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Monolepta wangkliana, a new species of Galerucinae from Malaysia (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae)

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ABSTRACT. *Monolepta wangkliana*, a new species of chrysomelid beetles of the subfamily Galerucinae is described from Malaysia. The new species is compared with *Monolepta nigripes* (OLIVIER).

Key words: entomology, taxonomy, Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae, Galerucinae, *Monolepta*, new species, Malaysia.

INTRODUCTION

This paper presents a description of a new species of chrysomelid beetles of the subfamily Galerucinae from Malaysia. The beetle belongs to the few members of the genus *Monolepta* with a larger size, 10-15 mm length. Using the keys provided by MAULIK (1936) and KIMOTO (1989), the beetle is identified as *M. nigripes* (OLIVIER), in having dorsal and ventral surfaces unicolour – brownish or yellowish, and legs with tibiae and tarsi black. However, the present beetle differs from *M. nigripes* in a number of significant characteristics, including the male genitalia. It belongs to a new species which is here described and illustrated. Type specimens are deposited in the collections of the Centre for Insect Systematics, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Bangi (UKM).

TAXONOMY

Monolepta wangkliana n. sp.

(Figs 1, 3-6)

ETYMOLOGY

The new species, *wangkliana*, is named after the locality Wang Klian.

DIAGNOSIS

Monolepta wangkliana differs from *Monolepta nigripes* (Figs 2, 7, 8) in having antennae black, except for the two basal segments brownish, interocular space broader, 2.2 times as broad as transverse diameter of each eye, the male with first segment of protarsi (Fig. 1) greatly dilated, broader than protibiae, and aedeagus (Figs 5, 6) broadened in basal two-third, the apical third tapered, split at apex, and the female with apical sternite (Fig. 4) distinctly emarginate at apex.

DESCRIPTION

Oblong-elongate, parallel-sided, brownish, except for the antennal segments 3-11, tibiae and tarsi black.

Head alutaceous, finely punctured; frontal tubercles triangular, with their posterior part together with anterior part of vertex strongly depressed, forming a fovea; posterior part of the vertex not strongly convex; clypeus triangularly raised, excavated at sides; labrum transverse, truncate at apex; maxillary palpi long, with penultimate segment swollen, the apical segment narrower, pointed at apex; mandibles stout, strongly curved. Antennae filiform, moderately long, extended to middle of elytra; segment 1 longest, club-shaped; segment 2 shortest, twice as long as broad; segment 3 slightly longer than 2, 1.2 times as long as broad; segment 4 longer than segments 2 and 3 combined; segments 5-10 each shorter, narrower than 4, gradually shortened towards apex; segment 11 longer than 10, pointed at apex; interantennal space as broad as antennal socket. Eyes small, strongly convex, with interocular space 2.2 times as broad as transverse diameter of each eye; distance across eyes as broad as anterior border of thorax. Pronotum transverse, 1.8 times broader than long, broadest at basal fourth; anterior, lateral, and posterior borders margined; anterior margin rather straight; posterior margin broadly rounded posteriorly, sinuate in middle; anterior angles thickened, posterior angles obtuse, all angles with seta-bearing pore; surface alutaceous, smooth, finely punctured, shiny, convex from side to side, without any depression. Scutellum sharply triangular, pointed at apex, as long as broad, smooth, shiny. Elytra parallel-sided, rounded at apex; surface smooth, densely impressed with small punctures, the interstice as broad the transverse diameter of each puncture; each elytron having two long longitudinal lines in middle, a short one near scutellum, epipleuron broad, deeply concave, strongly abbreviated at basal fourth, then narrowed and disappeared at apical fifth; lateral margins strongly reflex, with sharp edge. Legs long, slender; protarsi with first segment

