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A new species of the genus *Iridotaenia* DEYR.
(Coleoptera: Buprestidae)

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ABSTRACT: A new New Guinean species of the genus *Iridotaenia* DEYR. is described, apparently belonging to the *Gressitti*-circle of the subgenus *Euiridotaenia* HOL.

Key words: entomology, taxonomy, new species, New Guinea, *Iridotaenia* DEYR.

The subtribe **Chrysochroina** CAST. contains several speciose genera of large and often colourful beetles, the most attractive elements of the Indo-Pacific buprestid fauna, but nevertheless since KERREMANS' (1908, 1909, 1910) monograph only one – *Chrysochroa* DEJ. (HOLYŃSKI 2009) – of them has been revised at the species level and can be considered relatively well known. The taxonomic (to say nothing of phylogenetic) relationships within *Philocteanus* DEYR., *Paracupta* DEYR., *Metataenia* THY. or *Cyphogastra* DEYR, remain nebulous and correct identification of even common species is impossible without study of type material. The genus *Iridotaenia* DEYR. – 6 subgenera with ca. 70 known species (including 2 subgenera with 4 species extralimital: E-African) – is one of such poorly understudied taxa in urgent need of modern revision: in the last hundred years only two catalogues (OBENBERGER 1926 and BELLAMY 2008), a subgeneric review (HOLYŃSKI 2001) and some descriptions (HOLYŃSKI 2001, SAINVAL 1998, 2002; LEONARD 2013 – the latter concerning Ethiopian fauna) have been published.

Some years ago (HOLYŃSKI 2001) I described a distinctive New Guinean (Central Prov.: Waigani swamp) member of the most speciose subgenus *Euiridotaenia* HOL. as *I. quadrivitta* HOL., hitherto the only representative of the *Gressitti*-circle adorned with contrastingly coloured elytral dfp vittae. In 2012 my Swedish colleague, Ulf NYLANDER, sent me for study pictures and then the actual specimen of evidently closely related taxon which will be described below.

Collections are abbreviated as:

FRS = Forest Research Station, Bulolo, NEW GUINEA

UN = Ulf NYLANDER, Valbo, SWEDEN

In addition, the following abbreviations are used in morphological descriptions:
 dfp = “dense-and-fine punctulation” or “densely-and-finely punctulate”; refers to the type of sculpture occurring mainly in depressed areas (foveae, sulci), and consisting of fine, dense, regular punctulation on usually distinctly microsculptured background, covered with dense pubescence and frequently pulverulent;

L = length;

W = width;

BW = basal width;

AW = apical width;

H = width of head with eyes;

V = width of vertex between eyes.

Iridotaenia (Euiridotaenia) congruens HOLYŃSKI sp. n.

MATERIAL EXAMINED

Holotype: “Pt. Moresby, C.P., 7/79” “1211, U.Nylander” [green label] [♀ (UN)].

Additional material: 1 ♂.

DESCRIPTION

Holotype: Female 23.5×7. Piceous-black above and below, only anterior portion of epipleura and depressed dfp parts of elytral vittae dull cupreous-bronzed (anterior, sculpturally unmodified parts with only faint cupreous tinge) and lateral dfp patches on sternites shining red viewed from some angles. Body almost totally glabrous, only lateral parts of abdomen covered with short recumbent pubescence.

Epistome broadly, rather deeply, arcuately emarginated between slightly acute lateral angles, microsculptured, separated from front by rather deep arcuate depression; supraantennal carinulae sharp but very irregular, long, directed steeply upwards; periorcular ridges practically absent; frontal depression broadly paraboloidal, delimited above by well defined but not ridged fronto-vertical border; surface coarsely, rather densely, irregularly punctured; median groove thin but deep, entire but not prolonged to vertex; punctation of vertex fine and sparse; eyes prominent, distinctly protruding beyond outline of head; V:H≈0.45. Antennae short, reaching somewhat beyond pronotal base; 1. antennomere fusiform, ca. 2.5× longer than thick; 2. globular, definitely thinner; 3. again club-shaped but somewhat flattened, somewhat thinner and twice shorter than 1. or 2.; 4. triangular, as long as 3. but wider, slightly longer than wide; 5. slightly shorter, as long as wide; 6. a little bit shorter; 7.-11 missing.

