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New Guinean *Melobasis C.G.* (Buprestidae: Anthaxiini: Melanophilina): new species, redefinition of subgenera and preliminary checklist

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Introduction

Melobasis C.G. is a large (*ca.* 130 spp.) genus widely distributed over Australia and the archipelagoes between Sumatra, Formosa, Fiji Is. and New Zealand. Not only New Guinean fauna – next to Australian as regards number of species, but widely different and taxonomically (at the supraspecific level) more diverse, for understanding of evolutionary and biogeographical relations critically important – remains badly understudied (*e.g.* only during my 1988/89 travel I have seen, in the generally rather poor New Guinean collections of UT, FRS, WEI and UPNG, several apparently undescribed species; unfortunately lack of literature, comparative material and, last not least, time made it impossible to prepare the reliable descriptions), but this is true of the entire genus as well: the last revision – restricted to only Australian representatives of what is here considered the nominotypical subgenus... – was published a century ago (CARTER 1923), even most fundamental questions concerning both external (position in the system of the **Buprestidae LEACH**) and internal (subdivision into subgenera) classification of the genus remain not satisfactorily resolved. Traditional opinion of its close affinity to *Melanophila ESCH.* was supported by my studies summarized in the last fully argumented comprehensive classification of the family (HOŁYŃSKI 1988, 1993), where both genera were included in the subtribe **Melanophilina BED.** (subfamily **Buprestinae LEACH**, tribe **Anthaxiini C.G.**). The system suggested by me has been callenged by BÍLÝ (2000) who, following his unsubstantiated preconception of separate evolution of Australian buprestids (see below), splitted "my" **Anthaxiini C.G.** into 9 separate tribes of which 4 included only Australian and 5 exclusively extra-Australian genera, with *Melobasis C.G.* in the tribe of its own, having "*nothing in common with the tribe*

Melanophilini". As to the internal subdivision, five nominal taxa – *Melobasis C.G. s.str.*, *Diceropygus* DEYR., *Briseis* SND., *Paramelobasis* THY. and *Montrouzieretta* OBB. – have been variously considered synonyms, separate genera, or subgenera of *Melobasis C.G.*, but unfortunately their largely "VIC-style" definitions make their interpretation vague and confusing. LEVEY (2012) seems to have recently started to subdivide Australian species of *Melobasis C.G.* into "species groups", some of which might be of some relevance also for New Guinean representatives of the genus – unfortunately that publication has remained unaccessible to me: *Zootaxa* is not an open access journal, and my repeated requests for reprints or pdf-s have been left by the Author without any answer... In this situation the initial aim of this paper – description of some new species – must have been broadened: it became evident that, to sensibly assign the newly named taxa, I need to make the relevant subgenera more natural: to redefine them according to congruent ***complexes*** of characters, not by just one or two "VIC'-s. Of course this is no more than preliminary suggestion to be checked, commented and improved by specialists having access to the collections (and Colleagues' recent publications...), especially concerning Australian ad New Caledonian representatives of *Melobasis C.G.*

Conventions and abbreviations

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 generic or subgeneric ones (*Buprestina OBB.*, *Melobasina KERR.*, *Coraebina KERR.*)]: we must make possibly unequivocal what we have in mind, and possibly easy for the reader to "optically" spot the "wanted" name in the (especially longer) text!

Labels of type-specimens are quoted as exactly as possible, including *italics* and *handwriting* (both represented in my text by *italics*), CAPITAL LETTERS, SMALLCAPS and framing. Determination- and type-designation labels added by me to the newly described taxa are not cited: the former are white, in the form like "*Melobasis kadeji HOŁ.*, det. R. HOŁYŃSKI" with year of determination written vertically on the left side; the latter red (primary types, *e.g.* "*Melobasis kadeji HOŁYŃSKI*, HOLOTYPE") or green (paratypes, in the same format).

Collection names are abbreviated as follows:

BMNH =Natural History Museum, London
FRS =Forest Research Station, Bulolo
KBIN =Koninklijk Belgisch Instituut voor Natuurwetenschappen, Brussel
RBH =Roman B. HOŁYŃSKI, Milanówek
UN =Ulf NYLANDER, Valbo
UPNG =University of Papua New Guinea, Waigani
UT =Unitech, Lae
WEI =Wau Ecology Institute, Wau

Terms and abbreviations used in description:

Convergent/divergent (unless expressly stated otherwise) = towards apex or (front) downwards
L = length
W = width
AW = apical width
BW = basal width
MW = maximum width
HW = width of head with eyes
VW = width of vertex between eyes
≈ = approximately equal to
ø = sex unknown

B U P R E S T I N A E L E A C H
ANTHAXIINI C.G.
M E L A N O P H I L I N A B E D.

MELANOPHILINI BEDEL 1921: 171
=MELOBASINI BÍLÝ 2000: 113

BÍLÝ (2000), following the suggestion of VOLKOVITSH & HAWKESWOOD (1994) who – according to him – "*clarified*" that *Melobasis C.G.* and *Montrouzieretta OBB.* "*have nothing in common with the tribe Melanophilini*", in congruence with the (also already hinted at by the same authors) preconception of totally separate evolution of Australian **Buprestidae LEACH** ["*From our point of view, these genera have arisen independently in the Australian region and their similarity with non-Australian genera of Anthaxiini or Melanophilini have occurred from parallel evolution*" – VOLKOVITSH & HAWKESWOOD (1994); "*It is obvious that the development of Buprestids in Australian region has followed its own direction (similarly as the development of Mammals) so I suggest their separation on the level of tribes*" – BÍLÝ (2000)], created for them a new tribe **Melobasini BÍLÝ**. Unfortunately, the "Australian endemism" and assumed "parallel evolution" are no more than unsubstantiated imaginary constructs – neither the Authors present relevant evidence (the analogy to mammals is a total misconception: it is well known that biogeographically mammals are very atypical group, not representative even of vertebrates), nor I am able to find any... – and also the morphological support for separation of the "**Melobasini BÍLÝ**" from "**Melanophilini BED.**" look hopelessly unconvincing... I will not comment on larval characters: there seems to be no much sense in analysing them in this context as long as they are known for but one (out of *ca.* 130) species of *Melobasis C.G.* and one or two of few other – mostly here irrelevant – genera [in the comparison presented by VOLKOVITSH & HAWKESWOOD (1994) the "**Melobasini BÍLÝ**" have been represented only by *Melobasis (s.str.) vertebralis CART.* and the "**Melanophilini BED.**" by a "synthesis" of two Palaearctic species: *Melanophila (Trachypteris) picta (PALL.)* and *Phaenops cyanea (F.)*], so that the extent of variability or functional constraints (and thence probability of narrow adaptation to particular food-plant or other environmental factors) of various traits are unknown and practically impossible to even reasonably guess... As regards adult morphology, BÍLÝ's (2000) description is not expressedly comparative, so it is not evident which characters he considers diagnostic, but my own careful search has also not helped very much... Let's see [my comments in square brackets]:

"*Prosternal process parallel or regularly enlarged posteriorly, trispined apically*" – [the same in other **Melanophilina BED.**]

"*elytral epipleura not developed*" – [neither always true – *e.g.* in *M. cuprifera (C.G.)* narrow but distinct to very apices – nor relevant: in *Melanophila ESCH.* and *Phaenops DEJ.* also not extending beyond metacoxae]

"*anal sternite sharply bispined*" – [not always sharper than in **Melanophilina BED.**]

"*elytra roughly serrate laterally*" – [in many species – *e.g. M. gloriosa (C.G.)* or *M. minuta sp.n.* – only very finely so, not much more conspicuously than in *Melanophila ESCH.*]

"*always with longitudinal striae, groves or rows of punctures*" – [***not*** always: *e.g.* in *M. serrata MTR.* , *M. viridipes FV.*, *M. simplex GRM.* or *M. uniformis CART.* elytral punctulation is perfectly irregular!]

