



## Revision of the New Caledonian genus *Pseudonthobium* Paulian, 1984 (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Epilissini)

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### Abstract

A revision of the New Caledonian genus *Pseudonthobium* Paulian, 1984 is proposed, including the description of seven new species: *P. doense* **new species**, *P. foveolatum* **new species**, *P. genieri* **new species**, *P. humboldtense* **new species**, *P. monteithianum* **new species**, *P. paniense* **new species**, and *P. sinuatotibiale* **new species**. A key to the species, illustrations of parameres and male protibia, and a distribution map are provided for all species.

**Key words:** new species, key, distribution, New Caledonia

### Introduction

The New Caledonian dung beetles of the tribe Epilissini (see Montreuil 2010) are arranged into eight endemic genera (Paulian 1991), half of which are monospecific. The genera are: *Onthobium* Reiche, 1860 (13 species), *Anonthobium* Paulian, 1984 (6 species), *Paronthobium* Paulian, 1984 (1 species), *Ignambia* Heller, 1916 (1 species), *Caeconthobium* Paulian, 1984 (1 species), *Baloghonthobium* Paulian, 1986 (1 species), *Falsignambia* Paulian, 1987 (1 species), and *Pseudonthobium* Paulian, 1984 (2 species).

*Pseudonthobium* was created by Paulian (1984) to accommodate two species within the New Caledonian fauna: *Onthobium fracticolle* Fauvel, 1903, and *P. fracticolloides* Paulian, 1984. This genus is characterized within the New Caledonian Epilissini by a combination of characters that allows easy recognition of the genus. Only the endemic New Caledonian genera *Caeconthobium* and *Ignambia* could be confused with this genus by the similar shape of pronotum, but these two genera can be easily distinguished from *Pseudonthobium* because the eyes are not visible from above.

The study of the specimens preserved in the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Queensland Museum, and Canadian Museum of Nature collections; and of the specimens recently collected by one of us (TT) and by L. Soldati (CBGP), revealed seven new species of *Pseudonthobium*. Five of these new species are similar to *P. fracticolloides* in their large body size. The two other new species are similar to *P. fracticolle* (Fauvel) in their much smaller size. The purpose of this paper is to describe and illustrate these new species and revise the genus.

### Material and methods

The examined material and type specimens are deposited in the following collections:

CBGP	Centre de Biologie et de Gestion des Populations (Montpellier, France)
CMN	Canadian Museum of Nature (Ottawa, Canada)
CTT	Thomas Théry collection (Fleury-les-Aubrais, France)
IAC	Institut Agronomique néo-Calédonien (La Foa, Pocquereux, New Caledonia, France)
IRSNB	Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique (Brussels, Belgium)