1. *Monolepta wangkliana,* new species (lateral view, showing first segment of protarsi greatly dilated); 2. *Monolepta nigripes* (lateral view, showing first segment of protarsi normal)

greatly dilated, as long as segments 2 and 3 combined, second segment slightly narrower than the first; protarsi broader than protibiae; mesotarsi with first segment broadened, as long as segments 2 and 3 combined; metatarsi with first segment 1.5 times longer than segments 2 and 3 combined; tarsal claws appendiculate. Ventral surface densely covered with short pubescence. Procoxal cavities closed posteriorly. Abdomen with apical sternite 1.5 times longer than the precedent sternite, trilobed, with median lobe transverse, deeply concave, slightly emarginate at apex (Fig. 3). Pygidium rounded at apex. Aedeagus elongate, moderately curved, with basal half broad, the apical half tapered, split at apex (Figs 5, 6).

Body length 10.4 mm.

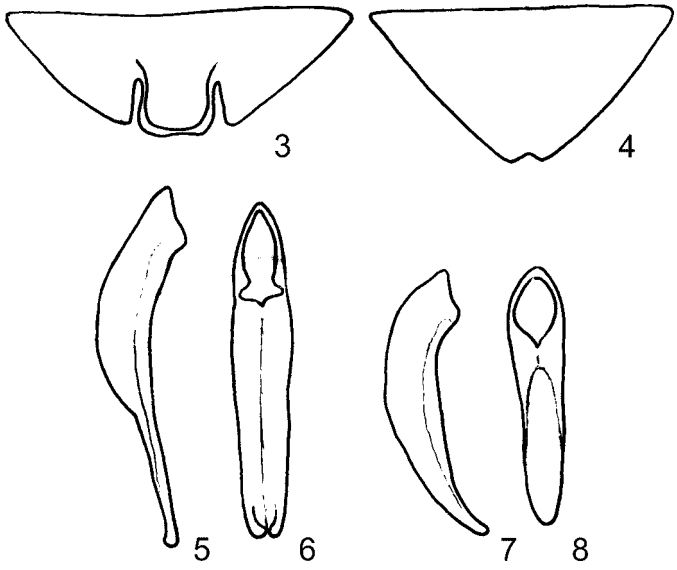
Female. Similar to the male, except protarsi with first segment normal, not dilated. Abdomen with apical sternite distinctly emarginate at apex (Fig. 4). Body length 10.4-10.5 mm.

TYPE

Holotype male: MALAYSIA, Perlis, Kaki Bukit, Wang Klian, 9.xii.1993, Zabidi, Sham, Saiful K'din, (UKM). Paratypes: MALAYSIA, Perlis, Taman Negara Wang Klian, 29.ix-4.x.1999, Zaidi, Ismail, Azman, 3 females (UKM).

COMMENTS

According to MAULIK (1936), there are several specimens of *M. nigripes* in the collection of the Natural History Museum, London, with black antennae, except



3-6. *Monolepta wangkliana,* new species: 3 - apical sternite of the male, 4 - apical sternite of the female, 5 – aedeagus lateral, 6 – aedeagus ventral. 7, 8. *Monolepta nigripes*, aedeagus: 7 – lateral, 8 - ventral

for the two basal segments brownish, which is similar to *M. wangkliana*. However, MAULIK did not mention the male having the first segment of protarsi greatly dilated, and the female with apical sternite emarginate at apex. Besides, in the collection of the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Bangi (UKM), all *M. nigripes* specimens, which were collected from various parts of the country, covering Peninsular Malaysia, Sarawak and Sabah, have their antennae entirely brownish or yellowish. It seems that *M. wangkliana*, is restricted to Perlis, the northernmost state in Peninsular Malaysia, which is bordering with Thailand. Geographically, Perlis has some similarity in vegetation and climate to southern parts of Thailand and Myanmar. There is a possibility that *M. wangkliana*, could be found in these two countries, as well as in the Indian subcontinent. Besides, it is suspected that the specimens of *M. nigripes* with black antennae, mentioned by MAULIK (1936), could possibly belong to *M. wangkliana*.

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