"*elytral suture with sutural spines*" – [??? – if spiniform elytral apices are meant, they are present ***only*** in ***some*** *Melobasis C.G.*, but ***also*** in *Melanophila ESCH. s.str.*!]

"*pronotal sculpture consisting of simple punctures which can be denser and rougher along lateral, pronotal margins*" – [like in most *Melanophila ESCH.* (esp. sg. *Trachypteris KBY.*) and some *Phaenops DEJ.*)]

Thus, there is no real justification for the exclusion of *Melobasis C.G.* from the **Melanophilina BED.**, what makes also the divagations about separate, "parallel" evolution glaringly pointless.

Melobasis C.G.

Buprestis (Melobasis) CASTELNAU & GORY 1837: 118
Type-species: *Buprestis cupriceps KIRBY 1818*

The currently accepted subdivision of *Melobasis C.G.* into subgenera does not seems satisfying, what creates frequent doubts or disagreements as to the placement of particular species. In my opinion, this state of affairs is a result of, on the one hand, largely "VIC-taxonomic" (based effectively on single characters) definitions of *Diceropygus DEYR.* (large scutellum), *Briseis SND.* (prosternal tubercles) and *Paramelobasis THY.* (epipleural denticle) and, on the other, the artificial "unity" of *Melobasis C.G. s.str.*, which in the present form is a conglomerate of rather remotely related groups some of which should be removed from the nominotypical subgenus. Some adjustments to make *Diceropygus DEYR.*, *Briseis SND.* and *Paramelobasis THY.* more natural have been proposed below, but a revision of the supraspecific classification within what is now *Melobasis C.G. s.str.* is evidently out of my possibilities and of the scope of the present paper. Also "extralimital" and never seen by me is the New Caledonian *Montrouzieria OBB.* [treated by BÍLÝ (2000) as separate genus], but it seems warranted to observe that the replacement name *Montrouzieretta OBB.* is superfluous: OBENBERGER (1924) introduced it because "*M. E. Bergroth … m'informe, que ce nom* [*Montrouzieria OBB.*] *est déjà préoccupé chez les D i p t é r e s*" – but that information was ***false***, the alleged senior homonym is *Montrouziera* [***not*** *Montrouzier**i**a*]! BERGROTH's and OBENBERGER's (1924) mistake has been repeated by later authors (BELLAMY 2018, BÍLÝ 2000), probably misled by the "title" of the description (OBENBERGER 1923) of "*Montrouziera* [sic!] *caledonica m. n. sp.*", undoubtedly a simple *lapsus calami* as evidenced *e.g.* by the spelling of the same species when quoted (one page earlier in the same publication) as type of the genus: "***Genotype: Montrouzieria caledonica** m. n. sp.*". Thus:

M o n t r o u z i e r i a O B B.
Montrouzieria OBENBERGER 1923: 17-18 [***not*** homonymous with *Montrouziera BIGOT 1860: 224*]
=Montrouzieretta OBENBERGER 1924: 19 [unnecessary replacement name]

Preliminary key to the redefined subgenera of of the genus *Melobasis C.G.*

[not verified for Australian or Melanesian species!]

1 (6) Scutellum large (*ca.* 1/7 or more of the width of pronotal base) and/or posterolateral elytral margins coarsely and sharply denticulate. Elytral interstriae impunctate or almost so

2 (3) Colouration dark bronzed or blackish, uniform, no distinct steel-grey lustre. Elytral interstriae not wider than striae ..... ***Briseis SND.***

3 (2) Colouration bright metallic or dark with conspicuous steel-grey lustre, often bi- or tri-colorously patterned. Elytral interstriae wider than striae

4 (5) Scutellum large (*ca.* 1/5 of basal width of pronotum). Pronotal sides almost straightly, evenly converging from base to apex. Dorsal side concolorous, brownish-, greenish- or bluish-black usually with steel-grey lustre, or pronotum dark blue and elytra contrastingly [reddish-] bronzed, in both cases usually with one to three indefinite bluish-black spots. Epipleural lobe narrow, simple ..... ***Diceropygus DEYR.***

5 (4) Scutellum small to medium (*ca.* 1/7 or less of basal width of pronotum). Pronotal sides sinuate or subparallel before base, markedly arcuately converging in apical half. Pronotum green (rarely blue) to cupreous, elytra unicolorous or brightly contrastingly patterned purplish, violaceous or black on usually green background. Epipleural lobe often wide with posteroventral angle right or armed with backward directed acute denticle ..... ***Paramelobasis THY.***

6 (1) Scutellum small (*ca.* 1/10 or less of the width of pronotal base). Posterolateral margins of elytra but finely serrulate and/or elytral interstriae conspicuously punctured ..... ***Melobasis C.G. s.str.***

Briseis SND.

Briseis SAUNDERS *1871: 44*

Type-species: *Buprestis conica* CASTELNAU & GORY *1837*

In remarks to the just described "*Diceropygus stevensi*" THÉRY (1937) writes that "*it is so much like Briseis curta Kerr. that it seems possible to confuse the two species. They can be distinguished by the scutellum, which is twice as broad in as in Briseis curta Kerr., and by the lack of lateral protuberance on the prosternal margin in Diceropygus stevensi. The latter will be placed next to Briseis curta*", but nevertheless he calls it a *Diceropygus* – apparently as a consequence of the conclusion that "*it appears that the characteristics given for the subgenus Briseis are without value*". Such conclusion seems premature: the species known to me show a full complex of characters (general proportions, colouration, relatively large scutellum, elytral sculpture, *&c.*) making them rather distinctive "at a glance", so at least pending the critical evaluation the diagnostic value of this complex I prefer to consider *Briseis SND.* as valid subgenus. However, as most species inhabit Australia – the only representatives occuring elsewhere are, as far as I am aware, the three New Guinean species: *M. (B.) stevensi (THY.), M. (B.) nickerli (THY.)* and *M. (B.) papuana OBB.* – and only one of these is now accessible to me for examination, I leave the task of redefinition of *Briseis SND.* to more competent Colleagues.

