

## A new species of the genus *Myromeus* Pascoe, 1864 (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) from the Philippines

Arvīds Barševskis

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The sixth species of the Oriental genus *Myromeus* Pascoe, 1864 (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae: Lamiinae), *M. stipraisi* sp. n. from the Philippines is described, illustrated, compared with a closely related *M. luzonicus* Fisher, 1925 and most important differences between those two species are provided.

Keywords: *Myromeus*, Lamiinae, Cerambycidae, new species, Philippines

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

### INTRODUCTION

The genus of longhorn beetles *Myromeus* Pascoe, 1864 (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) belongs to the subfamily Lamiinae Latreille, 1825 and tribe Acanthocinini Blanchard, 1845. Till now, five species of the genus *Myromeus* were known from the Oriental Region: *M. fulvonotatus* Fisher, 1925 from Borneo, Sulawesi (formerly Celebes) and Palawan islands, *M. gilmouri* Breuning, 1962 from Sulawesi island, *M. immaculicollis* Heller, 1924 from Mindanao and Basilan islands, *M. luzonicus* Fisher, 1925 from Luzon island and *M. subpictus* Pascoe, 1864 from Maluku islands (Fisher 1925, Breuning 1962, Barševskis 2014). Only three of five species of this genus have been described from the *Philippine archipelago* and two of them are endemic for it.

In this paper, a new species of the genus *Myromeus* is described from Samar island

(Philippines). It appears that this species could be endemic to the Philippines.

### MATERIAL AND METHODS

The specimens of a *new* species are deposited in the collection of the Daugavpils University, Coleopterological Research Centre, Ilgas, Daugavpils District, Latvia (DUBC). All specimens have been collected in the Philippines by local collectors.

Specimens were examined using Nikon AZ100 Multizoom, Nikon SMZ745T and Zeiss SteREO Lumar.V12 digital stereomicroscopes, NIS-Elements Advanced Research software, and Canon EOS 60D and Canon EOS-1Ds Mark II digital cameras. The image of *M. luzonicus* was obtained from online database (Cerambycoid Primary Types of the Smithsonian Institution; see

Lingafelter et al. 2014). The distribution map of new species (Fig. 1) was drawn using ArcGIS 10 software.

## RESULTS

### *Myromeus stipraisi* sp. n.

(Fig. 2A, B)

**Type material. Holotype:** male: Philippines, Samar Isl., Hinabangan, 08.2014, local collector leg., [ex coll. Prof. A. Barševskis]; [Red label: HOLOTYPE: *Myromeus stipraisi* sp. n. [handwritten], A. Barševskis det. 2014. [printed]]. Deposited in DUBC.

**Paratypes:** 7 specimens (male and female): Philippines: Samar Isl., Hinabangan, 08.2014, 6 specim., local collector leg., [ex coll. Prof. A. Barševskis]; Samar Isl., Eastern Visayas, 08.2014, 1 specim., local collector leg., [ex coll. Prof. A. Barševskis]; [for all specimens red label: PARATYPE: *Myromeus stipraisi* sp. n. [handwritten], A. Barševskis det. 2014. [printed]]. Deposited in DUBC.

**Description.** Body elongated, flattened, black, covered by short, soft, dense and silvery-grey tomentum and numerous separately standing, elongated setae. Silvery-grey elytral surface contains convoluted black stripes covered by black tomentum. Body length 8.0- 12.0 mm, width 3.0- 4.0 mm.

Head moderately short, transverse, covered by fine silvery-grey tomentum. Frontal tomentum hairs longer than those along mouth and genae. Base of *labrum* bears row of elongated setae. Middle of frons with thin, longitudinal and inwardly directed corrugation. Frons more closely to anterior edge of eyes with black standing seta. Vertex under silvery tomentum with fine microsculpture. Eyes shiny, with metallic gold gleam, double-lobed and they surround antennal bases, which structured as wall-like swellings. Antennae thin and long. Males with longer antennae than at females but in both sexes they exceeds body length. Five basic antennomeres

covered by dense silvery-grey tomentum, residual six antennomeres with black pubescence. Numerous long, greyish and standing setae arranged along length of antennae.

