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# Description of the first Chlamydopsinae (Coleoptera: Histeridae) from the Philippines

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## Abstract

The first two species of the obligate inquilinous subfamily Chlamydopsinae (Coleoptera: Histeridae) from the Philippines, *Eucurtiopsis ashei* (Luzon Island) and *E. avis* (Negros Island), are described and illustrated. Positions of the new species within the genus and potential biogeographic connection of the Philippine chlamydopsine fauna are discussed.

**Key words:** Coleoptera, Histeridae, Chlamydopsinae, *Eucurtiopsis*, new species, Philippines, myrmecophily

## Introduction

The Chlamydopsinae is an exclusively inquilinous subfamily of histerid beetles. It presently comprises 174 species (Caterino & Dégallier 2007) collectively ranging throughout Australia and Indomalaysia, as well as scattered localities in southeast Asia. Where hosts are known, all species are obligate associates of various species of ants (Formicidae) and termites (Isoptera). The group has received considerable recent attention, having tripled in described diversity over the past seven years (Caterino 2000, 2003, 2006; Dégallier & Caterino 2005a, b). These studies have filled in many large distributional gaps and extended the known morphological variability greatly. One of the most significant remaining distributional gaps has been the Philippine Islands, with species previously known from neighboring Indonesian Islands and Taiwan. Here we describe the first two species from the Philippines, both belonging to the genus *Eucurtiopsis* Silvestri, 1926, and discuss their positions in the genus.

*Eucurtiopsis* is known from 18 described species. The earliest of these were described from Taiwan and Japan (Silvestri 1926; Sawada 1991; Nishikawa 1995) and the genus was considered an outlying northern component of Chlamydopsinae. However, typical representatives, as well as a surprising diversity of atypical members, have since been described from Indonesia and Malaysia. These northern members are distributional outliers belonging to well established clades with a more typical Australasian origin. Caterino & Dégallier (2007) recently provided a more precise definition of the genus, adding several species from the still poorly delimited *Orectoscelis* Lewis, 1903. The resulting *Eucurtiopsis* is defined by transversely incised trichomes, presence of paired dorsal tubercles at or near the pronotal margin, a pronotum which is narrower than the elytra, and the presence of branched setae on at least some parts of the body. The genus appears monophyletic. The two quite different species described here both have near relatives among more southern *Eucurtiopsis*, and will help to clarify biogeographic and phylogenetic relationships across the genus as a whole.

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