Melobasis (Briseis) nickerli (OBB.)

Diceropygus Nickerli OBENBERGER *1938c: 123*

Geographical distribution: Described from "Nova Guinea: Warreo" [PNG: Huon Pen.: Wareo, $6^0$27'S-$147^0$47'E]; specimens examined by me were reared in XI-XII 1985 from unidentified tree from Gumi Logging Area in upper Watut valley [$7^0$12'S-$146^0$25'E], *ca.* 2200 m. asl.

Remarks: This species is easily recognizable among all those known to me by its elytral sculpture: deep continuous striae with normal bottom punctulation replaced by very dense cross-striolation, and markedly convex, narrow, practically impunctate interstriae. The long terminal spines of anal sternite are in female less than half as widely spaced as in male – OBENBERGER (1938c) describes the species as "*sternito anali apice* ***anguste*** *emarginato et bispinoso*" (bold face mine – RBH), so the type was most probably a female. Judging from its description (THÉRY 1937, my old remarks on the BMNH syntype), *M. (B.) stevensi (THY.)* is a very close relative or even (senior!) synonym of *M. (B.) nickerli (THY.)*: the only evident difference seems to be the larger size of the former (15×5 mm.) as compared to the latter (11.5-12.5×4 mm.).

Diceropygus DEYR.

Diceropygus DEYROLLE *1864: 68*

Type-species: *Diceropygus scutellaris* DEYROLLE *1864*

DEYROLLE (1864) based the original description on two characters considered by him infallibly diagnostic: "*la forme et particulièrement la dimension de l'écusson*" "*relativement six fois plus grand* [than in *Melobasis C.G.*], *droit sur les côtés, arrondi en arrière*", "*qui est un caractère constant et sans intermédiaire*"; and "*les élytres ... armées sur les côtés et en arrière de dents épineuses, grandes et aigues, remontant jusqu'à près de moitié de la longueur*", which "*se retrouve sur quelques Melobasis, mais à un degré bien moins prononcé*"; according to CARTER (1923) "*The genus Diceropygus appears to be distinguished from Melobasis only by its large scutellum and robust abdominal spines*"; other authors seem to have based their taxonomic decisions explicitly or (usually) implicitly mainly or exclusively on the size of scutellum. However, elytral denticulation, like abdominal spines, is by no means "*constant et sans intermédiaire*" – to the contrary, both vary widely in *Melobasis*

C.G. s.l. without any clear-cut hiatuses; the size of scutellum is also variable in other subgenera, what makes the criterion "*six fois plus grand*" highly ambiguous and, consequently, variously interpreted, resulting in subsequent inclusion in *Diceropygus* DEYR. of taxa like *M. ("D") aruensis* THY. or *M ("D") adonis* OBB. with scutellum barely more than half as wide as in those originally included by DEYROLLE (1864)! Thus, the subgenus as currently conceived became an undefinable conglomerate of evidently unrelated species, of which only those with largest scutellum make a homogeneous (also in other respects) group and only these should be retained in *Diceropygus* DEYR. The following is my preliminary suggestion of more adequate diagnosis (leading, together with similar redefinitions of *Briseis* SND. and *Paramelobasis* THY., to rather radical rearrangement of their taxonomic content):

Fig. 1
M. (B.) nickerli OBB.
♂ Morobe: Gumi LA [RBH: BPbwd]

Fig. 2
M. (D.) kadeji sp.n.
♂ Aru I. [RBH: BPlmu]

Fig. 3
M. (D.) maculata DEYR.
♀ N. Guinea [RBH: BPdmc]

Fig. 4
M. (D.) rothschildi THY.
ø Rossel I. [UN] [phot. U. NYLANDER]

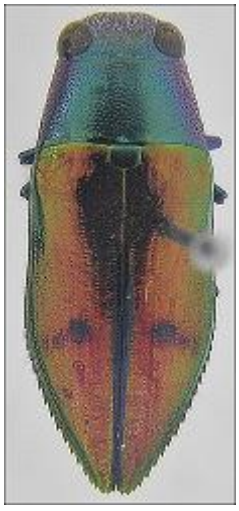

Fig. 5
M. (D.) misimana HOŁ.
ø Misima I.: Boiou, IV 1978 [RBH: BPkjh]

Body elongate, only exceptionally less than 3× longer than wide; dorsal (and usually ventral) colouration usually dark, greenish- or brownish-black with steel-grey lustre and frequently with one or more irregularly transverse bluish or bronzy discal spots; pubescence (at least dorsally) lacking; pronotum trapezoidal, widest at base or at most subparallelsided in basal third, sides not or but slightly rounded; scutellum large (*ca.* 1/5 of width of pronotal base), semicircular, smooth or almost so; lateroposterior margins of elytra more or less

coarsely denticulate; elytral striae regular; interstriae distinctly wider than striae, not or but inconspicuously punctulate; apical emargination of anal sternite widely trapezoidal; lateral [sub]spinose denticles more or less prominent but always distinct.

All species of so defined sg. *Diceropygus DEYR.* known to me inhabit New Guinea and nearby islands from Larat, Kei and Mysole to Woodlark and Rossel; I am aware of only one of them – *M. (D.) maculata (DEYR.)* – having been recorded from the Australian continent [York Pen.: Coen Distr. (OBENBERGER 1922, as "*Diceropygus quadritinctus m.n.sp.*"); Northern Territory: Darwin (CARTER 1923)].

Melobasis (Diceropygus) kadeji sp.n.

Material examined:

Holotype: "coll 724, Aru Is." [♂ (RBH: BPlmu)]

Additional material: none

Characters

Holotype: Male 9.8×3.2 mm. Front emerald-green, with strong cupreous shine on upper half and vertex; pronotum dark greenish-bronzed; elytra bronzed, each with three (rounded behind base between 1. and 4. stria; somewhat angularly transverse extending from lateral margin to suture and prolonged along 1. interstria forwards to anterior third and backwards to near apex; and triangular occupying apical sixth) large steel-blue spots; middle of prosternum and anterior surface of fore legs bright-green, otherwise ventral side dark bronzed (abdomen and sides) to bronzed-green. Pubescence very short, recumbent, inconspicuous on front, prosernal process and sides of abdomen, otherwise lacking or almost so.

Epistomal emargination shallowly arcuate, lateral angles obtuse; front trapezoidal, *ca.* as long as anteriorly wide, rather coarsely and very densely confluently punctured; vertex slightly grooved at middle, VW:HW≈0.5; eyes moderately convex.

Pronotum strongly transverse, trapezoidal (BW:AW:L≈1.9:1.7:1); basal and apical margins shallowly bisinuate; basal angles definitely acute, apical nearly right; sides almost straightly convergent all along. Disk evenly convex; puncturation at middle simple, moderately fine and rather sparse, becoming very dense and somewhat ocellate on sides. Marginal carinae sharp, almost straight, extending to *ca.* apical fourth. Scutellum large, semicircular, smooth along apical margin, very finely and sparsely punctulated otherwise.

