Description of three new subgenera and two new species of Paracupta Deyr. (Coleoptera: Buprestidae)

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ABSTRACT. A reassessment of the internal structure of the genus *Paracupta* Deyr., with description of two new species and three new subgenera, is presented.

Key words: entomology, taxonomy, classification, new taxa, Oceania, Paracupta Deyr.

Paracupta Deyr. includes many big, bright, attractive beetles, and nevertheless remains the least studied large genus of the **Chrysochroina Cast.**: since Kerremans' (1909) monograph no comprehensive revision has appeared, and consequently its internal and external relationships remain hopelessly confused. Until the third decade of the 20th century it was considered broadly, including most of the species currently classified in *Metataenia* Théry. Théry's (1923) description of the latter genus initiated the process of separation of one group after another from *Paracupta* Deyr. into separate genera or transferring them into *Metataenia* Théry, but this was done *ad hoc*, incoherently, and resulted in a rather chaotic situation. Some years ago I (Holyński 2009) made the first step towards clarification of these problems: in frames of the general taxonomical, zoogeographical and evolutionary review of the subtribe **Chrysochroina Cast.** the content and – consequently – diagnosis of the genus was drastically changed, and subdivision into three (one new) subgenera proposed.

So, as currently conceived, the genus contains *ca.* 20 or 30 species distributed between Moluccas and Samoa, with one species in Australia. Long ago, at the occasion of my first visit to the Bitish Museum (Natural History), I found a series of beetles from Rennell Is., classified in that collection as *Paracupta isabellina* Kerr. but evidently representing a different, albeit related, species. I prepared the description immediately,

but for various reasons it has remained unpublished until now. Additionally, among the buprestids borrowed from the Bernice P. Bishop Museum (Honolulu) there is a highly distinctive small beetle showing morphological features precluding the possibility to classify in any of the hitherto known subgenera. It was the need to formally introduce these two new species that gave a stimulus for further work, which in turn revealed the necessity of comprehensive reassessment of the subgeneric classification – the present paper, with description of four new subgenera, is the result.

CONVENTIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Like in my other recent works, labels of type-specimens are quoted as exactly as possible, including *italics* and *handwriting* (both represented in my text by *italics*), CAPITAL LETTERS, SMALLCAPS and framing. Labels provided my me are as a rule not cited – according to my current protocol they are two or three: white determinationlabel (e.g. "Paracupta kioana Hol. det. R. Holyński 2014" – the year of determination written vertically on the left), red holotype- or green paratype-label (e.g. "Paracupta" kioana Hołyński HOLOTYPE", and – if belonging to collection – small white collection-label with specimen-identifying signature (e.g. "coll. RBHołyński BPkse"). In the text, personal family-names are written in SMALLCAPS, species- and genus-group names in *italics*, suprageneric in **bold** [not a generally accepted custom, but often important, as some of such names (e.g. of the subtribes Buprestina Leach, Melobasina Bílý or Coraebina Bed.) are (or may easily become) "homonymous" (but valid!) with generic or subgeneric ones (Buprestina OBB., Melobasina KERR., Coraebina OBB.): we must make possibly unequivocal what we have in mind, and possibly easy for the reader to "optically" spot the "wanted" name in the text!]. Collection names are abbreviated as BMNH [British Museum (Natural History) – now called Natural History Museum, London, Great Britain]; BPBM [Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu, USA] and RBH [Roman B. Holyński, Milanówek, POLAND].

Additionally, 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 eves:

V = width of vertex between eyes;

 \approx = approximately equal to.

