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Sulabanus gen. nov., a new genus of Lycidae (Coleoptera) from Sulawesi

MILAN DVORAK & LADISLAV BOCAK[1]

Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science, Palacky University, tr. Svobody 26, 771 46 Olomouc, Czech Republic
[1]Corresponding author. E-mail: ladislav.bocak@upol.cz; dvorak1013@centrum.cz

Abstract

The genus *Sulabanus* **gen. nov.** is described from Sulawesi and it is placed in the tribe Metriorrhynchini, and a close relationships with *Metriorrhynchus* Gemminger & Harold, 1869 is suggested. Twenty–five species are recognized, of which 24 are described as new: *S. ambangensis* **sp. nov.**, *S. amporiwensis* **sp. nov.**, *S. barclayi* **sp. nov.**, *S. brancuccii* **sp. nov.**, *S. brunneus* **sp. nov.**, *S. cordatus* **sp. nov.**, *S. dumongabonensis* **sp. nov.**, *S. gracilis* **sp. nov.**, *S. katarinae* **sp. nov.**, *S. lalui* **sp. nov.**, *S. lineatus* **sp. nov.**, *S. mamasensis* **sp. nov.**, *S. major* **sp. nov.**, *S. minor* **sp. nov.**, *S. nigricordatus* **sp. nov.**, *S. niger* **sp. nov.**, *S. ocularis* **sp. nov.**, *S. pendolensis* **sp. nov.**, *S. robustus* **sp. nov.**, *S. rufomarginatus* **sp. nov.**, *S. similis* **sp. nov.,** *S. tenggahensis* **sp. nov.**, *S. ulci* **sp. nov.**, and *S. utarensis* **sp. nov.** *Xylobanus nigricolor* Pic, 1922 is transferred to *Sulabanus* **gen. nov.** and redescribed. The species of *Sulabanus* are classified in five species groups based on the shape of male genitalia and these groups are described with important diagnostic characters illustrated. A species identification key for males is provided. The ecology, zoogeography, evolution and mimicry of *Sulabanus* **gen. nov.** are discussed. The high degree of external similarity among distantly related species from several lycid genera in Sulawesi suggests evolution of Müllerian mimicry.

Key words: Coleoptera, Lycidae, *Sulabanus*, new genus, new species, new combination, taxonomy, mimicry, Australian Region

Introduction

The Lycidae fauna of Sulawesi is poorly known and was neglected for long time (Kleine, 1933). The lack of the taxonomic information prevents any evolutionary oriented studies, although the complex tectonic history of the island and the origin its fauna through dispersal from both Australian and Asian continental plates make it an ideal case to biogeographic studies.

The lycid fauna of Sulawesi has remained poorly studied for a long time compared with those of continental Asia and Australia. The first described lycid species from Sulawesi was *Lycus thoracicus* Fabricius, 1801. Further taxa were added by Waterhouse (1879), and later in 1920s by Kleine (1927) and by Pic (1921, 1922) in a small series of papers based on the material collected by H. Fruhstorfer in the end of Nineteenth century. Recently, the Royal Entomological Society and the Natural History Museum (London) organized a one–year expedition to northern Sulawesi (Knight 1988). Material from this project, as well as that collected during other modern studies of the insect fauna of Sulawesi have enabled considerable recent research on the Lycidae of the island (e. g. Bocak 1999, 2000, Bocak & Matsuda 1998, Bocak & Jass 2004, Bocakova 2006). These studies have demonstrated that Sulawesi has a much higher diversity and endemicity of Lycidae than was previously thought.

Eight genera of Metriorrhynchinae are recorded from Sulawesi: *Broxylus* Waterhouse, 1879, *Cautiromimus* Pic, 1926, *Diatrichalus* Kleine, 1926, *Leptotrichalus* Kleine, 1926, *Metriorrhynchus* Gemminger &

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