Elytra subparallelsided in basal fifth, sinuately widened to *ca.* midlength, and cuneately tapering to narrowly separately rounded apices; lateroapical margins coarsely dentate but denticles become finer and dense around very apices. Surface regularly convex except deep transverse postbasal furrow between small humeral protuberance and 2. stria, deeply sulciform (in posterior $^{4}/_{5}$) 1. (perisutural) interstria, and not prominent but distinct lateral (between 6. and 8. stria) swelling at midlength, accentuated posteromedially by somewhat oblique depression. Striae regular (slightly confused only on lateral swelling), composed of dense rows of moderately coarse punctures; interstriae very sparsely, irregularly, almost imperceptibly punctulate.

Anterior margin of prosternum straight, bordered with distinct stria; prosternal process wide, parallelsided; median lobe of apex short, triangular; surface flat, subdivided by alternating, not quite regular transverse depressions and ridges into a series of *ca.* 6 poorly individualized sections; puncturation rather dense and moderately coarse, no marginal striae or rims. Median parts of metasternum finely and very sparsely, sides densely punctured; abdomen along middle rather densely longitudinally punctatostrigose, sides much finer but still denser punctulate. First sternite regularly convex; apex of anal segment broadly arcuately emarginate between pair of widely separated, not very prominent spines; basal half of space between them filled by bladelike impunctate lamella.

Geographical distribution: Known only from the holotype, collected on Aru Is.; my notes from earlier visits to KBIN contain the information of another, larger (13.5×4.5 mm.) specimen from Aru, "*Det. as M. tristis KERR. by HOSCHECK and as 'close to M. tristis KERR.' by LEVEY*", but unfortunately lack of any other details makes it impossible to decide whether it might have anything to do with *M. (D.) kadeji sp.n.*

Remarks: Pattern of colouration almost exactly matches the original description of *M. (D.) tristis KERR.*, but "*vertex bleuâtre*", pronotum with "*la marge antérieure tronquée*", elytral "*stries très vagues*" of the latter, "*frontal pubescence long, conspicuous*" and "*eyes very strongly convex*" according to my notes on the holotype in BMNH, together with geographical distance (*M. (D.) tristis KERR.* has been described from Tulagi I. in southeastern part of Solomon Arch.) make its identity with *M. (D.) kadeji sp.n.* highly improbable.

It is my pleasure to dedicate this species to Marcin KADEJ, in appreciation of his contributions to the systematics of **Dermestidae** and his complaisant friendship.

Melobasis (Diceropygus) maculata (DEYR.)

Diceropygus maculatus DEYROLLE 1864: 69

Geographical distribution: Described from "I. Mysole"; my specimen bears a label "Nouvelle Guinée".

Remarks: A specimen from Key Is. in BMNH bears a remark by LEVEY "*differs from M. maculata – holotype seen*", and the characters – darker, less bronzed dorsal colouration; more convex eyes; distinct (imperceptible in the New Guinean ex.) elytral swelling (as in *M. kadeji sp.n.*) – distinguishing the two "Kei" specimens in my collection from the "N. Guinean" one, although slight, seem indeed to suggest at least subspecific difference; if so, the Key population should be referred to as *M. (D.) hoscheki OBB.*

Paramelobasis THY.

Type-species: *Melobasis (Paramelobasis) austera THÉRY 1923: 58-59*

Having realized that the majority of New Guinean species form an apparently natural group having little to do with either *Diceropygus DEYR.* or *Melobasis C.G. s.str.* my initial reaction was to erect a new subgenus for them. However, closer examination has unexpectedly revealed that unusually wide epipleural lobe of some of the new species ends with backwards directed acute or at least right denticle, what of course immediately suggested affinity to *Paramelobasis THY.* Unfortunately *M. (P.) austera THY.*, hitherto considered the only representative of that subgenus, remains unknown to me in nature, and the original description – albeit rather detailed – leaves several points unclear; moreover, the dentate epipleural lobe does not seem to be a reliable indicator of phylogenetic affinity: as well the species with modified as those with unmodified epipleura make apparently heterogeneous assemblages. Nevertheless, the group including both of them looks natural and there is nothing in the original description of *M. (P.) austera THY.* clearly contradicting its membership, what makes the creation of new subgenus superfluous. Neither epipleural denticle nor any of the additional traits mentioned in THÉRY's (1923) diagnosis of *Paramelobasis THY.* having been reliable for the expanded subgenus, I must propose the new, polythetic characterization:

Size small to medium (*ca.* 5-12 mm.); colouration usually bright green but sometimes blue or cupreous, elytra often patterned black, violaceous, or (usually) purplish; dorsal side glabrous; pronotal sides sinuate or (less frequently) parallelsided in basal $^1/_3$–$^1/_2$, more or less roundedly converging anterad; scutellum small (*ca.* $^1/_7$ or less the width of pronotal base), broadly rounded lateroapically; elytral striae regular, interstriae impunctate or almost so; epipleural lobe often strikingly widened and sharply angular posteroventrally; lateral denticles of anal sternite spiniform, usually long, widely spaced.

Fig. 6
M. (P.) bedrulbudur HOŁ.
♀ S-Highl. Pr.: Jalibu [RBH: BPlmv]

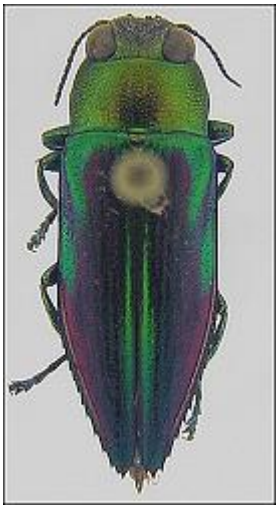

Fig. 7
M. (P.) adonis OBB.
♂ Morobe: Gumi LA [RBH: BPbwf]

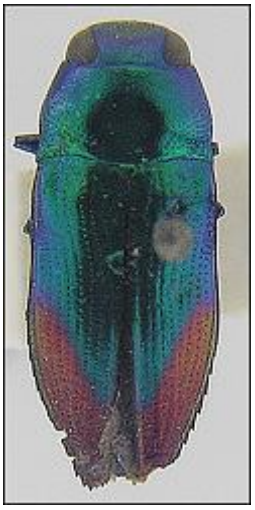

Fig. 8
M. (P.) puella sp.n.
♀ N-Pr.: Iseveni [RBH: BPlmw]

Fig. 9
M. (P.) aruensis THY.
♂ British N.Guinea [RBH: BPlnx]

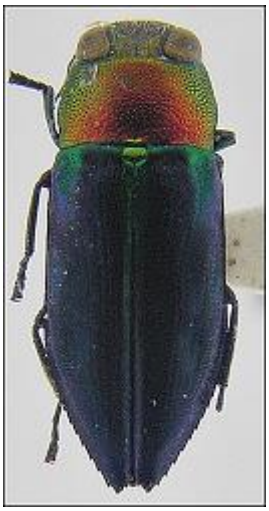

Fig. 10
M. (P.) aruensis THY.
♀ Aru [RBH: BPixs]

