A new genus and species of the tribe Trigonogeniini Cobos, 1956, from Belize (Coleoptera: Buprestidae)

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The name Trigonogenium Harold, 1869 was introduced as a replacement name for Trigonophorus Solier, 1849 (preoccupied by Serville, 1834: Hymenoptera). The genus was revised by Cobos (1956) who discussed the systematic position of Trigonogenium and suggested for the genus a separate tribe Trigonogenini (sic!). The next revision was published also by Cobos (1986) and the placement of the genus was repeatedly discussed by Holyňskı (1988, 1993), Bílý (2000), Volkovitsh (2001), Bellamy (2003, 2007) and the tribal level of the group was finally confirmed by Bílý & Volkovitsh (2007) after a detailed study of the larval morphology. Up to now the tribe has contained only two genera: Trigonogenium (three species and one subspecies) and Hovorigenium Bellamy, 2007 (one species).

Among the various buprestid beetles sent to me for determination from the Oxford University Museum, I found one female specimen of an undescribed genus and species of Trigonogeniini from Belize. This record extends the distribution of the tribe north to Central America since representatives of Trigonogeniini have been distributed up to now only in Chile and parts of adjacent Argentina (Trigonogenium) and Ecuador (Hovorigenium).

Label data are presented “verbatim”, data from separate labels are divided by “/”. A stereoscopic microscope SZP 11 zoom was used for illustrations and a microscope Olympus SZX 12 with fixed camera for colour images.

Cimrmanium gen. nov. (Figs. 3–5)

Type species: Cimrmanium angulinotum sp. nov. (present designation).

Description. Medium-sized, rather convex, elongate-ovoid, distinctly enlarged posteriorly; entire dorsal surface except for pronotum with short, recumbent, black (head) or grey (elytra) pubescence, pronotum glabrous, asetose; abdominal ventrites with extremely short, grey pubescence; head deeply impressed above frontoclypeal suture, supraantennal carinae strongly developed; antennomeres 4–11 obtusely serrate, longer than wide; eyes large, widely reniform, not projecting beyond outline of head; pronotum with fine, transverse rugae on disc, lateral pronotal margins strongly angulate at posterior fifth, deeply emarginate before posterior angles; prelateral pronotal carina well-developed, obtuse; scutellum very small, slightly longer than wide; elytra nearly regularly convex, enlarged posteriorly with rows of fine, deep, isolated punctures; elytral epipleura narrow, almost reaching elytral apex; apical third of elytral margins finely, densely serrate; prosternal process flat, nearly subparallel, anal ventrite obtusely truncate; legs long, slender, femora narrowly fusiform, tarsi with ventral adhesive pads on tarsomeres 2–4; ovipositor long, slender, strongly sclerotised with small, laterally inserted styli.

Etymology. The genus Cimrmanium gen. nov. (neuter) is named after the famous Czech traveller, innovator and the last Czech polyhistorian, Jára Cimrman.

Differential diagnosis. The genus Cimrmanium gen. nov. differs from Trigonogenium and Hovorigenium by deeply impressed frons, strongly developed supraantennal carinae, quite characteristic pronotal shape (Fig. 3), transverse rugae on pronotal disc, posteriorly enlarged elytra (Fig. 3) and by the whole set of characters given in the key. From Hovorigenium it differs also by larger body, not elevated alternate elytral costae and by subparallel prosternal process; from Trigonogenium by the narrow pronotum which is much narrower than the base of elytra (Figs. 2 & 3), much finer dorsal sculpture, slightly prolonged scutellum, longer antennomeres, truncate anal ventrite, frons carinate along inner margins of eyes and by presence of transverse, elytral fields of grey pubescence.