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Two new species of *Metataenia* (*Mroczkowskia* HOL.)

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Introduction

In the course of rearrangement of my collection according to the results of the recently (HOLYŃSKI 2022) published review of the sg. *Metamroczkowskia* HOL. I have discovered several as yet undescribed species of other subgenera. Among others, in the sample of Indo-Pacific buprestids borrowed from BPBM I found three specimens of a new species of subgenus *Mroczkowskia* HOL. whose peculiar colouration and – especially – the locality extending the known distributional limits of that poorly known subgroup of *Metataenia* THY., prompted me to make it known to the scientific community, together with another one, of also somewhat unusual morphology and questionable distribution.

Conventions

Like in my other publications (unless “corrected” by editors...), I follow the very useful conventions of applying (of course, except wordly citations, where the original form must be retained) SMALL CAPS to *all* [irrespective of context and full vs. abbreviated version: inconsistent use deprives the display of any sense!] personal FAMILY- (*not* given-) names, *italicizing* species- and genus-group names (as well as citations and words in languages different from that of the main text), and writing the suprageneric taxon-names in **Bold** [the latter is not a generally accepted custom, but is often important, as some of such names (*e.g.* of the subtribes **Buprestina** LEACH, **Melobasina** BÍLÝ or **Coraebina** BED.) are (or may easily become) “homonymous” (but valid!) with [sub-]generic ones (*Buprestina* OBB., *Melobasina* KERR., *Coraebina* KERR.)]

Labels of type-specimens are quoted as exactly as possible, including *italics* and *handwriting* (both represented in my text by *italics*), CAPITAL LETTERS, SMALLCAPS, framing, colour of text and approximate colour of the label. Individual labels are cited in quotation marks “”. Determination (white, in the form like “*Metataenia marcsikae* HOL., det. R. HOLYŃSKI” with year of determination written vertically on the left side) and type-designation [red for primary types, *e.g.* “*Metataenia nylanderi* HOLYŃSKI, HOLOTYPE”, green for paratypes, *e.g.* “*Metataenia bilyi* HOLYŃSKI, PARATYPE”] labels added by me are not cited.

Collection acronyms:

BPBM = Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu, USA
RBH = Roman B. HOLYŃSKI, Milanówek, POLAND

For explanation of other terms, abbreviations &c. please – if needed – consult HOLYŃSKI (2022).

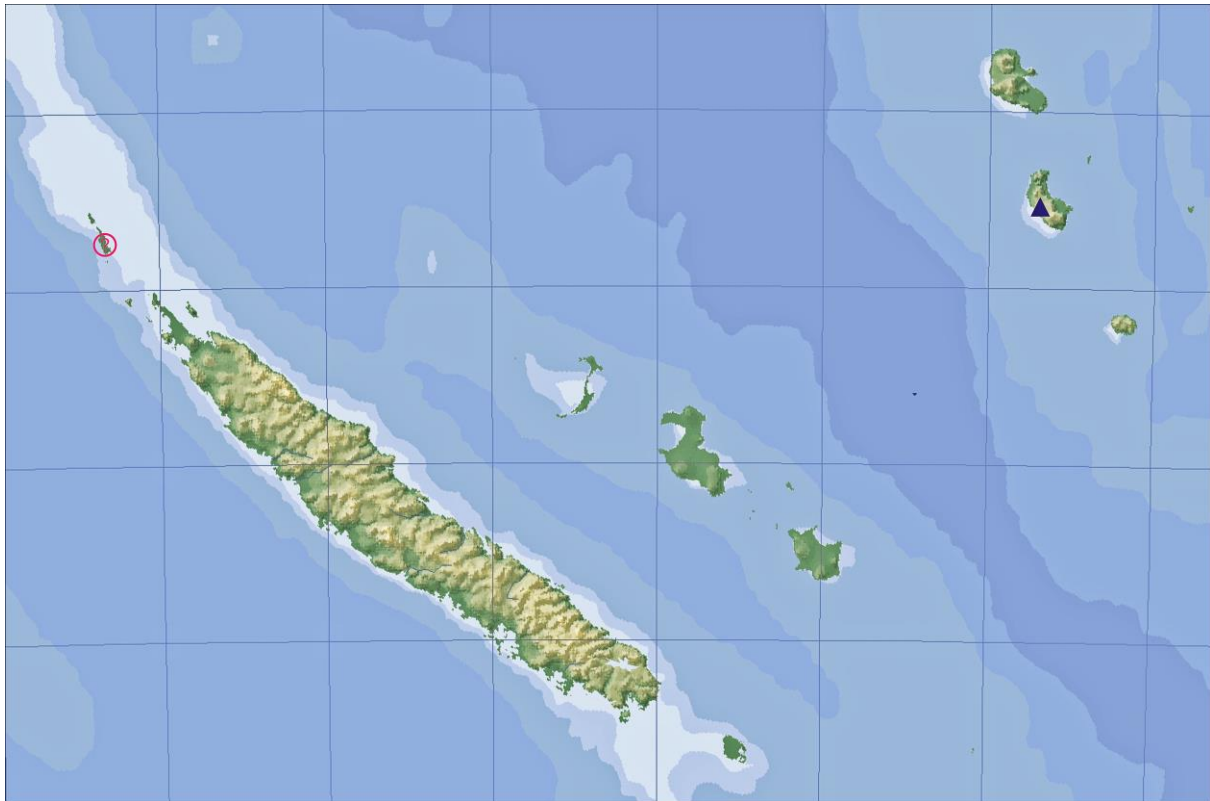
BUPRESTIDAE LEACH
BUPRESTINAE LEACH
BUPRESTINI LEACH
CHRYSOCHROINA CAST.
***Metataenia* THY.**

