

A New Synonymy of *Pachyrhynchus apoensis* YOSHITAKE (Coleoptera, Curculionidae, Entiminae)

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Jewel weevils of the genus *Pachyrhynchus* GERMAR, the great majority of which occur in the Philippine Islands, are very fascinating for many people due to their beautiful appearance. They are very popular as a target of specimen collection both by entomologists and amateur collectors.

To date, numerous specimens of *Pachyrhynchus* weevils, together with those of other Pachyrhynchini weevils, have been collected on a commercial basis by many native people in various localities in the Philippines, and then widely distributed by Philippine dealers throughout the world, especially to developed countries.

Unfortunately, however, not a few of the specimens distributed have been provided insufficient or even incorrect data by local collectors and dealers due to less acknowledgement to the scientific value of precise specimen data. In addition, *Pachyrhynchus* weevils are more or less sexually dimorphic in body shape and show some intraspecific variations in body color and proportion, as well as in scaly markings. Thus, one must be very careful to conduct a taxonomic study of *Pachyrhynchus*, especially when it is only based on one or few specimens collected by local people.

Recently, RUKMANE and BARŠEVSKIS (2016) described nine new species of *Pachyrhynchus* from the Philippines, in which they made some mistakes including the most obvious one, the description of *Pachyrhynchus pseudapoensis* RUKMANE & BARŠEVSKIS, 2016 based on a single female specimen from “Luzon”.

Judging from the original description with habitus photographs, the holotype of *P. pseudapoensis* is nothing but a female of *Pachyrhynchus apoensis* YOSHITAKE, 2012 occurring only in Mindanao. Here I declare a new synonymy as follows.

Pachyrhynchus apoensis YOSHITAKE, 2012

Pachyrhynchus apoensis YOSHITAKE, 2012, 32 (type locality: “Mindanao I., Mt. Apo”).

Pachyrhynchus pseudapoensis RUKMANE & BARŠEVSKIS, 2016, 94 (type locality: “Luzon Isl., North Luzon”; mislabeled). Syn. nov.

See CABRAS & YOSHITAKE (2016) for other synonymy.

Diagnosis. See YOSHITAKE (2012: 32).

Distribution. Philippines (Mindanao).

Biology. See CABRAS and YOSHITAKE (2016).

Remarks. RUKMANE and BARŠEVSKIS (2016) provided dorsal and lateral habitus of the holotype (p. 94, Fig. 11 A, B) and noted morphological differences between *P. pseudapoensis* and *P. apoensis* as follows by comparing the female holotype with a male of *P. apoensis* (p. 94, Fig. 11 C–F).

“*Pachyrhynchus pseudapoensis* sp. n. is similar in general appearance to *P. apoensis* YOSHITAKE, 2012 (Mindanao Island), which has different pattern of elytra. Elytral differences appear in Fig. 11. Each elytron of new species in apical part without two small sutural spots and head between eyes without spot of pale scales (elytra of *P. apoensis* with two small sutural spots and head between eyes and with slightly rounded spot of pale scales).”

As was mentioned in the original description of *P. apoensis*, however, the differences in the shape of elytra between the female holotype of *P. pseudapoensis* and the male of *P. apoensis* are merely sexually dimorphic features in the same species. Also, in *P. apoensis*, the markings of glossy pale green scales on the forehead, protho-

rax, and elytra are variable individually. Based on my observation of a long series of specimens of *P. apoensis* (250 exs.), the scaly spots on the forehead and elytral suture are often reduced in varied degrees, sometimes vestigial, and even absent in some specimens. Therefore, I concluded with no doubt that *P. pseudapoensis* is conspecific with *P. apoensis*.

As far as I know, *Pachyrhynchus apoensis* and its related species, all of which are known only from Mindanao and its adjacent islands, constitute a distinct group in the genus *Pachyrhynchus*. Furthermore, Mt. Apo, the type locality of *P. apoensis*, is one of the most famous localities for insect trading in the Philippines. The holotype of *P. pseudapoensis*, whose collector is unidentified, was most probably mislabeled during the distribution process on a commercial basis. It is quite unlikely that the specimen in question was introduced accidentally to Luzon, since *P. apoensis* is a montane species living only in and around natural forests in Mindanao (CABRAS & YOSHITAKE, 2016).

References

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