Pronotum almost quadratic with elevated, sharp, slightly curved and posteriorly placed denticle. Surface of pronotum covered by dense silvery-grey tomentum. Posterior part of pronotum finely dotted, with exception of narrow band at anterior edge and wider band at posterior margin of pronotum. In some places anterior margin of pronotum with transversal microsculpture. Lateral and anterior parts of pronotum covered by long and standing setae. Scutellum small and covered by silvery-grey tomentum. Glossy *pars stridens* covered by silvery tomentum on both its lateral sides and lies on neck-like transition behind anterior part of scutellum. Scutellum and *pars stridens* form triangle. Viewed from above, *pars stridens* not visible, because it indrawn under pronotum. Middle part of posterior edges of



Fig. 1. Finding of *Myromeus stipraisi* sp. n. in Philippines archipelago

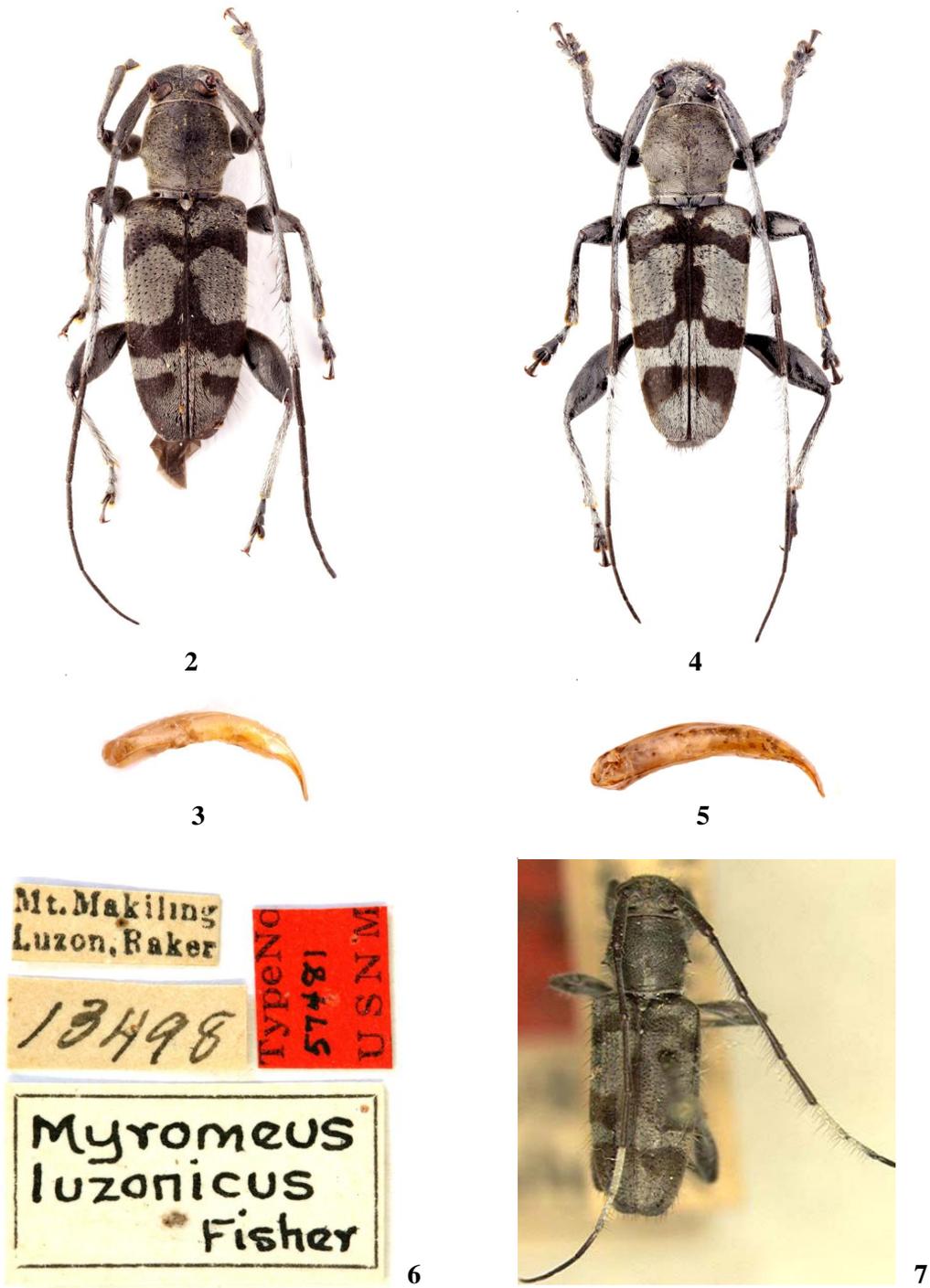


Fig. 2 - 7. 2 - *Myromeus stipraisi* sp.n. (holotype, habitus), 3 - *M. stipraisi* sp.n. (aedeagus), 4 - *M. luzonicus* (habitus), 5 - *M. luzonicus* (aedeagus), 6 - *M. luzonicus* (Labels of type specimen. Image from: <http://SmithsonianCerambycidae.com/>) 7 - *M. luzonicus* (Type. Image from: <http://SmithsonianCerambycidae.com/>)

pronotum bears down-directed *plectra*. Due to presence of stridulatory organs, *M. stipraisi* sp. n. like other species of genus *Myromeus* can produce sounds.

Elytra flat and with almost straight lateral edges. Towards apex, these edges become narrower, and close to apex each elytron widely rounded. Elytra slightly squeezed in basal-medial direction and with four black transverse stripes on silvery-grey background. First stripe lies on elytral base and surrounds scutellum, and not converged with second stripe. Second stripe curved; it starts at humerus and extends elytral suture. Third stripe wider than others but widest at their lateral edge. When stripe reaches elytral suture, it goes along suture almost till second stripe. Whereas, fourth stripe starts at lateral edge prior to apex. It becomes gradually narrower towards suture but does not reach it. Clearly observable longitudinal striae with relatively coarse dots. Striae near to suture and along elytral edges with smaller dots, therefore rows converge and not distinguishable. Sutural striae visible in apical part of elytra.