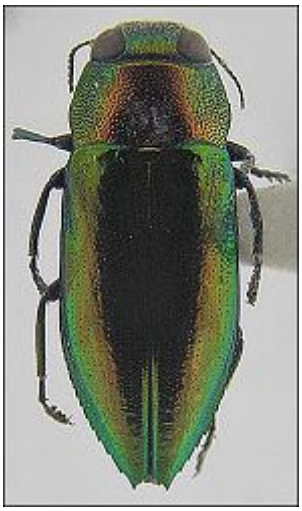

Fig. 11
M. (P.) meeki THY.
♂ Woodlark [RBH: BPlnz]

Fig. 12
M. (P.) meeki THY.
♀ Woodlark [RBH: BPlny]

Fig. 13
M. (P.) sp.
C.Pr.: Laloki [RBH: BPloc]

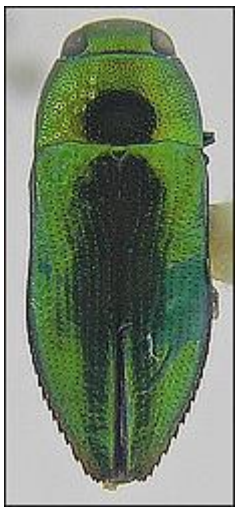

Fig. 14
M. (P.) uncimargo sp.n.
♀ Finschhaven [RBH: BPloa]

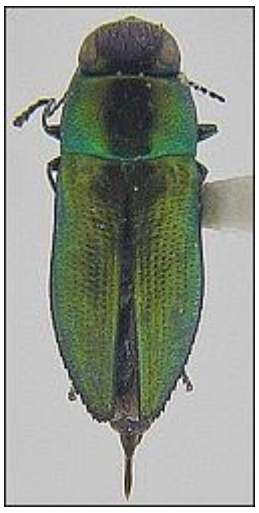

Fig. 15
M. (P.) micros sp.n.
♂ Madang Pr.: Baiteta [KBIN]

Fig. 16
M. (s.str.) minuta sp.n.
♀ Waigani [RBH: BPlob]

Distribution of this subgenus seems to extend from Sumatra and Malay Pen. through Malay Archipelago – but recently HATTORI & ONG (2018) described one apparently here belonging species (*M. taiwanenesis H.O.*) from even as far north as Formosa – and New Guinea (inhabited by the majority of its representatives) to Woodlark I.; I am not aware of any Australian species assignable to *Paramelobasis THY.*

Melobasis (Paramelobasis) bedrulbudur sp.n.

Material examined:

Holotype: "*JALIBU AIRSTRIP, SOUTH HIGHL. DISTRICT, PAPUA. 6500 FT. OCT. 1962, coll. MIROSLAV ERBEN*" [♀ (RBH: BPlmv)]

Additional material: none

Characters

Holotype: Female 10.0×3.3 mm. Front, anterior part of elytra, ventral side and legs (except purplish frontal surfaces of profemora) emerald-green; elytra apically (behind zigzaggy borderline running from anterior third at lateral margin to anterior fifth on 6. interstria and back to *ca.* midlength at suture) purplish-red. Dorsal side glabrous; pubescence of front and undersurface very short, sparse, inconspicous.

Epistome shallowly arcuately emarginated, lateral angles obtuse. Front trapezoidal, distinctly wider than long; puncturation moderately coarse nad dense, superficialy interconnected into indistinct longitudinal striolae; vertex not grooved, VW:HW≈0.6; eyes rather strongly convex.

Pronotum strongly transverse, widest at midlength (BW:MW:AW:L≈1.7:1.8:1.5:1); basal margin shallowly, apical rather deeply bisinuate; basal angles definitely acute, apical nearly right; sides sinuately divergent just before base, then almost regularly rounded. Disk evenly convex except pair of prehumeral pits and another of rather deep midlateral foveae at basal third; puncturation simple, at middle fine and sparse, becoming much coarser and denser towards sides. Marginal carinae sharp, curved downwards, extending to *ca.* apical fifth. Scutellum small for the subgenus (*ca.* as wide as an interstria), semicircular, smooth.

Elytra shallowly sinuately subparallelsided to midlength, and cuneately tapering to narrowly almost jointly rounded apices; lateral margins behind midlength coarsely dentate, external denticle of apex more prominent, subspiniform. Epipleural lobe ending with small acute denticle. Surface regularly convex except rather deep humeral depression and tectiformly elevated (except in scutellar region) sutural interstria; striae consist of rather coarse punctures, only around scutellum vanishing; interstriae practically impunctate.

Prosternum anteriorly markedly swollen in profile; apical margin straight, distinctly striatomarginate; prosternal process moderately wide, strongly convex, sides distinctly divergent behind procoxae, apex prominently tridentate; surface regularly, sparsely, rather coarsely punctured; no marginal striae or rims. Median parts of metasternum finely and sparsely, sides somewhat coarser and denser punctured; punctulation of abdomen moderately fine and dense, longitudinally elongated. First sternite regularly convex; apex of anal segment broadly arcuately emarginate between pair of long, widely separated spines; broadly transversely tetragonal bladelike lamella fills basal third of space between them.

Geographical distribution: Known only from the holotype collected on southern slopes of Mt. Giluwe ($6^0$17'S $143^0$59'E) in mid-eastern part of New Guinea.

Remarks: Pattern of colouration almost exactly matches the original description (KERREMANS 1892) of *M. ignicauda KERR.*, but sculpture of head ("*capite granuloso*") and shape of pronotum ("*thorace subtrapezoidali, ... antice subrecto, postice subsinuato, lateribus subrotundatis*") of the latter seem to preclude conspecificity with *M. bedrulbudur sp.n*. Both OBENBERGER (1930) and BELLAMY (2008) – apparently after CARTER (1923) – consider *M. ignicauda KERR.* a synonym of *M. intricata DEYR.* which, however, is said to be "*bleuâtre*"

with "*tiers postérieur des élytres noir bleuâtre, cette couleur envoyant en avant trois rameaux qui s'arrétent au tiers antérieur, l'un sur la suture, les autres de chaque côté sur le disque*", and "*écusson carré, subtronqué en arrière*" – the set of features also not easily reconcilable with the characters of the specimen before me. Moreover, according to CARTER (1923) *M. ignicauda KERR.* is the male and *M. intricata KERR.* the female, there being "*only the difference of ground-colour to separate them, ignicauda being chiefly golden and intricata blue*" ["*vert doré*" *vs*. "*vert bleuâtre*" according to the original descriptions (KERREMANS 1892, DEYROLLE 1864)]; the type of *M. bedrulbudur sp.n.*, evidently a female, agrees in this respect with the male form what, again, supports their specific distinction. At last, the occurrence at *ca.* 2200 m. a.s.l. looks rather unusual for a representative of the species otherwise known from lowland (Kamali – just at the sea-shore, *ca*. 90 km SE Pt. Moresby; Aru Is., Banks I.). As well original descriptors (DEYROLLE 1864, KERREMANS 1892) as OBENBERGER (1930) list *M. intricata DEYR.* (incl. *M. ignicauda KERR.*) among *Melobasis DEYR. s.str.*, whereas the general outlook, combination of smooth semicircular – although relatively (as for *Diceropygus KERR.*) small – scutellum, regular elytral striae, lustrous almost impunctate interstriae, coarsely denticulate lateroapical sides of elytra with subspiniform denticle at apex, widely separated long spines of anal sternite, *&c*., place *M. bedrulbudur sp.n*. evidently in *Paramelobasis THY.*, close to *M. (D.) adonis OBB.*

Melobasis (Paramelobasis) adonis (OBB.)

