



Description of a neotype and designation of four lectotypes from Borneo in the genus *Curculio* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae)

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Abstract

A neotype is described for *Balaninus sellatus* Marshall, originally based on a unique female specimen, which will be replaced by a male specimen; and four lectotypes are designated for the following species: *B. analis* Marshall, *B. discreticoxis* Marshall, *B. imitator* Marshall, and *B. quincunx* Marshall. All species are now in the genus *Curculio* Linnaeus. Original type specimens were stolen on the Paris Metro.

Key words: Borneo, Coleoptera, Curculionidae, Curculionini, *Curculio*, lectotypes, neotype

Introduction

Guy A. K. Marshall (1919) described the *Balaninus* (*Curculio*) occurring in Malaysian Borneo, then called British Borneo, in 1919. The specimens were obtained from the collections of Mr. G. E. Bryant, Mr. R. Shelford from the Oxford and Cambridge Museums and Dr. A. R. Wallace.

In the course of reviewing the Curculionini of the World I borrowed holotype specimens from the Natural History Museum London to compare with specimens loaned to me by Dr. Charles W. O'Brien (Green Valley, AZ). The species borrowed consisted of the following: *Balaninus analis* Marshall, *B. discreticoxis* Marshall, *B. imitator* Marshall, *B. quincunx* Marshall and *B. sellatus* Marshall. All species are now in the genus *Curculio* Linnaeus. Of the taxa borrowed only *C. sellatus* was based on a unique type specimen, a female and probably the only specimen known in the world at the time. The other four species have syntypes in the British Museum of Natural History (BMNH). After studying the specimens and taking pictures it was time to return the specimens to the museum.

I planned a trip to Europe to visit several museums and so I intended to return the types when visiting the BMNH. Originally, I intended to visit the Museum nationale d'Histoire naturelle in Paris (MNHN) as well, so I booked my flight to arrive in Paris and then to travel to London. After booking my flight to Paris I was informed that a visit to the Museum would not be possible as the curator, Dr. Hélène Perrin, would be away from the Museum at the time I had planned to travel to Europe. My friend Gil Challet and I were traveling together and when he arrived at Charles De Gaulle airport we took the Paris Metro to Paris North train station Gare du Nord where we would take the Eurostar to London. While on the Metro it made a stop to pick up passengers and we were seated near the door with our luggage and with my briefcase sitting next to me in the seat. When we stopped, a man got on board and dropped his keys at my feet, this took my attention away from my briefcase and his partner in crime snatched my briefcase and ran. By the time we had realized what had happened he was gone in just a few seconds. In the briefcase were several boxes of insect specimens, most notably the box containing the type specimens mentioned above. Upon arriving at the train station we reported the incident to the Paris Police. I am sure the thieves were only interested in the computer and any money or documents that might have been in the briefcase and no doubt discarded the valuable insects. We subsequently proceeded to the BMNH and reported the unfortunate incident to Max Barclay, curator of Coleoptera.