



***Helperella oborili* sp. nov. from Indonesia (Coleoptera: Buprestidae: Polycestinae: Haplostethini)**

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Introduction

In the course of his long-term stay on Tanimbar, our colleague M. Obořil (Brno, Czech Republic) collected a large number of specimens of an undescribed species of the genus *Helperella* Cobos, 1957 (tribe Haplostethini), which is described below.

The genus *Helperella* was established by Cobos (1957) for the unique species, *H. diana* Cobos, 1957 from Papua New Guinea. The status of the genus was subsequently discussed by Cobos (1981), Tôyama (1983), Holyński (1984) and Bellamy (1987, 1990). The presence of elytral epipleura and more significantly the well-developed pronotal, sublateral groove for the antennae in repose (Fig. 3) are the most important characters distinguishing the genus *Helperella* from other genera of Haplostethini (e.g. key of genera in Cobos, 1957: 92). Bellamy (2008) listed 14 species of *Helperella*, all with Australasian or Pacific distribution.

A stereoscopic microscope SZP 11 zoom was used for illustrations and a microscope Olympus SZX 12 with fixed camera for colour images.

Taxonomy

***Helperella oborili* sp. nov.**

(Figs. 1–5)

Type specimens. Holotype (♂): “Indonesia, Tanimbar is.[Prov. Papua], Yamdena ISL., 20 km NE of Saumlaki, 150 m, 1.–31.i.2007, M. Obořil lgt.”; allotype (♀): same data; paratypes (70 ♂♂, 49 ♀♀): same data. Holotype, allotype and 30 paratypes deposited in the National Museum, Prague (Czech Republic), 89 paratypes deposited in the collection of M. Obořil (Brno, Czech Republic).

Diagnosis. Very small (2.40–3.20 mm), convex, subparallel, moderately lustrous species (Fig. 1); dorsal surface black with very slight brass tinge (male only); ventral surface lustrous, black in both sexes; head and ventral surface glabrous, pronotum and elytra with extremely fine, sparse, nearly invisible, white pubescence.

Description of the male holotype (Fig. 1). Head small, partly retracted into prothorax; frontoclypeus angularly produced between eyes, slightly emarginate anteriorly; frons moderately convex, slightly grooved medially, vertex convex, about 1.8 times as wide as width of eye; eyes small, narrowly reniform, distinctly projecting beyond outline of head, inner margins converging dorsally; antennae rather long, reaching posterior fourth of pronotal length when laid along side; scape robust, pyriform, slightly curved, about 2.5 times as long as wide; pedicel spherical, only slightly narrower than scape; antennomere 3 somewhat claviform, slender, twice as long as wide; antennomere 4 subtriangular, subequal in length to 3; 5–10 obtusely triangular, as wide as long; 11 ovoid, twice as long as wide; sculpture of head consisting of fine, simple punctures, separated by slightly more than their diameter.

Pronotum strongly convex, 1.52 times as wide as long, widest at midlength or slightly posteriad of midlength; anterior margin shallowly concave, nearly straight at middle; posterior margin finely biarcuate; lateral margins strongly arcuate along basal half, then attenuate to arcuate anterior angles; prelateral carina well-developed, nearly reaching anterolateral angles; sublateral groove for antennae in repose well-developed (Fig. 3); sculpture consisting of dense, very fine, simple punctures, separated by somewhat more than their diameter; basal portion also with very fine, transverse rugae. Scutellum small, subtriangular, about 1.5 times as long as wide.

Elytra regularly convex, distinctly narrower than pronotum, 1.50 times as long as wide, widest part at midlength; humeral swellings small but distinct; basal transverse depression deep nearly reaching scutellum; epipleura well-