***Mroczkowskia* HOL.**

Mroczkowskia HOLYŃSKI 1997: 183

[type-species: *Chrysodema artensis* MONTROUZIER 1860]

Remarks: *Mroczkowskia* HOL. is a small group of seven black (with usually strong purplish or greenish lustre) or cupreous-bronzed species, characterized by combination of sulcate median line of pronotum, pronotal fossae non-dfp or subdivided into laterobasal and anterolateral foveolae, lack or definitely lateral placement of elytral dfp markings, unusually strong longitudinal convexity of abdomen, &c. In distribution the subgenus seems restricted to New Caledonia and surrounding islands (Art, Lifou &c.), southeasternmost New Hebrides (Aneytyum, Tanna) and perhaps Fiji: “Aru” or “New Britain” are almost certain mislabellings.



Map 1

Geographical distribution of the new species

○[encircled question mark] – *M. dislocata* sp.n.; ▲ *M. aerata* sp.n.

***Metataenia (Mroczkowskia) dislocata* sp.n.**

Paracupta difficilis HOL. i.l.

Material examined:

Holotype: “*N. Guin Aru Is*” [? N.Caledonia: Art I.] [♀ RBH: BPeov]

Additional material: None

Holotype: Male 18.5×6 mm. Head and pronotum bluish-black with some purplish reflexions; elytra dull green also here and there tinted purplish; frontal depression, dorsal dfp

foveae and sutural interstria purplish-cupreous; ventral side dark blue with purplish dfp areas; antennae and tibiae blackish-ferruginous; tarsi missing. Dfp areas covered with dense, very short, recumbent yellowish pubescence; otherwise body (including prosternal process) glabrous.



Fig. 1

Metataenia dislocata sp.n.
HT ♀ [BPeov], "Aru" [?Art I.]

Epistome broadly arcuately emarginate, epistomal ridge inconspicuous; supraepistomal carina broken at middle, transverse groove below it deep. Front slightly wider than long, subparallelsided; frontal depression somewhat elongately ovate, reaching distinctly beyond upper margins of eyes, steeply delimited from all sides, entirely dfp; anterior cavity barely indicated; median stria entire but very fine; vertex finely and sparsely punctured, V:H \approx 0.5. Basal antennal joint club-shaped, slender, *ca.* 4 \times longer than thick; 2. cylindrical, slightly wider than long, almost as thick as 1.; 3. flattened, definitely widened towards apex, somewhat shorter than 1.; 4. elongately triangular, only *ca.* $\frac{2}{3}$ of the length of 3.; more distal antennomeres missing.

