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## A new species of *Melobasina* (*Ulaikoilia* Bílý & Kubáň) (Coleoptera: Buprestidae) from Sulawesi

BRIAN LEVEY

*c/o Department of Natural Sciences, National Museum Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF10 3NP, U.K.*

*E-mail: brian.levy@museumwales.ac.uk*

### Abstract

A new species *Melobasina* (*Ulaikoilia*) *jennyae* sp. n. (Coleoptera: Buprestidae) is described from Sulawesi, Indonesia. A key is provided to distinguish the new species from the other two known species.

**Key words:** Coleoptera, Buprestidae, *Melobasina* (*Ulaikoilia*), new species, key, Sulawesi

### Introduction

There have been two recent publications dealing with the genus *Melobasina* Kerremans, 1900 *sensu lato* with somewhat conflicting conclusions regarding the composition and relationships of the genus (Bílý *et al.* 2009; Holyński 2011). Bílý *et al.* (2009) erected a new subtribe Nesotrinchina of a new concept of the tribe Poecilnotini Jakobson, 1913 to accommodate three genera, namely *Melobasina*, *Nesotrinchus* Obenberger, 1924 and *Ulaikoilia* Bílý & Kubáň, 2009. Holyński (2011) treats these three genera as subgenera of the genus *Melobasina* and places them in the subtribe *Haplotrinchina* Holyński, 1993.

The species described here would key to *Melobasina* using the key to *Haplotrinchina* in Holyński (2011). It does not unequivocally key to any of the three subgenera of *Melobasina*, namely *Melobasina*, *Nesotrinchus* and *Ulaikoilia* recognised by Holyński (2011).

Based on the characters listed for these genera in Bílý *et al.* (2009) the new species appears to be most closely related to *Ulaikoilia* sharing with this taxon the following character states: stout and robust body form, slightly cordiform elytra, strong supraantennal carinae with a flat frons between, distal antennomeres much wider than long, lateral pronotal carina developed, subhumeral lobe of elytra well developed, form of the aedeagus (Fig. 3), wing venation with AP<sub>3a</sub> fused distally (Fig. 7). It is evident that the type species of *Ulaikoilia*, *U. jelineki* Bílý & Kubáň is rather different from the new species and *M. (U.) hoschecki* (see Diagnosis below). One could make a case for placing the new species and *M. (U.) hoschecki* in a new subgenus. I have resisted this temptation as I think that the proliferation of genus group names in the absence of a thorough cladistics analysis adds little to our understanding of relationships. I treat *Ulaikoilia* as a subgenus to reflect its evident closer relationship to *Melobasina* (*s. str.*) and *Nesotrinchus* as shown by Bílý *et al.* (2009), relative to its relationship to *Haplotrinchus*.

### Methods

Label data on separate labels is separated by a “/”. Measurements were made using a microscope fitted with an eyepiece graticule. Ratios were calculated using such measurements. Total length of specimens was measured from the anterior margin of the pronotum to the apex of the elytra in the mid-line. Images were taken using a Canon Eos 70D camera and montaged using either Helicon Focus™ or Automontage™, subsequent image processing was undertaken using Photoshop™. The following coden is used:

BMNH The Natural History Museum, London.

Aedeagus (Fig. 3): relatively short and broad; slightly widening apically; median lobe with a sharply pointed apex.

Ovipositor (Fig. 4): elongate, about 6x as long as wide at the widest point of the triangular apical part.

**Diagnosis.** In contrast to *Melobasina (Ulaikoilia) jelineki* Bílý & Kubáň 2009, the type species of the subgenus, *M. (U.) jennyae* **sp. n.** shows the following important differences: the pronotum has well developed posterolateral depressions (Fig. 1) the anal ventrite does not have lateral longitudinal carinae and lateral depressions (Fig. 8), the upper surface is sparsely setose and the pronotum is not bell-shaped (Fig. 1). The other species assigned to this subgenus *M. (U.) hoschecki* Holyński 2011 also has well developed posterolateral depressions on the pronotum and does not have lateral longitudinal carinae and lateral depressions on the apical ventrite. However, *M. (U.) jennyae* **sp. n.** differs from this species in a number of ways, namely, the elytral apices are bidentate (Fig. 1), the anal ventrite is trispinose (Fig. 8) and the elytra have lines of a short setae on the interstices. Taking into account all the characters, *M. (U.) jennyae* **sp. n.** is more similar to *M. (U.) hoschecki* than it is to *M. (U.) jelineki*. The relatively greater similarity of these two species in comparison to *M. (U.) jelineki* suggests that they may share a more recent common ancestor. This is in agreement with the findings of Vane-Wright & de Jong (2003), who suggest that the butterfly fauna of northern Sulawesi shows strong similarities to that of the Philippines and that these similarities have been largely due to dispersal from the Philippines into Sulawesi.

**Etymology.** I name this beautiful new species after my lovely daughter Jenny.

### Key to the species of *Melobasina (Ulaikoilia)* Bílý & Kubáň

- 1 Pronotum with well-developed posterolateral depressions (Fig. 1); anal ventrite without lateral longitudinal carinae and depressions (Fig. 8); pronotum not bell-shaped . . . . . 2
- Pronotum without posterolateral depressions; anal ventrite with lateral longitudinal carinae and depressions; pronotum bell-shaped; colour dark blue; species from Papua New Guinea . . . . . *M. (U.) jelineki* Bílý & Kubáň
- 2 Elytral apices bidentate (Fig. 1); anal ventrite trispinose (Fig. 8); elytra blue-green with coppery and golden markings; species from Sulawesi . . . . . *M. (U.) jennyae* **sp. n.**
- Elytral apices tridentate; anal ventrite bispinose; elytra bright green with a golden reflection; species from Philippines. . . . . *M. (U.) hoschecki* Holyński

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