

Comments on Distribution Records of Some *Pachyrhynchus* Species (Coleoptera, Curculionidae, Entiminae)

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Recently, HÁVA and RUKMANE (2018) reported a number of new distribution records for four species of *Pachyrhynchus* GERMAR, 1823. Since this publication contains obvious inaccuracies about at least three of the four species, we here correct these mistakes, as noted following.

Pachyrhynchus occidentalis RUKMANE, 2017

For the moment we refrain from discussing the validity of the three Mindanao species described by RUKMANE (2017) under the *Pachyrhynchus absurdus* group (i.e., *P. orientalis* RUKMANE, 2017, *P. occidentalis* RUKMANE, 2017, and *P. neoabsurdus* RUKMANE, 2017). However, we wonder how has it been possible for HÁVA and RUKMANE (2018) to refer a specimen from “Samar, Lope de Vega” to *P. occidentalis*, indicated in the description (RUKMANE, 2017: 91) as limited to western Mindanao, rather than to *P. orientalis* indicated in the description (RUKMANE, 2017: 89) as limited to eastern (northern) Mindanao. Beyond this zoogeographic question, we have examined abundant pachyrhynchine material from the Island of Samar for over 15 years, and we have never seen a single specimen which can be referred to *P. absurdus* or a similar species. Not satisfied with our experience, one of us (MB) contacted a Filipino collector who has been dealing with Samar material for over twenty years, and he confirmed that he has never seen a single specimen belonging to *P. absurdus* or a similar species coming from this island. It is therefore evident that this is a case of mislabeling which sometimes happens for specimens distributed on a commercial basis. A similar instance in the past led RUKMANE and BARŠEVSKIS (2016) to describe as new from “Luzon” a species which had previously been described from Mindanao with reliable distribution data by YOSHITAKE (2012 & 2016).

Pachyrhynchus rukmanee BARŠEVSKIS, 2016

With regard to *Pachyrhynchus rukmanee* BARŠEVSKIS, 2016, which had been known only from Marinduque Island (BARŠEVSKIS, 2016), HÁVA and RUKMANE (2018) cited this species as “new for Luzon” (p. 204, line 21) on the basis of a single specimen merely labeled “Luzon”. However, Luzon, besides referring to the largest island in the Philippines, can also refer to one of the three primary island groups in the country, including the Luzon mainland, the Batanes and Babuyan groups of islands to the north, Polillo Island to the east, and the outlying islands of Catanduanes, Marinduque, Masbate, Romblon, Mindoro and Palawan, among others, to the south. For the same reasons expressed above about possible mislabeling, the specimen examined by HÁVA and RUKMANE (2018) cannot be seen as evidence of the occurrence of *P. rukmanee* on Luzon Island, so here we exclude the Luzon mainland from the distribution range of *P. rukmanee*. It is noteworthy that *P. rukmanee* is represented by two subspecies, both of which are distributed on Marinduque Island, whereas its putative vicariant sister species *Pachyrhynchus masatoshii* YOSHITAKE et YAP, 2017 is known from Quezon in the Calabarzon region of Luzon Island (YOSHITAKE & YAP, 2017). These facts strongly suggest that *P. rukmanee* and the species group containing it are geographically differentiated.

Pachyrhynchus speciosus WATERHOUSE, 1841

For distribution records of this species from Samar Island, HÁVA and RUKMANE (2018) wrote “new for Visayas” (p. 204, line 35). However, *Pachyrhynchus speciosus* has already been recorded from Bohol Island in the Central Visayas region (SCHULTZE, 1923: 657) and thus the record is just new for Samar Island. As HÁVA and RUKMANE (2018) quoted SCHULTZE (1923), we consider that they simply overlooked the previous record. Moreover, as *P. speciosus* was originally described from “the Philippine Islands” on the basis of mixed material collected by Hugh CUMING from various localities including Samar Island (SCHULTZE, 1923: 628), it is quite meaningless to propose any new distribution records for the species unless determining the precise locality.

The above inaccuracies for publishing “new findings” in the HÁVA and RUKMANE (2018) paper could be considered equivalent to a questionable research practice (QRP) (JOHN *et al.*, 2012), made by not satisfactorily checking previous studies. It is not advisable to assume a new distribution record for a pachyrhynchine species on the basis of a single specimen especially if distributed on a commercial basis since mislabeling of specimens is prevalent and can be misleading. These discoveries highlight the need to be diligent in ensuring the veracity of distributional records and provenance of specimens acquired through commercial insect dealers or similar sources.

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