Ventral side of body covered by dense silvery-grey tomentum. Cuticle dark brown or brown. Legs, including tarsus, comparatively short, black, covered by fine silvery-grey tomentum and many long and standing setae. Femora brown. Male genitalia as in Figure 2B. *Aedeagus* slightly curved with down-curved lamella.

**Differential diagnosis.** In general, *M. stipraisi* sp. n. is closely related to *M. luzonicus* Fisher, 1925 (Fig. 3A, B), but both species have different dorsal surface patterns and microsculpture. The first elytral black stripe of *M. luzonicus* converges with the second stripe in the posterior apex of scutellum (in a new species they are not converged). Moreover, the second stripe starts at lateral edge not at humerus and is not curved as in *M. stipraisi* sp. n. Both species also have different shape of third and fourth stripe. *M. luzonicus* Fisher specimens do not vary much in the pattern of elytra; small differences are found in stripe width but stripe shape is relatively invariable. The pronotum of *M. luzonicus* is

dotted only in the central part, but in *M. stipraisi* sp. n. almost all dorsal surface of pronotum is dotted. Both species differ in colour of antennomeres. First three antennomeres and the base of fourth antennomere are grey and covered by a silvery-grey tomentum in *M. luzonicus*. Fifth antennomere is black, sixth to seventh antennomeres are grey, but apical four antennomeres are black. Whereas, first to fifth antennomeres are grey, but residual six are black in *M. stipraisi* sp. n.

**Distribution.** Philippines: Samar.

**Etymology.** The species is named in honour of my supervisor, famous Latvian coleopterologist Mihails Stiprais (1905 - 1990) - in gratitude for his contribution in my first entomological experience, Latvian beetle research and due to upcoming 110th anniversary.

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