1999
Notes: This species is similar to P. monticola, from which can, however, be distinguished by having the 5th dorsal and sutural striae of the elytra. This species might be allied with P. amandus (Schmidt, 1892) from Java,

*P. opacipennis* Bickhardt, 1918 from the Philippines and Java, and *P. ovatulus* Bickhardt, 1918 from Sumatra. At present, however, it is uncertain to us whether this species should be identified with any of them.

2. *Parepierus monticola* (Schmidt, 1892) (Fig. 2B)
*Epierus monticola* Schmidt, 1892: 26 [Java]
*Parepierus monticola* Bickhardt, 1913: 124
Specimen examined: 1 ex., MBC, 16.X.1999
Distribution: Borneo, Java

3. *Tribalus* sp. (Fig. 2C)
Specimen examined: 1 ex., USG, 18.X.1999
Notes: In having a short longitudinal carina on the antescutellar area of the pronotum, the present specimen matches the original description of *T. pumilio* Schmidt, 1895 from Sarawak, although this specimen is slightly larger in body size (2.2 mm). The material at hand, however, is too meager to determine anything more than this.

Subfamily Histerinae
Tribe Hololeptini
4. *Hololepta nepalensis* Lewis, 1910 (Fig. 1A)
*Hololepta nepalensis* Lewis, 1910: 43
Specimen examined: 1 ex., PHQ, 20.X.1999

Tribe Omalodini
5. *Lewisister excellens* Bickhardt, 1912 (Fig. 1B)
*Lewisister excellens* Bickhardt, 1912: 223 [Java]
Specimen examined: 1 ex., USG, 18.X.1999
Distribution: Nepal, Thailand, Sumatra, Borneo, Java

Tribe Platysomatini
6. *Eblisia lunatica* (Marseul, 1864) (Fig. 1C)

*Platysoma lunaticus* Marseul, 1864: 316 [Malacca]
*Eblisia lunatica* Lewis, 1889: 280

**Specimens examined:** 1 ex., MBC, Carrion trap, 16-19.X.1999; 1 male, same locality, Carrion trap, 23.X.1999

**Distribution:** Malaysia, Sumatra, Borneo, Java

7. *Platysoma (Platylister) charrali* (Marseul, 1861) (Fig. 1D)
*Platysoma charrali* Marseul, 1861: 146 [Borneo]
**Platylister charrali** Lewis, 1905: 13
**Platysoma (Platylister) charrali** Mazur, 1997: 64

**Specimen examined:** 1 ex., USG, 18.X.1999

**Distribution:** Malaysia, Borneo, Sumbawa, Philippines

**8. Platysoma (Platylister) birmanus** (Marseul, 1861)
(Fig. 1E)
**Platysoma birmanum** Marseul, 1861: 151 [Burma]
**Platysoma (Platylister) birmanus** Mazur, 1999: 12 [Sumbawa]

**Specimen examined:** 1 ex., USG, 19.X.1999

**Distribution:** China: Hainan, Sri Lanka, Burma, Indochina, Sumatra, Borneo, Sumbawa. New to Borneo.

**9. Platysoma (Platylister) abruptus** (Erichson, 1834)
(Fig. 1F)
**Platysoma abruptum** Erichson, 1834: 109
**Platylister abruptus** Lewis, 1905: 13
**Platysoma (Platylister) abruptus** Mazur, 1999: 12 [Java, Sumatra, Bali, Mindanao]

**Specimen examined:** 1 ex., MBC, 14.X.1999

**Distribution:** Burma, Sumatra, Borneo, Java, Bali, New Guinea, Mindanao. New to Borneo.

**10. Platysoma (Platysoma) humilis** (Erichson, 1834)
(Fig. 1G)
**Platysoma humile** Erichson, 1834: 109
**Platylister humilis** Lewis, 1905: 14
**Platysoma (Platylister) humilis** Mazur, 1999: 13 [Java, Sumatra, Bali]

**Specimens examined:** 6 exs., USG, 18.X.1999

**Distribution:** Burma, Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo, Java, Bali. New to Borneo.

**11. Platysoma (Platysoma) confucii** Marseul, 1857
(Fig. 2D)
**Platysoma confucii** Marseul, 1857: 404 [China]
**Platysoma (Platysoma) confucii** Mazur, 1997: 70

**Specimens examined:** 3 exs., MBC, 16.X.1999

**Distribution:** Asian region

**12. Liopygus sp.** (Fig. 2E)

**Specimen examined:** 1 ex., USG, 18.X.1999

**Notes:** In a key to the Asian species of the genus *Liopygus* given by Desbordes (1919), the specimen seems to be quite near *L. andrewesi* Lewis, 1906 from India and *Z. indosinensis* Desbordes, 1919 from Vietnam. Because the specimen is lacking the fifth dorsal elytral stria, however, it may be an undescribed species.

**Subfamily Dendrophilinae**

**Tribe Bacaniini**

**13. Bacanius (Mullerister) lotus** Marseul, 1880

**Bacanius lotus** Marseul, 1880: 154 [Java]

**Specimen examined:** 1 ex., MBC, 15.X.1999

**Distribution:** Nepal, Vietnam, Java, Borneo. New to Borneo.

**Tribe Paromalini**

**14. Eulomalus vernicipygus** Cooman, 1937 (Fig. 2F)

**Eulomalus vernicipygus** Cooman, 1937: 98 [Vietnam]

**Specimen examined:** 1 ex., MBC, 15.X.1999

**Distribution:** Vietnam, Borneo. New to Borneo.

**15. Eulomalus sp.** (Fig. 2G)

**Specimen examined:** 1 male, USG, 18.X.1999

**Notes:** The present male specimen closely resembles *E. acistrigus* (Marseul, 1879) from Java and Sumatra by having a long transverse mesosternal stria, but disagrees because of the shorter metasternal lateral.

**Subfamily Trypteticinae**

**16. Trypticus sp. 1** (Fig. 2H)

**Specimen examined:** 1 ex., MBC, 23.X.1999

**Notes:** This species seems to resemble *T. obeliscus* Lewis, 1891 and *T. minutulus* Lewis, 1891 because of the transverse stria between the eyes. However, this species can be easily distinguished from the other two in having prominent yellow hairs on the pygidium.

**17. Trypticus sp. 2** (Fig. 2I)

**Specimen examined:** 1 ex., USG, 19.X.1999

**Notes:** The genus *Trypticus* is represented by 34 Asian species, yet this species neither agrees with any known species nor is it certain as to its allied species.

**Acknowledgements**

The third author (K. Mizota) wishes to express his gratitude to SP, UNIMAS, and UMS for organizing, coordinating, and offering the opportunity to participate in the Scientific Expedition, and to all fellow expedition members for their company during the time in CRP. He is also grateful to Prof. Masanori J. Toda (Hokkaido Univ.) for his support and encouragement and to Mr. Gen Ito (UMS) for assisting in the collection work.
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Received: September 5, 2000
Accepted: January 17, 2001