

A New Buprestid Beetle Unexpectedly Found on the Island of Peleng, off the East Coast of Celebes

By

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Through the courtesy of Messrs. Setsurô HASHIMOTO and Tetsurô MIZUNUMA, the author was able to examine a series of specimens of a new buprestid of the genus *Demochroa*, collected by Mr. Hideo DETANI on the Island of Peleng of the Banggi Islands which lie off the eastern coast of Central Celebes.

Demochroa WHITE, 1859, is the monotypic genus based upon *D. carinata* WHITE, 1859 (= *lacordairei* THOMSON, 1859), from Halmahera. The range of *D. lacordairei* THOMSON, 1859, the type-species of the genus, is confined to Halmahera and its fringing islands. In the author's view, its records from Borneo and Sumatra are most probably erroneous. *Demochroa gratiosa* H. DEYROLLE, 1864, described from the Malay Peninsula and also recorded from the Indochinese Peninsula, Burma, Assam, the Andamans and Java, may belong to a genus other than *Demochroa*. Therefore, the discovery of a new and true *Demochroa*-species on the Island of Peleng is most unexpected and worthy of special mention.

Demochroa detanii sp. nov.

(Figs. 1-2)

Male. Body above dark bronzy green, becoming reddish violaceous or violaceous or cupreous in some reflections; body beneath with coxae pale violaceous-cupreous with brownish tinge and densely clothed with subrecumbent or recumbent golden or golden-brownish long hairs; antennae black, with the basal three segments tinged with violaceous; legs violaceous or bluish violaceous above, steel-blue beneath with the underside of femora densely but partially clothed with long recumbent golden hairs.

Head rather small, about as wide as the width of the anterior margin of pronotum; vertex narrow, and coarsely punctate; frons very narrow, about twice as long as the width of anterior margin, and sulcate between eyes, with a large depression just above clypeus; clypeal suture obsolete, sometimes almost entirely absent: clypeus thin, with the anterior margin deeply and triangularly emarginate; antennal cavities large, surrounded postero-interiorly with sharply defined carina; eyes large, with the interior rims oblique and converging above; antennae long and slender, serrate from the fourth segment, reaching posterior angles of pronotum, the first segment the longest, fusiform, the second the shortest, subglobular, the third subfusiform, slightly shorter than the first,

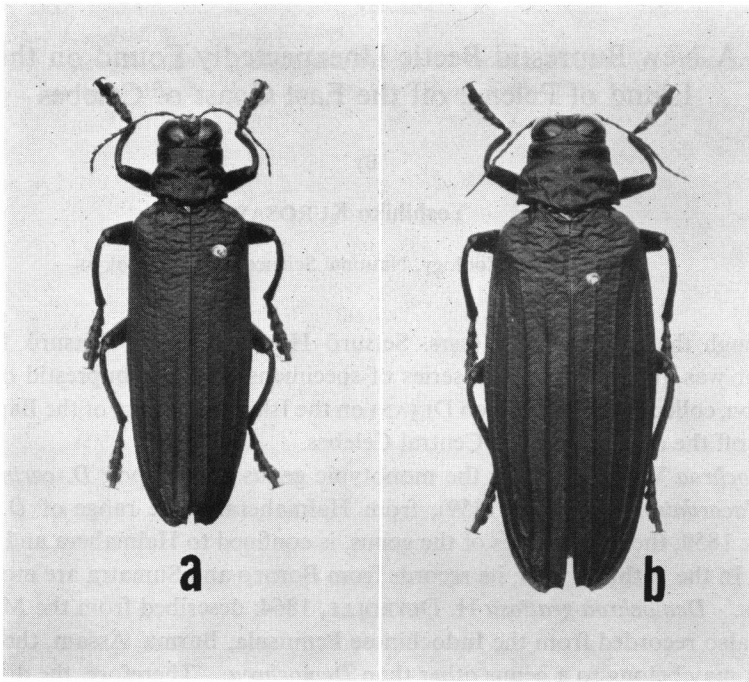


Fig. 1. *Demochroa detanii* Y. KUROSAWA, nov., dorsal aspect; a: male (holotype), b: female (allotype).

and about as long as the fourth, which is long, more than twice as long as the width at the apex and dilated latero-apically, the fifth distinctly broader but shorter than the fourth, the sixth to tenth almost equal in size and length and slightly shorter than the fifth, the apical one about as long as the tenth and rounded at the apex.

Pronotum narrow, subquadrate, about as long as wide, and widest at the base or sometimes at the basal third; sides swollen at the basal third and constricted at the anterior third, the width at which is about as wide as or sometimes feebly narrower than that of the anterior margin; posterior margin bisinuate, with the median lobe large and broadly produced; anterior margin somewhat arcuately emarginate, without median lobe; disc less convex, with a pair of \vee -shaped impression touching the basal margin at the sides of basal lobe, and an obsolete depression on each side of the middle; surface irregularly and coarsely punctate. Scutellum dorsally invisible.