KEY TO THE SUBGENERA OF PARACUPTA

1(2) Body strikingly gibbose: elytra strongly convex at base, ventral profile deeply concave at mesocoxae (distinct re-entrant angle between metasternum and downwards inclined prosternum). At least median sulcus of pronotum very well Dorsal profile may appear humped (strongly convex anterior part of elytra) 2(1) but pro-metasternal angle always convex or, if nearly straight (with only some sinuation at mesosternum), pronotal sulci fine, linear, shallow 3(6) Pronotum with 5 longitudinal sulci and/or tarsi and antennae dark. Body strikingly elongated (L:W<2.9), not flattened dorso-ventrally Pronotum with 5 longitudinal sulci. Antennae and usually tarsi yellow-testaceous 4(5) Paracupta Deyr. s. str. Pronotum trisulcate. Antennae and tarsi dark with metallic sheen 5(4) Chalcotaenia Deyr. Pronotum with (usually fine) median sulcus and pair of laterobasal depressions. 6(3) Body relatively wider (L:W>3.0), dorsoventrally flattened 7(10) Odd (1st, 3rd, 5th, and 7th.) discal elytral interstriae prominently costate, separated by depressed even (2nd, 4th, 6th) intervals. 8(9) Body black. Fifth (perimarginal) elytral costa evanescent (at most traces discernible in basal half), 8th-10th intervals transformed into lateral pulverulent dfp Bright green. Fifth (perimarginal) elytral costa (on 9th interstria) normally 9(8) 10(7) Odd (1st, 3rd, 5th, and 7th) discal elytral interstriae similar to even (2nd, 4th, 6th) intervals 11(12) Ninth interstria flat. Elytral sides with well developed pulverulent dfp band Eucupta sg. n. 12(11) Ninth interstria convex. No dfp band on elytral sides 13(14) All interstriae similarly developed. Prosternal process regularly convex, finely 12(11) Ninth inerstria markedly elevated, careniform, much more prominent than others. Prosternal process broadly depressed and coarsely punctate

Sg. Gibbicupta Hol.

Gibbicupta Holyński, 2009: 265-266.

Type-species: Buprestis helopioides Boisduval, 1835.

Well characterized in Hołyński (2009), no need for any significant modification except for removal of mistakenly included *P. prasina* (HEER) and *P. tibialis* SND.

Sg. Paracupta Deyr. s. str.

Paracupta Deyrolle, 1864: 33.

Type-species: Buprestis xanthocera Boisduval, 1835.

After separation of *Chalcotaenia* Deyr., *Callicupta* sg. n., *Eucupta* sg. n., and *Miragemma* sg. n., only three species known to me remain in the nominotypical subgenus: Moluccan *P. xanthocera* (BDV.), widely distributed on Solomon Is. *P. isabellina* Kerr., and the new species from Rennell I.

KEY TO SPECIES OF THE SUBGENUS PARACUPTA

- 2(1) Prosternal process medially sulcate. Outer intercostal spaces dfp, without coarse punctures
- 4(3) Dark green. 3rd and 4th costae separated throughout, 3rd intercosta (secondary costa) separates them extending beyond their ends ... *P.* (s. str.) *isabellina* KERR.

Paracupta (s. str.) rennelli sp. n. (Fig. 9)

MATERIAL EXAMINED

Holotype: ""<u>SOLOMON IS.</u>: Rennell I., Hutuna. 20-24. x. 1953. J.D.Bradley." [underlining orange] "RENNELL I. Expedition. B.M. 1954-222." [♀ (BMNH)]

Paratypes: "SOLOMON IS.: Rennell I., Hutuna. 17-19. x. 1953. J.D.Bradley." "RENNELL I. Expedition. B.M. 1954-222." [1 \cite{Q} (BMNH)]; "SOLOMON IS.: Rennell I., Hutuna. 6. xi. 1953. J.D.Bradley." "RENNELL I. Expedition. B.M. 1954-222." [1 \cite{Q} (BMNH)]; "SOLOMON IS.: Rennell I., Hutuna. 6. xi. 1953. J.D.Bradley." "RENNELL I. Expedition. B.M. 1954-222." "Paracupta isabellina Kerr., J. Balfour-Browne det. XI. 1958" [1 \cite{Q} (BMNH)]; "SOLOMON IS.: Rennell I., Hutuna. 8. xi. 1953. J.D.Bradley." "RENNELL I. Expedition. B.M. 1954-222." [1 \cite{Q} (RBH: BPenz)]; "SOLOMON IS.: Rennell I., Teuhungano. 26-28. xi. 1953. J.D.Bradley." "RENNELL I. Expedition. B.M. 1954-222." [2 \cite{Q} (RBH: BPeo-, eoa)] [on all labels "SOLOMON IS." underlined with orange]

DESCRIPTION

Holotype [in bracketed italics characters not checked on holotype, added (according to three paratypes in RBH) at home when holotype was no more available]: Female 31×10.5 mm. Ventral surface and depressed dfp areas of head, pronotum and elytra dull golden-green; elevated lustrous parts of dorsal side dark violaceous-brown with green bottoms of coarse punctures. Traces of yellow pulverulence discernible

in depressions of dorsal side, ventral dfp areas contrastingly pulverulent with white; labrum, palpi, 3.-11. antennal joints, and soles of tarsi pale yellow, basal two antennomeres and remaining parts of legs metallic dull green.