Pronotum trapezoidal (BW:AW:L≈1.4:1.1:1), basal margin shallowly irregularly bisinuate, posterior angles slightly acute, sides almost perfectly straight from basal to

apical sixth (slightly rounded at base, forming inconspicuous “collar” at apex), apical margin shallowly but distinctly bisinuate. Median sulcus prominent, deep, with sharply angular bottom, rather narrow anteriorly but widened and deepened before scutellum; lateral depressions also in form of deep and narrow non-dfp sulci in basal third, then becoming broad and shallow and not reaching beyond midlength. Punctuation of disk fine and sparse, on sides also fine but denser, on laterobasal protuberances (between lateral sulci and side margin) somewhat coarser but again sparse; lateral carinae short, reaching to *ca.* 1/3 of pronotal length, then running in form of smooth elevations margined from below by fine stria reaching to apical third. Scutellum small, trapezoidal, as wide as long, medially sulcate.

Elytra (L:W \approx 2.4) obliquely truncated at humeri, with inconspicuously indicated subhumeral protuberances, sides subparallel (very slightly divergent) to midlength, then roundedly tapering to apical sixth and slightly sinuately so [elytra slightly caudate] to narrowly separately rounded apices; lateral margins sharply denticulate in apical fourth, denticles at very apex dense but fine. Punctuation coarse, in irregular rows; elytral vitta rather deeply depressed and dfp in apical 2/5, totally disappearing (marked only by inconspicuously golden colouration) anteriorly; additional (very shallow and not distinctly dfp) vitta runs close to lateral margin; epipleura narrow but distinct all along.



1, 2. *Iridotaenia (Euiridotaenia) congruens* sp.n. HT ♀ – N. Guinea: Pt. Moresby: 1 – dorsal, 2 – ventral

Anterior margin of prosternum shallowly but distinctly sinuate between broadly rounded lateral lobes; proepisterna smooth; prosternal process wide, flat, very sparsely and not coarsely punctured, backward divergent sides neither striate nor rimmed. Metasternum deeply grooved medially, finely and very sparsely punctulate on median part, densely on sides and metepisterna; no metacoxal denticle. All sternites regularly convex; punctuation moderately coarse and sparse at middle, finer at sides, dfp in extensive lateral (not depressed) patches; anal sternite almost twice longer than penultimate, sides markedly sinuate all along, apex narrowly subtruncate.

Variability: Male unknown, unless one [collected in Centr. Pr.: Kokoda Trail: Wisilogo Vill. [?=Vesilogo: 9°22'S-147°25'E, ca. 30 km. ENE Pt. Moresby], 700 m., 24 II 1973] cursorily examined by me in 1988 in Bulolo (FRS) belonged here. According to my notes, it was "19×6 mm., brownish-black above with violaceous shine on pronotum, ventral side similar; elytral vittae apically cupreous, depressed and dfp, in basal half blackish-green, non-depressed and normally sculptured; from midlength to ca. apical fourth runs additional, less conspicuous (but also depressed and of modified sculpture) vitta between the "main" one and elytral sides; pronotal [lateral] depressions sharply cut, elongately ovate, tiny, placed in shallow and poorly delimited depressions reaching to near apical margin; pronotal sides almost straightly convergent; elytra not caudate, sides rounded to very apex".

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

SE New Guinea. Known for sure only from the holotype collected in Port Moresby; the specific identity of the male from Wisilogo (see above) remains uncertain.

REMARKS

Apparently closely related to *I. quadrivitta* HOL. which, however, clearly differs in somewhat wider and flatter body, definitely metallic blue elytral colouration, much more contrasting and almost entirely depressed main elytral vitta, inconspicuous and concolorous abdominal dfp patches, longer antennae (all joints up to 8. longer than wide), more "wavily" convergent pronotal sides, wide and flat intervals between puncture rows of elytra. Together with *I. quadrivitta* HOL. (also SE New Guinea) and *I. gressitti* HOL. (Solomon Is.) the new species comprises a small group of species characterized mainly by deep median sulcus and deep but narrow lateral depressions (all without extensive dfp spaces) on pronotum and strongly convex profile of abdomen.

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