

A new *Plectrone* from the Philippine Islands (Coleoptera: Cetoniidae)

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ABSTRACT. — *Plectrone negricola* sp. nov. from Negros, Philippines, is described, figured, and compared with the other Philippine species.

To the genus *Plectrone* Wallace (see Mikšić, 1976) I can add a new species from Negros in the Philippines, based on material submitted by H. F. Howden. The aedeagus of this species differs remarkably from that of the species described so far. Four *Plectrone* species are now known from the Philippines, five others occur on the Sunda Islands. To my knowledge the present novelty constitutes the first record of *Plectrone* from Negros.

Plectrone negricola sp. nov. (figs. 1—6).

Holotype (male). — Approximate length 24 + 5 (head), width 11.5, height 8.5 mm. Shiny black, with metallic tinge of purple. Derm punctate and striolate, entire body abundantly micropunctate ($\times 50$). Habitus similar to that of other *Plectrone*.

Cephalic contours, fig. 1. Clypeal margin slightly, but distinctly, elevated; head densely punctate throughout, punctures laterally between antennal sockets confluent, on each side of disc forming small striolate area; shape of punctures variable; micropunctuation more distinct on clypeal margin than elsewhere. Maximum width of head capsule (including eyes) 4.75, maximum width of clypeus 3.4 mm.

Pronotal contours, fig. 2; disc with the usual approximately triangular depression widening from apex to base; margin laterally finely ridged. Derm of pronotum laterally with well-pronounced braided, transverse striolation (interior limits indicated by dashes in fig. 2); punctures ($\times 12$) from striolation inward becoming smaller and thinning out, medially more or less effaced; micropunctuation ($\times 50$) dense throughout. Median length of pronotum 7.5, maximum width 7.8 mm. Scutellum (fig. 3) basally punctate-striolate; micropunctate.

Elytral contours, fig. 3; parascutellar-prediscal area depressed, distal section of juxtasutural zone raised, limited by discontinuous striola; lateral declivity of elytron densely, braidedly transversely striolate, distal surface and discal impression moderately striolate; punctuation ($\times 12$) very sparse, micropunctuation ($\times 50$) dense. Sutural length of elytron 10.6, maximum (longitudinal) length 15.0, maximum (humeral) width combined 11.4 mm.

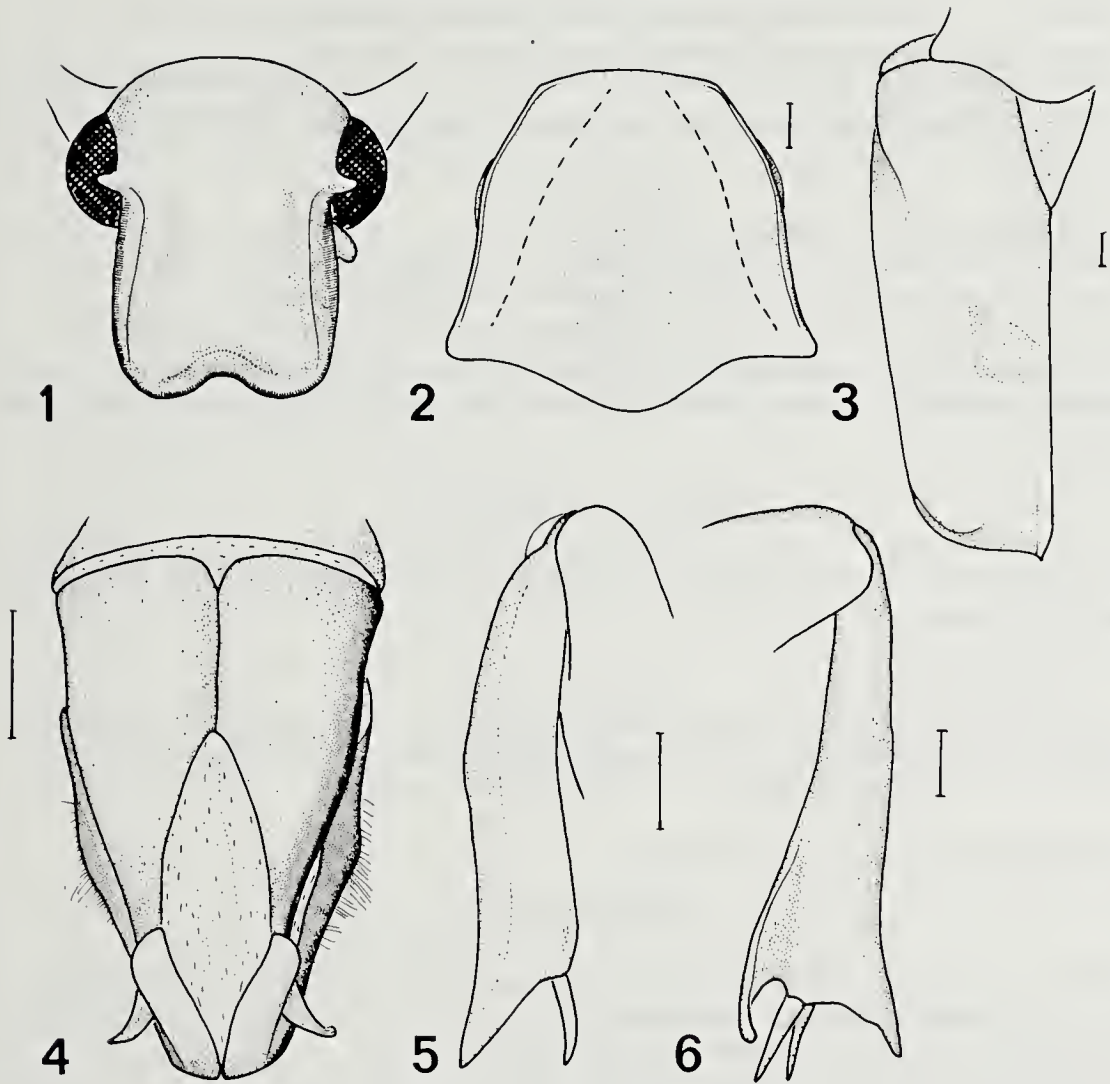
Antennal club large, as long as pedicel and flagellum combined. Pectoral sides densely striolate; projection between middle coxae bluntly rounded, anterior declivity in lateral view scarcely concave. Metasternal wings abundantly striolate-punctate; sides of abdominal sternites striolate; metasternal disc and discal parts of sternites sparsely punctate; median impression of abdomen distinct. Pygidium densely, finely striolate; distal surface two-topped, separating median impression very shallow.