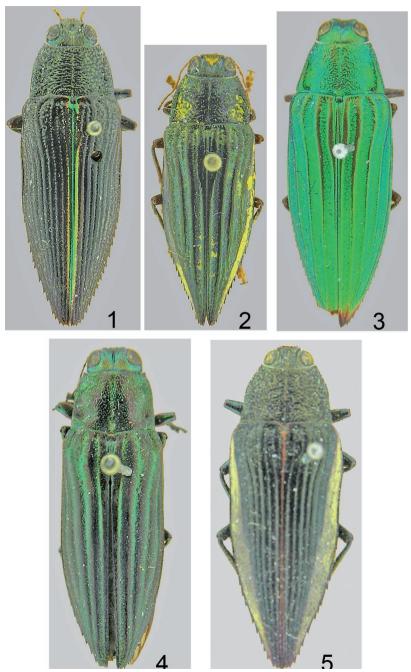
Labrum *ca.* as long as epistome but more deeply emarginated, with strongly convergent sides and dense apical brush of setae. Posterior margin of epistome almost parallel to anterior but a bit more angulose at middle, lateral ridges strongly divergent, anterior angles sharply acute; surface smooth and glabrous except for transverse row of setae associated with deep punctures. Front trapezoidal with upper width subequal to length; sides strongly divergent; deep and broad transverse sulcus just behind epistome, narrower furrows border inner margins of antennal cavities and eyes; main frontal depression uneven, with pair of tubercles on sides of distinct median stria, transverse elevation behind them, deep rounded fovea in anterior part, and two oblique on sides; bottom of these foveae densely and finely punctate, otherwise frontal punctulation coarser but rather sparse, becoming somewhat denser but finer on vertex. [Eyes flat, following the outline of head, sides convergent from base].

Pronotum transversely subtrapezoidal, widest at base W:L \approx 1.6:1; apical margin distinctly, somewhat bisinuately (with median lobe very inconspicuous) emarginate, anterior angles acute; sides strongly convergent, trisinuately (with broad sinus at middle and narrower two at anterior and posterior angles) rounded; base shallowly but distinctly bisinuate. Disk with five longitudinal dfp sulci: deep and regular along median line, two broader but broken on each side; rest of prontal surface rather uneven, coarsely but not very deeply, iregulary punctate. Scutellum quadrangular, longitudinally depressed, with distinct median stria.

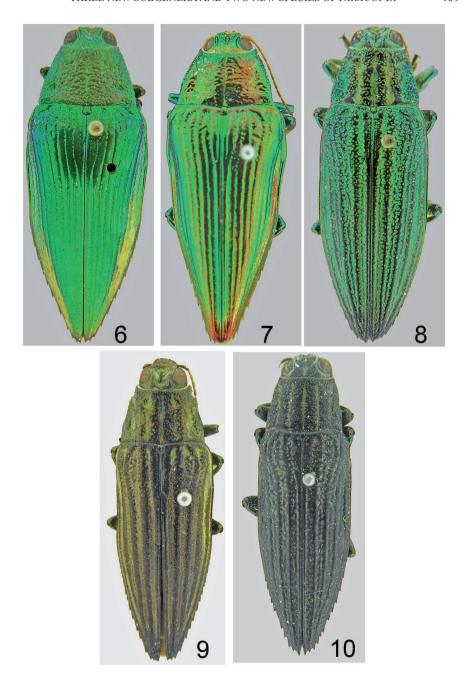
Elytra elongate (L:W≈2.3), almost parallelsided in basal half, narrowly tapering posteriorly, with lateroapical margins rather strongly dentate. Costae highly elevated, almost smooth (punctulation very fine and very sparse), 4. joins 3. at apical fifth; intercostal surfaces dfp, 2. and 3. with traces of intercostae in form of indistinct rows of irregular tubercles.

[Prosternum conspicuously convex in profile]; prosternal process shallowly longitudinally depressed, coarsely punctate along median line, almost smooth on sides; punctation of lateral slopes of median part of prosternum coarse, dense, irregular. Median parts of metasternum, metacoxae and abdomen, as well as posterior margins of sternites sparsely and rather finely punctate, lustrous; lateral parts dfp and pulverulent. [Basal sternite regularly convex]. Deep trapezoidal apical incision of anal sternite flanked with acute-angled, [longitudinally carinate] lobules; before the incision, [to both sides of inconspicuous (only apically developed) median carina], pair of short longitudinal depressions; [sides of anal sternite regularly rounded, without distinct preapical sinuation].

