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Simaethea sabahensis, a new species of flea beetles from
Sabah, Malaysia
(Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Alticinae)

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ABSTRACT. *Simaethea sabahensis*, n.sp., a new species of flea beetle is described from Sabah, Malaysia.

Key words: Entomology, taxonomy, new species, *Coleoptera*, *Chrysomelidae*, *Alticinae*, *Simaethea*, Malaysia, Sabah.

INTRODUCTION

Four flea beetle species of the genus *Simaethea* BALY are known at present: two were described from Java, and one from each Sumatra and Tringanee-Peninsular Malaysia (HEIKERTINGER & CSIKI 1941). A new species of *Simaethea* from Sabah, the Malaysian State in Borneo is described below. The occurrence of the genus in Borneo is a new record.

***Simaethea sabahensis* n. sp.**

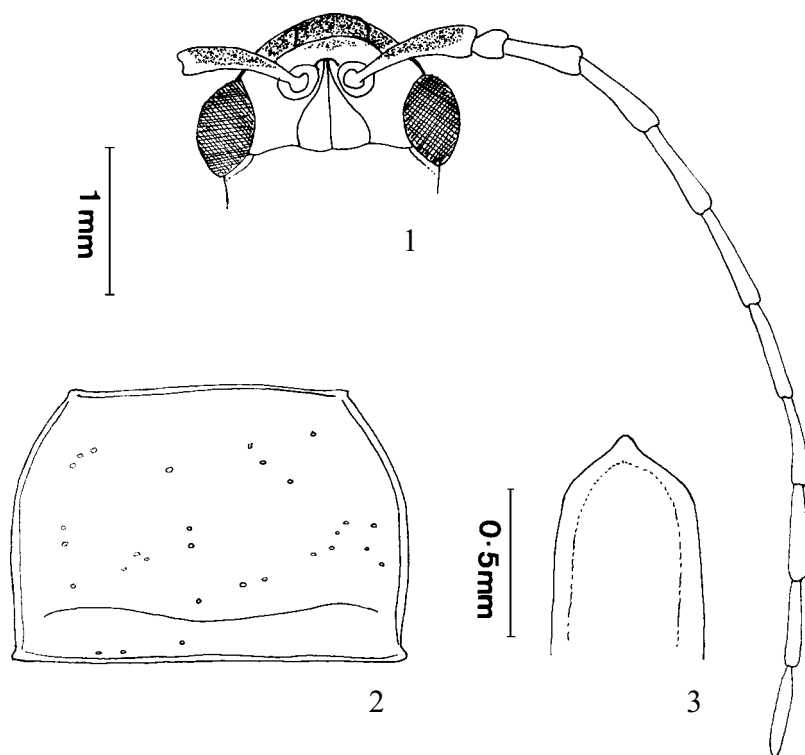
(Figs 1-3)

Head brownish, except labrum, mandibles black; vertex smooth, shiny; frontal tubercles strongly raised, elongate triangular; interantennal space as broad as antenna! socket, carinate in middle; clypeus blackish in middle, broadly depressed; labrum transverse, sparsely pubescent, truncate; maxillary palpi with apical segment swollen; mandibles strongly curved; gene one-half as deep as the

transverse diameter of each eye. Eyes small, with interocular space twice as broad as transverse diameter of each eye; sides behind eyes straight, parallel. Antennae yellowish, extended to apical one-fourth of elytra; segment 1 partly blackish dorsally, club-shaped; segment 2 shortest, as long as broad; segments 3 and 4 thicker, dilated at apex; segments 5-11 narrower than 4, not dilated at apex.

Pronotum brownish, oblong, 1.2 times as broad as long, broadest at apical onethird, strongly convex from side to side on apical one-third; anterior, lateral and posterior borders margined; posterior border broader than the anterior; disc sparsely covered with small punctures; antebasal area transversely, shallowly depressed. Scutellum brownish, triangular, as long as broad, smooth, impunctate.

Elytra brownish, subparallel-sided, with apical margins rather truncate; disc covered with moderately large punctures, arranged in nine rows, and smaller punctures all over the disc; epipleura broad, concave, gradually narrowed toward apex. Legs robust, entirely black, shiny; metafemora strongly incrassate; tibiae strongly channeled near apex; tarsi with ventral surfaces densely pubescent; protibiae strongly curved inward, with apical one-third strongly dilated, densely



1-3. *Simaethea sabahensis* n. sp.: 1 - head and antenna, 2 - pronotum, 3 - apex of aedeagus

pubescent, twice as broad as basal twothirds; protarsi with the first segment strongly dilated at apex; metatarsi with the first segment shorter than the remainder segments combined; tarsal claws appendiculate.

Ventral surface sparsely pubescent; pro- and mesosternum brownish, metasternum black, except metepisterna, brownish; intercoxal process of prosternum long, dilated at apex; intercoxal process of mesosternum short, not dilated at apex; metasternum with elongated depression in middle.

Abdomen black. Apical sternite trilobed, with median lobe short, transverse. Pygidium broad, rounded at apex. Aedeagus pointed at apex. Body length 8.0-8.3 mm.

Female. Protibiae narrower, rather straight, not dilated at apex. Apical sternite entire. Body length 7.8 mm.

TYPES

Holotype male: MALAYSIA, Sabah, Taman Kinabalu, Sayap, 3-8.VI.1992, ZAIDI, ISMAIL & RUSLAN.

Paratypes: MALAYSIA, Sabah, Taman Kinabalu, Sayap, 3-8.VI.1992, ZAIDI, ISMAIL & RUSLAN, 1 male. Taman Kinabalu, Kundasang, Liwagu river trail, 1750 m, 10.IV.1988, James SOIBI, 1 female.

Type specimens are deposited in the Centre for Insect Systematics, Unievrstity Kebangsaan Malaysia, Bangi (UKM).

REMARKS

All the four species of *Simaethea* differ from the new species in having elytra brownish or reddish, partly black, or violaceous, not entirely brownish. *Simaethea laportei* BALY, described from Tringanee, resembles the new species, but differs in having frontal tubercles subquadrate, pronotum black, densely covered with large punctures, elytra reddish brown, with apical one-fourth black.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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REFERENCE

- HEIKERTINGER, F., E. CSIKI, 1941. *Chrysomelidae: Halticinae*. Coleopterorum Catalogus, Pars 169: 337-635.