Diceropygus adonis OBENBERGER 1938c: 123

Geographical distribution: Described from "Brit. Nova Guinea: Edie Creek (7000')" [Morobe Pr.: 6 km. SW Wau, $7^0$21'S-$146^0$39'E]; my specimens have been collected *ca.* 30 km. NW from there, in Gumi Logging Area (upper Watut valley, $7^0$12'S-$146^0$25'E, 2200 m., on *Garcinia sp*.).

Remarks: Male has front purplish, very densely finely punctulated (punctures semiconfluent into irregular longitudinal strigosity), surface covered with short and semirecumbent but conspicuous grayish pubescence; in female it is concolorous green, puncturation coarser and sparser, pubescence hardly discernible. Also prosternal process is in male much denser and finer punctulate and distinctly pubescent (in both sexes striatomarginate), whereas anal sternite shows no evident difference except slightly less widely separated lateroapical spines in female. OBENBERGER's type ("*Capite aeneoviolaceo, valde dense, subtiliter, aequaliter punctato*") is apparently a male.

Melobasis (Paramelobasis) puella sp.n.

Material examined:

Holotype: "*ISEVENI·BL·105* [?], Northern Dist., Papua, *5:4:72, E.S.C.Smith*" [♀ (RBH:BPlmw)]
Additional material: none

Characters

Holotype: Female 10.0×3.3 mm. Front bright green gradating into golden at middle; anterior half (laterally) to ¾ (at suture) of elytra, sternum, 1. sternite and legs dark blue; elytra apically cupreous-red; 2.-5 abdominal segments bronzed. Dorsal side glabrous, ventral almost so.

Epistome rather shallowly arcuately emarginated, lateral angles obtuse and blunt. Front trapezoidal, distinctly wider than long; puncturation simple, moderately coarse and dense; vertex not grooved, VW:HW≈0.5; eyes moderately convex but not protruding from the outline of head.

Pronotum strongly transverse, widest at midlength (BW:MW:AW:L≈1.6:1.7:1.3:1); basal and apical margin shallowly bisinuate; basal angles definitely acute, apical nearly right; sides slightly, sinuately divergent to just behind midlength, then almost straightly converging.

Disk evenly convex except deep peribasal stria between prehumeral pits; puncturation simple, fine and sparse at middle, somewhat coarser and denser towards sides. Marginal carinae sharp, curved downwards, almost entire. Scutellum very small for the subgenus (not quite as wide as an interstria), semicircular, convex, smooth.

Elytra shallowly sinuately subparallelsided to midlength, and arcuately tapering to narrowly separately rounded apices; lateral margins behind midlength coarsely dentate. Epipleural lobe sharply angular at distal end. Surface regularly convex except humeral depression and tectiformly elevated apical ¾ of suture; striae consist of rather coarse punctures, only around scutellum finer and confused; interstriae practically impunctate.

Prosternum anteriorly markedly swollen in profile; apical margin straight; prosternal process moderately wide, convex; surface regularly, sparsely, rather coarsely punctured, sides distinctly striatomarginate. Metasternum rather coarsely, at middle sparsely, on sides much more densely punctured; punctulation of abdomen moderately coarse and dense. First sternite regularly convex; apex of anal segment shallowly arcuately emarginate between pair of long, widely separated spines; broadly transversely tetragonal bladelike lamella fills basal half of space between them.

Geographical distribution: The upper line of the label of the holotype is illegible and unintelligible: perhaps it was intended to mean "Seven Islands", but I have been unable to find either Iseveni, or any [group of] islands, or a locality of similar name in the Northern Prov.

Remarks: The general outlook of the squat, glabrous, lustrous body, as well as bright colouration, basally subparallelsided pronotum, small scutellum, broadly arcuate lateroapical margins of elytra, *&c.* place *M. puella sp.n.* in the *Aruensis*-circle, but none of the species known to me either in nature or even from description seems to be a likely candidate for a synonym or even close relative.

Melobasis (Paramelobasis) aruensis THY.

Melobasis (Diceropygus) aruensis THÉRY *1923: 65-66*

Geographical distribution: Described from Aru Is.; I have a female from there and a male from "British New Guinea".

Remarks: Besides evidently sexual characters (sculpture and pubescence of front and prosternal process) my male and female differ in colouration: head and pronotum green *vs.* cupreous, elytra greenish-blue with broad longitudinal purplish discal vitta in anterior half *vs.* almost uniformly bluish-violaceous with but hardly discernible traces of pattern, sternum bright aeneous-green *vs.* dark greenish-blue [males first]; THÉRY (1923), having both sexes in the type-series, does not mention colour differences between them, what suggests that his remark "*elle a le même dimorphisme sexuel* [as *M. (D.) meeki* THY.] *que je n'ai pas rencontré chez d'autres espèces de Melobasis*" refers to sculpture of prosternal process, whereas my male represents simply an individual variety ("aberration"), but taxonomic difference – although unlikely in view of almost perfect identity of all "structural" characters – cannot be fully excluded.

Melobasis (Paramelobasis) meeki THY.

Melobasis (Diceropygus) Meeki THÉRY *1923: 65-66*

Geographical distribution: Apparently endemic toWoodlark Is.

Remarks: My specimens (1 ♂, 1 ♀) differ in somewhat unexpected way: whereas typical pattern of sexual colour dimorphism in buprestids results in males more (often entirely) green while females (especially front and/or pronotum) tending to more cupreous or bronzed, here pronotum in female is golden-green, while that in male almost entirely cupreous; similar tendency is seen also in elytra (respectively emerald-green *vs.* golden-green)

and ventral side (esp. abdomen: dull bronzed-green *vs.* cupreous-bronzed); I do not see the difference in abdominal sculpture mentioned by THÉRY (1923): in both sexes sternites are "*couvert au milieu de fines rides longitudinales*", even if somewhat coarser in female. THÉRY (1923) described *Melobasis (Diceropygus) meeki THY.* believing that it was what KERREMANS (1903) considered Woodlarkian population of *Melobasis viridiaurata DEYR.* (*locus typicus*: Amboine); his (THÉRY's) main argument against taxonomic identity between Moluccan and easternmost Papuan forms was that the former has been described as *Melobasis C.G.* and the latter determined as *Diceropygus DEYR.*; to me this disagreement does not seem convincing (the size of scutellum, considered the principal "diagnostic" subgeneric character, is in *M. meeki THY.* – like generally in *Paramelobasis THY.* – rather intermediate between the two traditional [sub]genera); however, con[sub]specificity between so widely disjunct populations seems also not likely, therefore I tentatively accept THÉRY's conclusion [and indeed, the specimen in my collection found by S. BÍLÝ on Ceram and determined by him as "*M. viridiaurea DEYR.*" *[sic!]* agrees well with DEYROLLE's (1864) description but clearly differs in many points (definitely narrower body, much sparser pronotal and much coarser elytral punctulation, basally parallelsided pronotum, *&c*.) from *M. (P.) meeki THY.*].

