



## Rediscovery of *Pseudopyrochroa uniformis* Pic (Coleoptera: Pyrochroidae: Pyrochroinae)

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### Abstract

A single, authoritatively determined female of *Pseudopyrochroa uniformis* Pic, previously listed as *incertae sedis* and unknown since its description more than 60 years ago, has been discovered. It is redescribed, compared with related southeast Asian members of *Pseudopyrochroa*, and pertinent structures illustrated. Antennal configuration, general form of the cranium, surface sculpturing of the pronotum, and possibly color, are diagnostic for the species.

**Key words:** *Pseudopyrochroa basalis* (Pic), *Pseudopyrochroa nigricolor* (Pic), *Pseudopyrochroa obscuricollis* (Pic), *Pseudopyrochroa uniformis* Pic, Pyrochroidae, Cameron Highlands, Malaysia

### Introduction

Pyrochroids, more appropriately members of the nominate subfamily, Pyrochroinae, are commonly referred to as the cardinal beetles, fire beetles, Feuerkäfer, or fire-colored beetles because most species are entirely, dominantly, or at least partially brightly colored with a wide spectrum of red, orange, and bright yellow patterning. Thus, all-black or nearly uniform black species are quite uncommon in the subfamily. It is, however, this darkly colored, black or mostly black assemblage that bears on the taxonomic history of *Pseudopyrochroa uniformis* Pic.

In August, 1911, Maurice Pic described an entirely black pyrochroid, *Pyrochroa nigricolor*, from “Malacca” [= Melaka, Malaysia] based on an unspecified number of specimens. Although written in his characteristically brief style, and making no specific reference to sex, it can be inferred that his description was based upon the female, only: “... antennes robustes et poilues, plus ou moins longuement pectinées à partir du 5<sup>e</sup> article ...” In males of this species, the pectinations clearly begin with the third antennomere. Pic’s (1912) key to the “*Pyrochroa*” of Malacca included *P. nigricolor*. Blair (1914) is first to have referred to the male of this species, noting a specimen from the Fry Collection (Coleoptera holdings of The Natural History Museum, London) collected by Doherty in “Perak”, Malaysia. Blair also first used the present combination, *Pseudopyrochroa nigricolor* (Pic) in his 1914 publication. Aside from a listing of the species in Blair’s (1928) contribution to the Coleopterorum Catalogus, virtually no other mention of *P. nigricolor* was made until Pic (1938) alluded to the similarity between *P. nigricolor* and his new Javan species, *Pseudopyrochroa atra*. The latter is, however, merely a dark morph of *Pseudopyrochroa basalis* (Pic) (Young 1996b), and aside from being congeneric, the two species are, contrary to Pic’s statement, neither very similar nor closely related. Pic (1943) similarly made fleeting reference to the similarity between *P. nigricolor* and another new species, *Pseudopyrochroa atricolor*, but once again, the resemblance is in general color only; the two species are not at all similar. In reviewing the status of *Pseudopyrochroa* types in the Museum National d’Histoire Naturelle, Paris, Young (1996a) reported finding a single female of *P. nigricolor* in the Pic collection from “Perak, Malacca;” he designated that specimen as the lectotype.