External denticles of fore tibia obsolete (fig. 5); terminal spur of fore tibia slender, acuminate, reaching basal third of tarsal segment 2. Middle and hind tibiae (fig. 6) without external non-apical protrusions; apex of hind tibia superiorly with one acuminate external projection, internal projection obsolete; distal-internal third of hind tibia with characteristically shaped lamella (fig. 6). Posterolateral angle of hind coxa short but acute. Middle and hind femora slender; tarsi all slender, with large sickle-shaped claws.

Parameres (fig. 4) each with superior and inferior branch, the latter reflexed proximad (hook-shaped) and fused onto the superior branch halfway its length; along faint curve of inferior branch several fine hairs, no brush.

Variation and sexual dimorphism. — Total length (head extended) ♂ 26—29, ♀ 32 mm.

The female is much plumper, and has the usual sexual characters, including the presence of



Figs. 1—6. *Plectrone negricola*, holotype. 1, head, full-face view; 2, pronotum, 3, left elytron, dorsal; 4, aedeagus, full-face; 5, right fore tibia; 6, left hind tibia. Scale lines = 1 mm; 1, 6, same scale.

three fore tibial denticles and the absence of the hind tibial lamella. The sculptural characters are very similar to those of the male sex.

The general colour is variable: some specimens are blackish-purple, like the holotype, others are more brightly purplish or greenish. The eye-canthi of the paratypes are longer than in fig. 1.

Identification. — The aedeagus is strongly different from all the other *Plectrone* described so far (see also Mikšić, 1976: 389, 392, 394). The males of the four Philippine species can be separated as follows:

- 1. Pronotum laterally with dense transverse striolation 2
- Pronotum laterally punctate-setose (by inference: male unknown). — Mindanao
..... *crassa* Mikšić
- 2. Lobe on hind tibia with basal attachment extending to near tibial apex, its crest on either side paralleled by striola, apex curved. Fore tibial denticles fully obsolete (apart from apical one). Metepisternum and sides of metasternum densely striolatepunctate. Mesosternal process anteriorly scarcely concave, in lateral view. Aedeagus, fig. 4. — Negros
..... *negricola* sp. nov.
- Process on internal side of hind tibia simply tapering. Aedeagus very different from fig. 4, on each side with hair-brush 3

3. Process on internal side of hind tibia long and drawn out. Superior parameral branch laterally distinctly angulate. — Luzon, Cebu, Mindanao, Panaon *nigrocoerulea* (Waterhouse)
 — Process on internal side of hind tibia much shorter. Superior parameral branch laterally fully rounded off. — Samar *endroedii* Mikšić

Material examined. — 7 males, 1 female.

Holotype from Negros: Mt Canlaon, 3600 ft, 1-6.V.1953, H. M. & D. Townes (Howden collection). Paratypes with same data (Howden collection; Leiden museum).

Note. — Apart from numerous *P. nigrocoerulea*, I have seen two males and one female of *endroedii*, apparently from the same series as the unique type: Samar, leg. Baker (Leiden museum).

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Dr. H. F. Howden of Carleton University, Ottawa, kindly permitted the study of this interesting *Plectrone*.

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