

***Cleptomtopus negrosensis* sp. nov. (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) from Negros Island, Phiippines**

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In this paper *Cleptomtopus negrosensis* sp. nov., a species new to science from Negros Island, is described. This is fourth species of the genus *Cleptomtopus* in the Philippines.

Key words: Cerambycidae, Agapanthiini, *Cleptomtopus*, Negros, Philippines, new species

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INTRODUCTION

Negros Island is the Philippines' fourth largest island, known for its rich biodiversity and challenging environmental concerns. The island is home to some of the country's rarest wildlife but is constantly losing biodiversity and habitat due to deforestation. Negros island features at least three (3) Key Biodiversity Areas: the Cuernos de Negros Mountain Range, Southeastern Negros KBA, and Southwestern Negros KBA and many protected areas, including Mt. Kanla-on Natural Park (PBCFI & BMB, 2018).

Mt. Kanla-on (sometimes spelled Canlaon) is an active stratovolcano on Negros Island, Philippines. It is the highest peak in the

Visayas area, reaching 2,465 meters (8,087 feet) above sea level. Mt. Kanla-on was declared and established as a protected area under the category of Natural Park through the Mt. Kanla-on Natural Park (MKNP) Act of 2001, under the National Integrated Protected Areas (NIPA) Act of 1992.

Cleptomtopus Thomson, 1864 is a genus of longhorn beetles from the tribe Agapanthiini Mulsant, 1839. It has seventy-two (72) species and subspecies worldwide and is all endemic in the Oriental region. It is represented by three (3) species in the Philippines: *C. camuripes* (Newman, 1842), *C. mindanaonis* Breuning, 1940, and *C. pepittoi* Barševskis, 2024 (Barsevkis, 2024; Tavakilian & Chevilotte, 2024).



Fig. 1. Holotype of *Cleptometopus negrosensis* sp. nov.

The species belonging to the genus *Cleptometopus* Thomson, 1834 are generally characterized by elongated, subparallel body with the head retracted downwards, the antennae more than twice as long as the body, slender and articulate; and the elytra bilobed at the tip (Thomson, 1864).

In this paper, we describe *Cleptometopus negrosensis* sp. nov., the fourth species for the genus *Cleptometopus* in the Philippine fauna.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The studied material (holotype) is deposited in the beetles collection of Daugavpils University, Institute of Life Sciences and Technology, Coleopterological Research Centre (DUBC; Ilgas, Daugavpils Distr., Latvia).

The laboratory research and measurements have been performed using Nikon AZ100, Nikon SMZ745T and Zeiss Stereo Lumar V12 digital microscopes, NIS Elements 6D software. The habitus photograph was obtained with a digital camera Canon EOS 6D with Canon MP-E65 mm macro lens, using Helicon Focus auto montage and subsequently was edited with Photoshop. All measurements are given in millimeters.

In the present paper, we followed the taxonomic nomenclature provided by Tavakilian and Chevilotte (2023).

RESULTS

Cleptometopus negrosensis sp. nov.

Fig. 1

Type material: Holotype: Male. Philippines, Negros isl., /Mt. Canla-on, 900 m., / 02.2016, / local collector leg.

<handwritten> // HOLOTYPUS: /
Cleptomtopus / negrosensis sp. nov./ A.
Barševskis Ch. Torrejos / descr. 2024. <red
label, handwritten>. Deposited in DUBC.

Paratype: Female. Philippines, Negros isl.,
/Mt. Canla-on, 900 m., / 02.2016, / local
collector leg. <handwritten> //
PARATYPUS: / Cleptomtopus /
negrosensis sp. nov./ A. Barševskis Ch.
Torrejos descr., / 2024. <red label,
handwritten>. Damaged specimen.
Deposited in DUBC.

General distribution: Philippines: Negros
Island.

Description. Body elongate, very narrow,
black, slightly lustrous, surface unicolor
black, only pronotum basally with two
yellow elongated spots. Body length: 12.5
mm, maximal width of elytra: 2.4 mm.

Head black, flat, narrow, with almost parallel
sides, with slightly convex eyes. Cheeks not
extended, without pubescence, with very
coarse punctures and wrinkles. Surface of
head without pubescence and in coarse
punctuation. Head without longitudinal
middle line, except basal portion of head
behind antennae as well as a thin very fine
elongated line from the base of the antennae
to the pronotum. Labrum brown, shiny, with
sparse pubescence and coarse punctures.
Clypeus brown, narrow, transverse, shiny.
Mandibles brown, with darkened apical
portions, shiny, with acute apices, with very
fine punctures in basal part. Antennae dark-
brown, very long, more than twice as long as
the body, covered with very fine pubescence;
basal antennomere cylindric, black, with
sparse fine punctures and pubescence and
with row of bristles.

Pronotum almost sub-cylindrical, black,
with coarse dense punctures. Lateral sides of
pronotal disc with two elongated yellow
spots. Basal portion of pronotum without
acute angles. Frontal and basal portions of

pronotum slightly neck-shaped. Scutellum
small, slightly raised, rounded apically,
covered with yellow-grey pubescence. Pars
stridens not visible, because it is under the
posterior edge of the pronotum.

Elytra black, with coarse, slightly impressed
punctures in rows, especially in basal
portion. Each elytron with slightly extended
shoulders and impressed suturae in basal
portion. Dorsal part of elytra unicolor black.
Apical part of elytra with very fine
punctures. Each elytron with large sharp
extended projection. Ventral surface of body
black, with very coarse punctures. Legs
relatively short, dark brown, slightly shiny.
Inner sides of tibia with fine yellow
pubescence. Tarsomeres dark brown,
covered by fine pubescence.

Differential diagnosis. The new species
differs from *Cleptomtopus camuripes*
Newman, 1842 by a different pattern on the
elytra: dorsal surface of elytra of new species
unicolor black, with more coarser punctures
extending practically to apex, surface of
pronotum and elytra without pubescence,
apex of each elytron with large sharp
extended projection. Pronotum in basal part
laterally with two short, slightly elongated
yellow spots. *C. camuripes* dorsal surface of
elytra in the middle part with four short
yellow lines, shiny, more lustrous, with less
coarse punctuation not extending to apex but
becoming fine well before apex, surface of
pronotum and elytra with distinct pale and
fine pubescence, apical portion of each
elytron with shorter and less sharp extension.
Pronotum and head are with elongated not
interrupted longitudinal band of yellow
pubescence.

New species differs from *Cleptomtopus
mindanaonis* Breuning, 1940 by black not
greenish surface, more coarse punctures and
without pale pubescence on dorsal and
ventral sides of body and more sharp and
long extensions at apex of elytra.

Etymology. Toponym. This species is named after the locality of the species in Negros Island (Philippines) [Negros - *negrosensis*].

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