Melobasis (Paramelobasis) uncimargo sp.n.

Material examined:

Holotype: "Finsch Haven, New Guinea, Rev. R. Wagner" "*Melobasis (s.str.) sp.?*, A. Descarpentries det." [♀ (RBH: BPloa)]

Additional material: 1 ?♀

Characters

Holotype: Female 7.8×2.9 mm. Entirely pure green, only middle of front faintly tinted golden-cupreous, apical half of lateralmost elytral interstria golden, and abdomen light-bronzed). Body glabrous except very indistinct, short, sparse whitish pubescence on front and sides of abdomen.

Epistome rather deeply arcuately emarginated, lateral angles right. Front moderately convex, subtrapezoidal (sides but slightly divergent), *ca.* as wide as long; puncturation simple, regular, rather coarse and dense; vertex not grooved, wide (VW:HW≈0.55); eyes not protruding from the outline of head.

Pronotum strongly transverse (L:W≈1.8), widest at base, then regularly arcuate to very slightly produced apical angles; median lobe shallow; hind angles definitely acute, markedly embracing humeri; basal margin shallowly, somewhat angularly bisinuate. Disk regularly convex; puncturation simple, rather coarse and sparse at middle, definitely coarser and denser towards sides. Marginal carinae sharp, curved downwards, almost touching proepisternal suture just behind apical margin. Scutellum small, semicircular, smooth.

Fig. 17
M. (P.) uncimargo sp.n.
♀ Finschhaven [RBH: BPloa]

Elytral sides shallowly sinuately diverging to midlength, then arcuately narrowed to almost jointly rounded apices; denticulation of lateroapical margins rather coarse but finer at very apex, without individualized apical denticle. Epipleural lobe very wide, posteroventral angle somewhat uncinately acute. Humeral depressions moderately deep; apical half of suture

tectiform, flanked with somewhat sulciformly depressed perisutural interstriae; striae regular, consist of rather coarse punctures; interstriae wide, practically impunctate.

Prosternum distinctly convex in profile; apical margin nearly straight; prosternal process moderately wide, sides distinctly divergent backwards; surface convex, sparsely covered with rather fine punctulation; striatomarginate. Sculpture of metasternum and abdomen moderately fine and dense, consists of conspicuously elongated punctures. First sternite regularly convex; apex of anal segment trapezoidally emarginate between pair of widely separated spines; bladelike lamella fills basal ¾ of space between them.

Geographical distribution: Hitherto known from two seashore localities in Morobe Pr.: besides the holotype presently available for examination, my notes on the collection of UT contain a brief description [*"♀?. 9×3.5 mm. Entirely green, only middle of front cupreous. Pronotum rather coarsely and densely punctured, no distinctive midline, widest at base, roundedly convergent anterad. Vertex ca. 2× wider than eye (ca. ½ width of head). Elytra with coarse, regular rows of punctures, weakly punctulate interstriae, no trace of costae. Lateroapical margins strongly, apices somewhat finer denticulate, no distincive longer denticle. Prosternal process regularly convex, widened apicalwards. Lateroapical angles of anal sternite prolonged into spines. Front distinctly convergent upwards. Epistome not widened anteriorly, antennal grooves open. Suture between 1. and 2. sternite weak but visible all along.*"] of another, apparently conspecific specimen [U.T.88-56] collected in the campus of that institution in XI 1985. Being currently not accessible for study it cannot be considered a member of the type-series, but nothing in the above could raise doubts as to its conspecificity.

Remarks: Apparently closely related to *M. (P.) micros sp.n.*, differs most conspicuously in size, backward produced hind angles of pronotum, wide elytral interstriae, and definitely acute epipleural denticle.

Melobasis (Paramelobasis) micros sp.n.

Material examined:

Holotype: "Coll. I.R.Sc.N.B, Canopy mission P.N.G, Madang Province, Baiteta, FOG XC, 19.V.1993, Leg. Oliver Missa [♂ (KBIN)]

Additional material: none

Characters

Holotype: Male 5.4×1.9 mm. Entirely green, except front and outermost elytral interstria (dull purplish) and abdomen (dark bronzed). Front densely covered with short, semierect, whitish pubescence, otherwise both dorsal and ventral side virtually glabrous.

Epistome rather shallowly arcuately emarginated, lateral angles obtuse and blunt. Front trapezoidal, *ca.* as wide as long; puncturation simple, regular, moderately coarse but very dense (interspaces much narrower than punctures); vertex not grooved, wide (VW:HW≈0.6); eyes moderately convex but not protruding from the outline of head.

Pronotum strongly transverse (L:W≈1.7), subparallelsided from base to near midlength, then regularly arcuate to not accentuated apical angles; median lobe shallow; hind angles right, basal margin straight on sides, prescutellar lobe not prominent. Disk regularly convex; puncturation simple, fine and sparse at middle, coarser and denser towards sides. Marginal carinae sharp, curved downwards, nearly touching proepisternal suture at *ca.* apical fifth. Scutellum small, semicircular, smooth.

Elytra widest at midlength, shallowly sinuately narrowed to humeri and regularly paraboloidally tapering to jointly rounded apices; lateral margins behind midlength rather finely denticulate, without individualized apical denticle. Epipleural lobe very wide, sharply angular at posterior end fitting the right re-entering angle between metepisternum and metacoxa. Elytral surface regularly convex except shallow humeral depressions and apically

subsulciform sutural interstria; striae regular, consist of rather coarse punctures; interstriae narrow, practically impunctate.

Prosternum anteriorly slightly swollen in profile; apical margin straight; prosternal process moderately wide, parallelsided, weakly convex; surface regularly, sparsely, rather coarsely punctured; sides distinctly striatomarginate. Metasternum rather coarsely, at middle sparsely, on sides much more densely punctured; punctulation of abdomen moderately coarse and dense. First sternite regularly convex; apex of anal segment trapezoidally emarginate between pair of widely separated spines; broadly transversely tetragonal bladelike lamella fills more than basal half of space between them.

Geographical distribution: Known only from the holotype obtained by fogging in Baiteta (PNG: Madang Pr.).