Elytra subparallel, less convex, about 2.6 times as long as wide, about 5.2 times as long as pronotum, widest at humeri or at the middle, much wider than (more than 1.5 times as broad as) pronotum at humeri; sides oblique to humeri, where they are rounded, then subparallel to the middle, feebly contracted to near apical sixth, where they are arcuately rounded, and then attenuate to apices, which are emarginate, each with the sutural angle dentate or subdentate and the outer angle sinuate, neither dentate nor

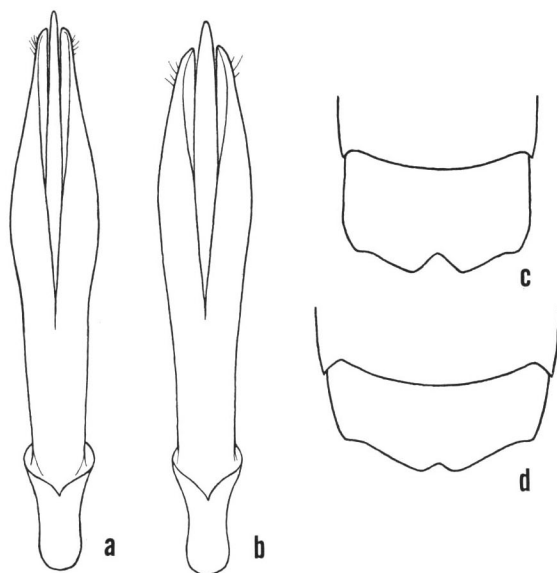


Fig. 2. Male genital apparatus of *Demochroa detanii* Y. KUROSAWA, nov. (a), and *D. lacordairei* THOMSON, 1859 (b), and anal segment of *D. detanii*, male (c) and female (d).

subdentate, or sometimes with a small outer emargination; lateral margin unarmed; disc less convex, with four sharply ridged costae, which become obsolete and are vanished in basal fourth; surface transversely rugose in basal third, and entirely and densely punctured except on the costae, but the punctures are rather uniform and slightly confluent with each other.

Body beneath covered with fine punctures, the punctuation becoming denser towards the sides and densely clothed with recumbent or semirecumbent golden hairs. Prosternum deplanate at the middle, with the anterior margin subtruncate, and the prosternal process entirely and densely covered with recumbent golden hairs causing the margin undefined, with the sides broadly and arcuately constricted by anterior coxae and the apex sharply prolonged into mesosternum. Mesosternum divided. Metasternum flattened at the middle with an obsolete depression posteriorly between posterior coxae. Abdomen beneath flattened between posterior coxae, with the posterior margin of each segment lobed at the middle and sinuate at the sides; anal segment large, transverse, longer than, though about as broad as, any of the preceding segments, with the apical margin triangularly emarginate at the middle, slightly sinuate at the sides and angulate and produced on each side of the emargination.

Legs rather long and robust, with the basal segment of posterior tarsi about 1.5 times as long as the second; all tibiae more or less arcuate.

Length: 31.6–34.2 mm.

Female. Different from the male by slightly broader frons, broader elytra (about

2.2 times as long as wide) with arcuately swollen sides, short and slenderer legs, less arcuate or almost straight tibiae, and smaller median incision at the middle of the apical margin of anal segment.

Length: 36.3–39.0 mm.

Holotype (♂), allotype (♀), and paratypes: 18 ♂♂ 18 ♀♀, Batu-batu, Peleng Island, Banggi Islands, Celebes, 12. xi. 1982, H. DETANI lgt.; paratypes: 6 ♂♂ 6 ♀♀, Batu-batu, Peleng Island, Banggi Islands, Celebes, 23. iv. 1983, H. DETANI lgt. (Holotype, allotype, and some paratypes are preserved in the collection of the National Science Museum, Tokyo, several paratypes are in that of M. TÔYAMA, the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, and the Department of Entomology, National Museum in Prague).

The present species may be placed next to *D. lacordairei* THOMSON, 1859, from Halmahera, but differs specifically from it in the following points: 1) Body slenderer, with longer legs; 2) pronotum narrower, about as long as wide, with the lateral swellings at the posterior two-fifths (at the middle of the length) stronger, while in *lacordairei*, the pronotum is slightly but distinctly broader than long with the lateral swellings weaker; 3) punctuation on pronotum sparser, weaker, and not confluent, causing the surface somewhat nitidous, while in *lacordairei*, the punctuation is denser, stronger and confluent, causing the surface rather mat, not nitidous; 4) elytral costae becoming obsolete and vanished basally, while in *lacordairei*, the costae are entire, neither obsolete nor absent on the basal parts; 5) elytral apex emarginate, with the sutural angle dentate or subdentate and the outer angle sinuate or subdentate, sometime with a small emargination, which is always smaller than the inner one, while in *lacordairei*, the apex is bidentate, with the sutural inner emargination always smaller than the outer; 6) male genital apparatus slenderer, more strongly constricted apically as shown in the text-figure.

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