Paratypes: Only females known. 27-33.5×9-12 mm. Colouration of elytra sometimes cupreous rather than greenish in dfp and with distinct purplish shine on elevations; median parts of underside usually more or less golden-cupreous; general outline of (always trisinuate) pronotal sides vary from rather strongly rounded to almost straight; prosternal process in some specimens only anteriorly depressed; otherwise like holotype.



1. Paracupta (Bojasinskia) kleinschmidti FRM. $\bigcirc -Fiji$: Viti Levu; 2. P. (Callicupta) kioana sp. n. HT $\bigcirc -Fiji$: Kioa I.; 3. P. (Callistroma) samoensis SND. $\bigcirc -$ Samoa; 4. P. (Chalcotaenia) lamberti (C.G.) $\bigcirc -$ Australia: Queensland; 5. P. (Eucupta) flaviventris (HEER) $\bigcirc -$ Fiji



6. Paracupta (Eucupta) prasina (Heer) \bigcirc – Fiji; 7. *P.* (Miragemma) tibialis Snd. \bigcirc – Fiji: Koro I.; 8. *P.* (s. str.) isabellina Kerr. \bigcirc – Solomon Is.: Russell I.; 9. *P.* (s. str.) rennelli sp. n. PT \bigcirc – Solomon Is.: Rennell I.; 10. *P.* (s. str.) xanthocera Deyr. \bigcirc – Moluccas: Batjan I.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

Known only from Rennell Islands, where it replaces Solomonese P. is abellina Kerr.

REMARKS

Differs from *P. isabellina* Kerr, in various, but not always easy to describe, details [in brackets characters of *P. isabellina* Kerr.]: more lustrous [distinctly microsculptured] body; generally bronzed-brown [dull- or blackish-green] colouration (even if – as in holotype – dfp parts are greenish, this colour is not conspicuous in "total view"); entirely vellow labrum [lateral lobes – except in San Cristoval specimen – brownish-black] and 3.-11. antennomeres [poriferous lobes dark-brown]; much more marked pronotal ", collar", delimited dorsally by transverse row of deep [shallow and inconspicuous] foveolate depressions in longitudinal dfp sulci; much more prominent, nearly smooth [at least inner coarsely punctate] elytral costae: barely – not at all in basal half – appreciable [at least laterally rather well developed all along] intercostae; not prominently but more or less distinctly carinate [regularly convex] median line and regularly arcuate [deeply sinuate – except in San Cristoval ex. – before apex] sides of anal sternite; its shortly but sharply carinate [no trace of carinae] apical lobes. Moluccan P. xanthocera DEYR., despite similar outlook and colouration, is easily recognizable by very narrow and regular pronotal sulci, coarsely punctate elytral intercostal spaces, flat (without median depression) and uniformly sparsely punctate prosternal process.

Sg. Chalcotaenia Deyr.

Chalcotoenia [sic!] DEYROLLE, 1864: 12.

Type-species: Chrysodema lamberti Castelnau & Gory, 1835.

DEYROLLE (1864) described this – for him extralimital – genus "seulement pour l'ordre", including it only in the key to the genera of "CHRYSODEMIDES" with the laconic note that it has "pour le type Chr. Lamberti, Hope, d'Australie". Later authors (e.g. Saunders 1872, Thomson 1878) included here several other, mainly Australian species, making it a kind of "waste-basket" for taxa supposedly more or less related to Chrysodema C.G. The dismembering of the conglomerate started at the beginning of the 20th century, when Kerremans (1903) separated some of its representatives into Pseudotaenia Kerr. After removal of Cyphogastrella Théry (Théry 1926) and Chalcophorotaenia Obb. (Obenberger 1928) the genus became monotypic again. My own concept of the genus also varied: while in the "reassessment" of buprestid classification (HoŁyński 1993) I accepted Obenberger's still broad (1926) arrangement from the Coleopterorum Catalogus, four years later (Holyński 1997), having realized that the type-species is related to *Paracupta xanthocera* (BDV.) and *P. isabellina* KERR. rather than to Chalcophorotaenia OBB., I accepted OBENBERGER's taxon as a subgenus of Chalcoplia Ths. and considered the newly composed Chalcotaenia Deyr. a subgenus of Paracupta DEYR. At that time I "tacitly" considered Buprestis helopioides BDV. as the type-species of the latter genus, but shortly thereafter Bellamy (1998)