Pronotum transverse, sides rather deeply S-shaped, base shallowly bisinuate, prescutellar lobe barely appreciable; basal angles acute; anterolateral angles well marked but not protruding; collar very short; anterior margin rather deeply sinuate on both sides of shallowly rounded median lobe. Median sulcus indistinct, finely striate along midline; disk finely and sparsely, towards sides somewhat coarser and denser punctured; fossae deep but

reduced to prominent, subquadrangular fovea laterally bordered by narrowly careniform laterobasal ridges, separated by transverse careniform smooth elevation from also large, elongately ovate anterior foveola; middiscally at pronotal midlength pair of prominent deep non-dfp pits. Scutellum subquadrangular, micropunctulate.

Elytra only imperceptibly caudate, sides slightly protruding at humeri between oblique basal truncation and inconspicuous sinuation just behind, subparallel to shortly before midlength, then almost straightly, cuneately convergent to apices; lateroapical margin sharply denticulate. Perihumeral dfp fovea rather prominent, somewhat trapezoidal; elytra otherwise regularly convex, no trace of costae; puncturation dense and moderately coarse, punctures arranged into very irregular rows.

Proepisterna entirely, sides of sternum and abdomen almost entirely dfp; prosternal process flat, finely and sparsely punctured, punctulation of remaining non-dfp surface of ventral side barely appreciable. Disk of basal sternite regularly convex, segments 2.-4. laterally with somewhat transversely ovate depressions (but dfp sculpture extends over entire abdominal sides); apical half of median third of anal sternite covered with very dense brush of short semirecumbent rusty setae; apex regularly rounded (♀).

Geographical distribution [Map 1]: The label “*N. Guin., Aru Is.*” seems erroneous: no representative of the subgenus *Mroczkowskia* *HOL.* has ever been reliably recorded from anywhere beyond the New Caledonia – southernmost New Hebrides – Fiji area; probably Art Is. (off northwesternmost tip of N. Caledonia) has been misread as “Aru”.

Remarks: Small size, deeply S-shaped sides and middiscal foveolae of pronotum, &c. make the species distinctive.

Metataenia (Mroczkowskia) aerata sp.n.

Material examined:

Holotype: “NEW HEBRIDES: TANNA: Lenakel, 0-200 m., I 1977, N.L.H. Krauss” “BISHOP MUSEUM, ACCESSION, 1977.29” [♀ BPBM]

Paratypes: “NEW HEBRIDES: TANNA: Lenakel, 0-200 m., I 1977, N.L.H. Krauss” “BISHOP MUSEUM, ACCESSION, 1977.29” [1♀ BPBM]; “VANUATU: New Hebrides: Is.: Tanna I: Lenakel, 0-200 m., I 1981” “N.L.H. Krauss, Coll., BISHOP Museum, Acc. #1981.131”

Additional material: None

Holotype: Female 25×8.5 mm. Head and pronotum uniformly purplish-bronzed, elytral sides similar transgressing on disk into somewhat paler bronzed to become greenish narrowly along suture; ventrally dull bronzed with some purplish or greenish reflexions; femora and protibiae concolorous with sternum, meso- and metatibiae dark ferruginous with dark-blue metallic lustre, tarsi paler ferruginous; antennae black; dfp depressions somewhat greenish, covered with pale rusty pulverulence. Dfp areas covered with dense, very short, recumbent yellowish pubescence; pilosity of prosternal sulcus very short and sparse, soft, whitish, hardly appreciable; otherwise body glabrous.

Epistome deeply emarginate, separated from front with deep transverse groove accompanied by somewhat bisinuate supraepistomal carina. Front slightly wider than long, subparallelsided; frontal depression deep, clearly delimited all around, occupying entire space between not sharp but prominent pericocular ridges, upper margin broadly arcuate, triangular, reaching distinctly beyond upper margins of eyes; bottom surface dfp and covered with relatively long recumbent whitish pubescence and rusty pulverulence; median stria slightly indicated at both ends but inappreciable at midlength; vertex rather sparsely, not very coarsely punctured; V:H≈0.5; eyes not prominent. 1. antennal joint club-shaped, slender, *ca.* 4× longer

than thick; 2. cylindrical, slightly wider than long, *ca.* 4× shorter and definitely thinner than 1.; 3. as long as 1., thickened towards apex; 4. flattened, elongately triangular, *ca.* as long as 3.; 5.-10., progressively somewhat shorter, more rhomboidal; 10. *ca.* 1.5× longer than wide; 11. somewhat longer than 10., *ca.* 2.5× longer than wide, somewhat asymmetrically ovoid.



