

A new species of the genus *Mulciber* (Thomson, 1864) from West Papua, Indonesia (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae, Lamiinae)

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Abstract: A new species in the genus *Mulciber* Thomson, 1864 (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae, Lamiinae) has been discovered in West Papua, Indonesia. *Mulciber devosi* **spec. nov.** is described and figured and compared with the allied *M. linnei* Thomson, 1864.

Rangkuman: Spesies baru dari genus *Mulciber* Thomson, 1864 (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae, Lamiinae) ditemukan di Provinsi Papua Barat, Indonesia. *Mulciber devosi* **spec. nov.** dideskripsi dengan gambar dan dibandingkan dengan spesies yang sekerabat *M. linnei* Thomson, 1864. [translation by Daawia Suhartawan]

Keywords: long-horn beetles, Cerambycidae, Lamiinae, *Mulciber*, taxonomy, Misool island, West Papua, Indonesia

Introduction

The genus *Mulciber* Thomson, 1864 (Coleoptera, Cerambycidae, Lamiinae) is an insufficiently studied tribe of the subfamily *Lamiinae* Latreille, 1825 in the tribe *Homonoieini* Thomson, 1864.

Currently the genus was represented in the world fauna by 11 species which are distributed in the Moluccas, New Guinea, the Bismarck Archipelago, the Solomon Islands and Australia: *M. albosetosus* (Breuning, 1939) [Papua New Guinea, Mt. Tafa, 2800 m]; *M. basimaculatus* (Breuning, 1939) [Bougainville Island, Solomon Islands]; *M. linnei* (Thomson, 1864) [Thomson (1864) mentions the holotype “presumably coming from Java”, but this is in question. Additional specimens of this species were found and described from West Papua, Dorey village [= Manokwari] and Buru island]; *M. maculosus* (Breuning, 1939) [Thursday island, Queensland, Australia]; *M. plagiatus* (Aurivillius, 1917) [New Guinea]; *M. pullatus* (Pascoe, 1867) [Bacan island, Moluccas]; *M. rosselli* (Breuning, 1970) [Rossel Island, PNG]; *M. rotundipennis* (Breuning, 1939) [Breuning (1939) mentions the holotype “presumably coming from Kei island or Buru island”]; *M. ruficornis* (Breuning, 1958) [Moluccas]; *M. strandi* (Breuning, 1939) [New Hanover, Bismarck Archipelago] and *M. undulatooides* (Breuning, 1940) [Papua New Guinea].

In this present study a twelfth species of the genus *Mulciber* Thomson, 1864 is described new to science. It was collected in Salafen village, Misool island, Raja Ampat islands, West Papua, Indonesia, and is here compared with related species.

Material and methods

The types are currently deposited in the private collection of the author. Both specimens have been collected in Misool island, Raja Ampat islands, West Papua, Indonesia by local collectors. The paratype will later be reassigned to a natural history collection.

The illustrations were made using a Canon 70D camera equipped with a 2x 50mm Sigma macro lens.

Measurements were taken with the XTL-3400 Zoom Stereo Microscope. All images were processed to improve quality on Photoshop CC software.

Taxonomic description

***Mulciber devosi* spec. nov.** (Fig. 1-2)

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Holotype: private collection V. Voitsekhovskii: ♂, Indonesia, West Papua, Salafen village, Misool isl., Raja Ampat islands, ii.2020. Local collector leg. [handwritten on white label]; HOLOTYPUS: / *Mulciber devosi* sp. n., / V. Voitsekhovskii descr. 2020 [handwritten on red label].

Paratype: private collection V. Voitsekhovskii: 1 ♂, same as holotype, PARATYPUS: / *Mulciber devosi* sp. n., / V. Voitsekhovskii descr. 2020 [handwritten on red label].

Diagnosis: New discovered species in the genus *Mulciber* Thomson, 1864 always were compared with the nominative species *M. linnei* Thomson, 1864 (fig. 3) by authors because they all look very similar. This new species *devosi* **spec. nov.** also resembles *linnei* very much, but has a few diagnostic differences: Pronotum of *linnei* has a large glabrous shiny black tubercle which occupies half of frontal pronotum, while in *devosi* **spec. nov.** it has the same glabrous but with very narrow line in the middle and a large bare spot at the base of the head. The elytra of *devosi* are more pubescent with ochre hairs, rather than in *linnei*, which has scarce pubescence and yellow spots on the elytra, while the pubescence in *devosi* is solid ochre without spots or any pattern. *Mulciber linnei* has a small lateral tooth at each elytra apex while that in *devosi* is just pointy without a lateral tooth. *Mulciber devosi* **spec. nov.** has a sharp thorn ventrally on the pro-femur of the legs and this distinctive feature makes it easy to distinguish it from other species in the genus *Mulciber*, including *linnei*.