Remarks: Small body, almost uniformly green dorsal side, minute scutellum, posteriorly right angular epipleural lobe sufice to make *M. (P.) micros sp.n.* easily recognizable. Its closest relative seems to be *M. (P.) uncimargo sp.n.*

Melobasis C.G. s.str.

Buprestis (Melobasis) CASTELNAU & GORY 1837: 118
Type-species: *Buprestis cupriceps KIRBY 1818*

The nominotypical *Melobasis C.G. s.str.*, as currently interpreted, is in my opinion a kind of waste-basket, a simple residue for often unrelated species not fitting in *Briseis SND.*, *Diceropygus DEYR.* or *Paramelobasis THY.*, so any attempt to formulate a reliable diagnosis would be pointless. As the overwhelming majority of the relevant taxa inhabit Australia and only a fraction of them is available to me for examination, I am neither able nor consider it my job to perform the study necessary to suggest a reasonable subdivision; something like that task has been apparently attempted by LEVEY (2012), but unfortunately – as mentioned in the introduction – his publication remains unaccessible to me, so neither the meaning (purely formal tool for identification or intended as monophyletic, in the latter case in cladistic or synthetic sense?) nor the content of his "species-groups" is known to me and therefore I must leave *Melobasis minuta sp.n.* (and other New Guinean species) unassigned.

Melobasis (s.str.) minuta sp.n.

Material examined:

Holotype: „PAPUA NEW GUINEA, UPNG, Waigani, Nat. Cap. District, Date: *3-4-79*, Col. *T.Mala*" "at light" [♀ (RBH: BPlob]

Additional material: none

Characters

Holotype: Female 5.8×2.0 mm. Bronzed, with fuzzily green lower half of front, sides of pronotum, and laterobasal (posthumeral) stripe on elytra. Pubescence inconspicuous on head and abdomen, otherwise body apparently glabrous.

Epistome shallowly arcuately emarginated, lateral angles broadly rounded. Front subparallelsided, narrowest at middle (oculofrontal margins shallowly sinuate), somewhat wider than long; puncturation simple, moderately coarse and dense, surface between punctures conspicuously microsculptured; vertex not grooved, very wide (VW:HW≈0.65); eyes not protruding.

Pronotum transverse (L:W≈1.6); sides very slightly convergent to basal third, then somewhat more strongly, almost straightly so to apical angles; both basal and apical margins distinctly bisinuate, basal and apical angles acute. Disk regularly convex; puncturation simple, fine and sparse at middle, coarser and denser towards sides. Marginal carinae sharp, gently curved downwards, nearly touching proepisternal suture at *ca.* apical fifth. Scutellum small, cordiform, smooth.

Elytra slightly widened to somewhat behind midlength and paraboloidally tapering to separately rounded apices; lateroapical margins finely serrate. Humeral depressions barely discernible, sutural interstria shallowly depressed in apical half, otherwise elytral surface regularly convex; striae regular, consist of fine punctures; interstriae narrow, medial ones very finely and sparsely, laterals much coarser and denser punctulate.

Prosternum anteriorly slightly swollen in profile; apical margin straight; prosternal process moderately wide, parallelsided, weakly convex; surface regularly, sparsely, rather coarsely punctured; no marginal striae or rims. Punctulation of abdomen not very fine but dense. First sternite regularly convex; apex of anal segment narrowly subrectangularly emarginate between pair of long spines; bladelike lamella fills basal third of space between them.

Geographical distribution: Known only from the holotype collected in the University campus at Waigani, National Capital Distr., PNG.

Remarks: With its small bronzed body, very wide vertex, fine dorsal punctulation, conspicuously punctured interstriae, narrow separation of apical spines of abdomen, *&c.*, *M. (s.str.) minuta sp.n.* is unmistakable among New Guinean *Melobasis C.G.*

****

Thus, according to my current knowledge, the following subtaxa of the genus *Melobasis DEYR.* inhabit New Guinea or is offshore islands between Lydekker's Line and Solomon Sea; I am not aware of any recorded from the Bismarck Arch. [**bold-faced:** taxa known to me in nature and type-localities]:

Melobasis C.G.

Briseis KERR.

papuana OBB. ..... **NG: Helberg**
stevensi (THY.) ..... **PNG: Morobe Pr.: Mt. Misim**
nickerli (OBB.) ..... **NG: Warreo**, Morobe Pr.: Watut: Gumi L.A.

Diceropygus DEYR.

kadeji HOŁ. ..... **Aru I.**
maculata (DEYR.) ..... **Mysole**, SE-NG: Paumomu Riv.
=quadritincta OBB. ..... **Queensland**: **York Pen.: Distr. Coen**, Cornwallis I.
oleomaculata OBB. ..... **W-NG: Loren, Bivak Eiland**
scutellaris (DEYR.) ..... **Mysole**
lixi THY. ..... **PNG: Redscar Bay**, Torres Straits
viridicolor OBB. [n.n.]
=viridis KERR. ..... **Woodlark**
misimana HOŁ. ..... **Misima**
rothschildi THY. ..... **Rossel I.**
eichhorni THY. ..... **Rossel I.**

Paramelobasis THY.

austera THY. ..... **NG: Astrolabe Bay: Stephansoort**
auricollis KERR. ..... **SE-NG: Paumomu Riv.**
intricata DEYR. ..... **Aru**, Banks I.
=ignicauda KERR. ..... **NG: Kamali**
bedrulbudur HOŁ. ..... **PNG: S-Highl. Pr.: Ialibu**
variegata (THY.) ..... **PNG: Morobe Pr.: Mt. Misim**
adonis OBB. ..... **PNG: Edie Creek**, Morobe Pr.: Watut: Gumi L.A.
macleayi KERR. [n.n.]
=suturalis MCL. ..... **NG: Fly Riv.**
puella sp.n. ..... **PNG: Northern Pr.: Iseveni [?]**
aruensis THY. ..... **Aru**, Brit. NG
woodlarkiana THY. ..... **Woodlark**
meeki THY. ..... **Woodlark**
aurata DEYR. ..... **Aru**
ribbei THY. ..... **Aru: Ureiuning**
uncimargo sp.n. ..... **PNG: Finsch Haven**
micros sp.n. ..... **PNG: Madang Pr.: Baiteta**

Melobasis C.G. s.str.

purpurascens (F.) ..... **Nova Cambria [=New South Wales]**, NG: Yule I.
minuta sp.n. ..... **PNG: Nat. Cap. Distr.: Waigani**
incerta KERR. ..... **S-NG: Kapakapa: nr. Round Head**
albertisi THY. ..... **S-NG: Kataw**
lugubris THY. ..... **NG**
jakowleffi KERR. ..... **NG**: Astrolabe B.
lugubrina KERR. ..... **NG: Redscar Bay**
psilopteroides DEYR. ..... **NG: Yule I.**

Incertae sedis

variabilis LSB. ..... **Sumbawa**, ?NG
modesta LSB. ..... **NG: Arfak Mts.**

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