Fig.2

Metataenia aerata sp.n.
HT ♀ [BPBM], N. Hebrides: Tanna I.

Pronotum transversely subtrapezoidal, sides straightly convergent to anterior fourth, then shortly but distinctly sinuate (incipient collar); base somewhat angularly bisinuate, prescutellar lobe moderately prominent; basal angles sharply acute; apical margin distinctly bisinuate, median lobe broadly arcuate, anterolateral angles well marked but not protruding. Median depression very shallow, striated along midline; discal puncturation almost regular, rather sparse and not coarse, progressively coarser and denser sideways; near anterior and posterior angles fine but dense; fossa separated into deep rounded dfp fovea at the very base and also deep obliquely elongated at anterior angle, separated by normally elevated and punctured surface occupying middle third of pronotal sides; laterobasal relief delimiting basal fovea from pronotal margin careniform, finely and sparsely punctulated. Scutellum trapezoidal, *ca.* as wide (apically) as long, depressed along midline, impunctate.

Elytral sides obliquely truncated at base, straightly divergent to somewhat before midlength, regularly arcuate to *ca.* apical sixth and cuneately tapering to almost inappreciably caudate apices; no subhumeral protrusion; lateroapical margin sharply denticulate. Surface

very regularly convex, no trace of costae or depressions except small suprahumeral dfp foveae; puncturation very fine, arranged in longitudinal rows at median part of disk, becoming coarser and irregular laterally.

Proepisterna finely sparsely punctulate on entirely dfp background, sides of sternum and distinctly depressed broad foveae on abdomen of similar sculpture; prosternal process flat, sparsely and not very coarsely punctured; remaining ventral surface finely and sparsely punctulate; 1. sternite regularly convex; anal segment angularly pointed apically, with somewhat elongated brush of dense rusty-brownish setae along *ca.* apical third of midline.

Variability: Male unknown, female paratypes somewhat larger (27×9 and 27×9.5 mm.), that in BPBM ventrally greenish and with larger pronotal dfp foveae, otherwise both practically identical to the holotype.

Geographical distribution [Map 1]: Known only from the type-series, collected on Tanna I.; besides *M. (M.) flavofoveata* (SND.) on Aneityum, this is the only representative of the *sg. Mroczkowskia* HOL. known to inhabit New Hebrides.

Remarks: Lustrous metallic warm-bronzed colouration of very finely sculptured body makes *M. aerata sp.n.* unmistakable within the subgenus.

Key to the identification of species of the *sg. Mroczkowskia* HOL.

- 1 (2) Pronotal sides very distinctly S-shaped; disk with pair of non-dfp foveolae at midlength *M. (M.) dislocata sp.n.*
- 2 (1) Basal half of pronotal sides not appreciably sinuate; disk regularly convex with no trace of foveae
- 3 (4) Pronotum without appreciable dfp spots *M. (M.) deplanchei (Fv.)*
- 4 (3) At least laterobasal fovea distinctly dfp
- 5 (8) Perimarginal dfp markings on elytra strongly elongate
- 6 (7) Elytral sides with continuous perimarginal dfp vittae. Perihumeral spots irregularly sulciform *M. (M.) artensis (MTR.)*
- 7 (6) Elytral vittae disrupted into separate strongly elongate sections. Perihumeral spots regularly foveolate *M. (M.) varennesi (MTR.)*
- 8 (5) Elytral dfp markings represented by small round foveae
- 9(12) Dorsal side greenish- or purplish-black; elytra very finely punctulate
- 10(11) Lateral dfp foveae of pronotum separated by a space at least comparable in length to their diameter *M. (M.) erythrocephala (MTR.)*
- 11(10) space separating laterobasal from anterolateral fovea shorter than half of their diameter *M. (M.) flavofoveata (SND.)*
- 12 (9) Dorsal side warm cupreous-bronzed, slightly paler on elytral disk
..... *M. (M.) aerata sp.n.*

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