Description: Holotype ♂ (fig. 1): Length: 28.2 mm (measured from vertex to elytral apices), width: 10.1 mm (measured across humeri). Head with forehead slightly concave between eyes, densely and tightly punctured with ochre pubescence. Mandibles massive, black. Antennae almost two times as long as total body length (measured from vertex to elytral apices). From the 3rd to the last antennal segments with reddish tint, smooth. The scape two-third from base not widened, distal third double broadening in the middle. The second antennal segment is very short. Pronotum frontally with ochre pubescence and glabrous shiny black tubercles dispersed closer to the base of the head, laterally from thorns of pronotum and central line. Pronotum base 8.1 mm, 3.9 mm height. Lateral thorns parallel to humeri and very sharp. Pronotum wider than head and narrower than elytra. Scutellum "U"-shaped, covered by the same ochre pilosity that covers the elytra. Elytra elongated, strongly curved, slightly constricted at the shoulders, rather roughly spaced, towards suture narrower, cutting off at the apex. Frontally entirely densely covered with ochre pubescence and tightly punctured, in elytral striae shiny black glabrous. Legs fully covered by ochre pilosity except for the pro-femur which is glabrous wrinkly, dark brown with a sharp thorn ventrally (fig. 2). Thorax in the central base glabrous black, closer to the elytra densely covered by ochre pilosity. Abdomen with same glabrous black, with scarce ochre pilosity, more densely covered closer to the elytra.

Distribution: The species is known from Misool Island, Raja Ampat Islands, West Papua, Indonesia.

Etymology: The species named in honour of Drs. Rob de Vos, chairman of the Papua Insects Foundation and curator in the collection of Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden, The Netherlands, who helped with advise and comments on the manuscript.

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Fig. 1. Habitus of the *Mulciber devosi* spec. nov., holotype ♂



Fig. 2. *Mulciber devosi* spec. nov., ♂ holotype: pro-femur of legs, ventral view

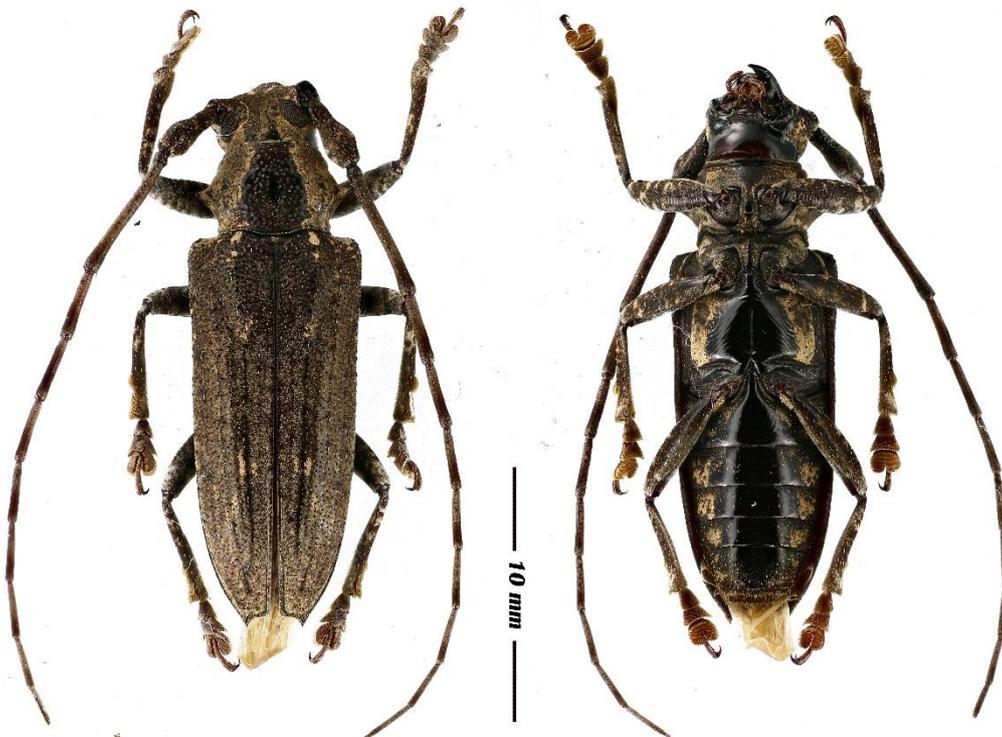


Fig. 3. Habitus of *Mulciber linnei* Thomson, 1864, ♀
(Photos of specimen from private collection V. Voitsekhovskii).