formally designated *B. xanthocera* BDV., what made *Chalcotaenia* DEYR. (in my new interpretation) nomenclatorically synonymous with *Paracupta* DEYR. — as they were described in the same paper, an action of first reviser was needed to establish their relative priority, and in this way I (HOLYŃSKI 2009) attached the seniority to the latter name. At present, acknowledging the significant distinctness between *P. lamberti* (C.G.) and the *P. xanthocera* (BDV.)-group, I find it justified to taxonomically separate them, and so *Chalcotaenia* DEYR. becomes monotypic once again, this time at the subgeneric level (however, closer examination of some species attributed traditionally to *Chalcophorotaenia* OBB. [e.g. C. martini (KERR.) or C. elongata (WATH.)] may reveal that in fact they also belong here).

Sg. Callicupta sg. n.

Type-species: Paracupta kioana sp. n. Gender: feminine.

Monotypic taxon, so subgeneric characteristics do not differ from those of the type-species. Non-gibbose body in combination with deep median sulcus and broad but medially indefinite laterobasal depressions of pronotum, as well as prominent costae and wide marginal dfp band of elytra, suffice to clearly define the taxon and distinguish it from others.

Paracupta (Callicupta) kioana sp. n. (Fig. 2)

MATERIAL EXAMINED

Holotype: "FIJI: Kioa I: S coast to center, 0-60 m, 4. X. 1979" "M.K.Kamath, S.N.Lal, G,A. & S.L. Samuelson Colls., BISHOP Museum, Acc. #1979.387"" "*PARA-CUPTA sp.*?, DET. C.L.BELLAMY 1989" [♀ (BPBM)]

Additional material: none.

DESCRIPTION

Holotype: Female 20×6.5 mm. Ovate, not gibbose (both dorsal and ventral profile convex) somewhat flattened. Black with greenish elytral interstriae and greenish sheen on sternum; labrum, epistomal sulci and antennae yellow-testaceous, legs somewhat darker ferrugineous. No distinct pubescence on elevated parts of surface, that on dfp very short, whitish, rather inconspicuous.

Epistome deeply arcuately emarginated at middle, deeply arcuately transversely sulcate, separated from front by prominent but not sharp ridge fully divided into two by short but deep median longitudinal branch of epistomal sulcus; supraantennal carinulae short, oblique; frontal depression triangular, entirely covered with clayey-yellowish pulverulence, sharply delimited by own steep external walls but without elevated marginal carinae, not extending laterally to ocular borders but prolonged as not much shallower sulcus to far above the level of upper ends of eyes; lateral margin of front with deep narrow groove running along entire median and upper margins of eye; punctulation of vertex moderately fine and very sparse; eyes not distinctly protruding

beyond outline of head; V:H \approx 0.43. Antennae slender, long, reaching to near pronotal base; 1. antennomere fusiform, ca. $4\times$ longer than thick; 2. subcylindrical, somewhat longer than wide, much narrower and $4\times$ shorter than 1.; 3. as long as 1., still thinner (except at very apex) that 2., almost cylindrical; 4.-10. subrhomboidal, somewhat wider apically than 1., 4. almost as long as 3., others progressively shorter (10. twice shorter than 4., ca. $1.5\times$ longer than wide) and more rhomboidal; 11. asymmetrically subovate, ca. as long as 7.

Pronotum trapezoidal (BW:AW:L≈1.6:1.1:1), basal margin almost imperceptibly bisinuate, posterior angles very slightly acute; sides arcuately convergent from base to apex, no distinct "collar"; apical margin very shallowly bisinuate. Surface regularly convex except for rather deep median sulcus, broad but shallow, irregular (not dfp), only from sides clearly delimited laterobasal depressions narrowly prolonged anterad to *ca.* apical third, and separated from lateral margins by elevated, narrowly parallel-sided, densely and rather coarsely punctate space; disk coarsely but rather sparsely punctate, sculpture of lateral depressions very coarse and transformed into irregular mixture of foveolae and elevated granules; lateral carinae arcuate, not sharp but entire. Scutellum roundedly trapezoidal, wider than long, as wide as two innermost interstriae, convex, impunctate.

Elytra (L:W≈2.2) obliquely truncated at humeri, subparallelsided in basal third, shallowly arcuate to apical fourth, then cuneately tapering to narrowly jointly rounded apices; no subhumeral denticles; lateroapical margins sharply denticulate with three denticles at the very apex much finer. Each elytron with 4 prominent entire costae, 5. (prelateral) costa almost totally lacking (traces discernible in basal half); intercostae poorly developed at base, completely vanishing in apical ³/4; 1. (sutural) costa abruptly widened at basal fourth, "splitted" there by sharply engraved periscutellar stria; other costae bordered from both sides with dense rows of fine punctures; costae impunctate; intercostal spaces narrow, concave, dfp; wider (merged by disappearance of 5. costa) 4+5 intercostal space forms distinct lateral pulverulent dfp band. Epipleura only below humeri somewhat wider, otherwise linearly narrow throughout.

Sides of sternum and abdomen widely dfp, with some fine reliefs on middle of proepisterna and lustrous elevation separating inner from outer part of metacoxae; elevated parts of ventral surface sparsely, rather finely punctate. Anterior margin of prosternum very shallowly emarginated; prosternal process slightly widened behind procoxae, deeply sulcate, coarsely and densely punctate median part *ca.* as wide as smooth and shining convex lateral rims. Metasternum deeply sulcate along midline of the anterior (before arcuate metaventral suture) part; no metacoxal denticle. First sternite deeply sulcate along midline, sulcus vanishing before apical margin; anal sternite sharply triangularly notched at apex.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

Fiji: Kioa I. (offshore the southeastern peninsula of Vanua Levu). Known only from the holotype.

Remarks

The combination of black colouration, definitely convex ventral profile, prominent elytral costae, and wide lateral dfp band distinguishes the new species from other known species of *Paracupta* DEYR.

Sg. Callistroma FRM.

Callistroma Fairmaire, 1877: 153.

Type-species: Callistroma oxypyra Fairmaire, 1877 [=Paracupta samoensis Saunders, 1874].

Monotypic, well known taxon, the easternmost representative of the genus. Traditionally treated as a separate genus, but – as I (Hołyński 2009) have shown – fitting comfortably in *Paracupta* Deyr. Median carina on anal sternite, often quoted as diagnostic for the "genus", is absent in male.

Sg. Eucupta sg. n.

Type-species: Buprestis flaviventris HEER, 1868. Gender: feminine.

Characterized by coarsely and densely punctate pronotum with linearly narrow median sulcus and nearly absent laterobasal depressions, elytra with deep regular discal striae and broad lateral pulverulent dfp band. Ventral profile definitely convex or [P. (E.) prasina (HEER)] at most approximately straight (prosternum not inclined downwards) with some sinuation at mesosternum. Two species [P. flaviventris (HEER) and P. prasina (HEER)] are now available to me for examination, but judging from descriptions some others [P. albilatera Frm., perhaps P. evansi Thy.) also belong here. The relatively strongly gibbose body of P. (E.) prasina (HEER) is confusing: it might reflects some affinity to sg. Gibbicupta Hol. but convergence seems to be the more likely explanation. All known species inhabit Fiji Is.

Sg. Bojasinskia Hol.

Bojasinskia Hołyński, 2009: 266-267.

Type-species: Buprestis kleinschmidti Fairmaire, 1878.

Originally (mainly because of apparently misleading results of phylogenetic analysis) tentatively described as a separate genus, but subgeneric status within *Paracupta* Deyr. better reflects its true position. Previously included *P. flaviventris* (Heer) is hereby removed to *Eucupta* sg.n., but on the other hand *P. leveri* Thy. from Vanikoro I. should be included, so the known distribution area of the subgenus appears as disjunct.

Sg. Miragemma sg. n.

Type-species: Paracupta tibialis Saunders, 1872. Gender: feminine.

Monotypic Fijian subgenus, characterized by narrow median sulcus, deep but irregular and poorly delimited laterobasal depressions and coarse irregular punctation of pronotum; cuneate, slightly humped, regularly and deeply striate elytra with prominently costate 9. interstria; convex ventral profile, broad but shallow, coarsely punctate median depression of prosternal process. The perimarginal costa "replacing" dfp band on otherwise regularly striated elytra is unique in the genus.

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