

New *Nidella* Gressit & Rondon 1970 (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) species from Palawan

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Nidella palawana sp. nov. species from Palawan island, the Philippines is described and illustrated. The world fauna of the genus *Nidella* Gressit & Rondon 1970 is now represented by thirteen species.

Key words: Coleoptera, Cerambycidae, *Nidella*, taxonomy, new species, Palawan Island, Philippines

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INTRODUCTION

The biodiversity of Philippine beetles (Insecta: Coleoptera) is incompletely explored. Hundreds of species new to science are described every year. The same can be said about lophorn beetles (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae). The first species of the genus *Nidella* Gressit & Rondon 1970 from the Philippine archipelago, *N. stanleyana*

Vives, 2005, was described relatively recently, 18 years ago. It was described by Vives (2005) from Mindanao Island, Bukidnon. 10 years later, Vives (2015) described another species of this genus, *N. bimaculata* Vives, 2015, from the northern part of Luzon Island. Barševskis (2020) described another species of this genus, *N. anichtchenkoi* Barševskis, 2020, from Luzon Island, but a year later Barševskis &

Cabras (2021) described two new species of this genus from the Philippine archipelago: *N. petrovi* Barševskis & Cabras, 2021 from Mindoro Island and *N. borodini* Barševskis & Cabras, 2021 from Palawan Island. A total of 5 species have so far been found in the Philippine archipelago, of which 2 species have been found in the Luzon Island, and one species respectively in each of the islands of Mindanao, Mindoro and Palawan.

Nidella is a genus of longhorn beetles that belongs to the subfamily Cerambycinae and tribe Cleomenini. In the world fauna, the genus *Nidella* is distributed in the Oriental region. 12 species are known so far: 3 species are found in the island of Borneo, 2 species in Thailand, one species in Vietnam, one species in the island of Sumatra and the previously mentioned 5 species found in the Philippine archipelago.

All the species of this genus are endemic to the Oriental region, with a very narrow distribution range, which in most cases is limited to one island or mountain range. The species of this genus are relatively rarely represented in the collections. This fact makes their faunal studies difficult.

This article presents the illustrative description of a new species of genus *Nidella* from Palawan island, Philippines.

MATERIAL 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 stereomicroscopes, 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 automontage and subsequently was edited with Photoshop. All measurements are given in millimeters.

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

DESCRIPTION

Nidella palawana sp. nov.

(Fig. 1)

General distribution: Philippines: Palawan Island.

Description. Body elongated, narrow, subparallel, black. Elytra dorsally with six white spots, but pronotum laterally with white spot. Body length 13.0 mm, maximal width: 1.2 mm.

Head flattened, with rectangular apical portion and convex, bilobate yellow-brown eyes. Dorsal surface of head with coarse punctures and sparse pubescence, especially along the raised margins, with short, longitudinal line between thick and extended antennal bases. Frontal portion of head with elongated middle line. Cheeks covered with dense silvery-grey pubescence. Labrum brown, narrow, pubescent. Clypeus brown, transverse, shiny. Mandibles brown, with sharp apex, massive, wide, shiny, lateral sides with pubescence. Antennae slender, relatively long. Female antennae shorter than body, covered with fine punctures and fine, sparse pubescence; antennomeres 1–5 thickened apically, antennomeres 1–2 black, remaining antennomeres brown.



Fig. 1. *Nidella palawana* sp. nov.

Type specimen: Holotype: Female. /Philippines: Palawan Isl., / Roxas, 06.2023, / local collector leg./ [handwritten]; // HOLOTYPE:/ *Nidella* / *palawana* sp. nov. / A.Barševskis, Z.Zeltiņa, / M.J.T. Pepito det. 2023 [red label, handwritten] (DUBC).

Pronotum black, cylindrical, elongated, neck-shaped narrowed in apical and basal portions, in the middle portion laterally with large triangular spot of silver-grey, dense pubescence. Pronotal disc without pubescence, with dense and coarse punctures and wrinkles.

Scutellum small, with dense pubescence. Pars stridens partially visible because it is under the posterior edge of the pronotum, forming smooth spot, with very fine transverse microsculpture.

Elytra almost parallel-sided, in the middle narrowed, flattened dorsally, with distinct, slightly raised shoulders hump. Elytra black, matt, with weak reflection and microsculpture. Each elytron with three yellow spots. Punctuation of elytra very dense, not arranged in longitudinal rows. Apical margins of elytra near suture with small, sharp extension.

Ventro-lateral surface of body black, shiny, particularly covered with pubescence. Legs dichromatic, with yellow-brown or brown tibia and tarsus, and forelegs and middle legs with dark femora, while hind legs femora are dark with a yellow-brown base, covered with very fine pubescence.

Differential diagnosis. Regarding the shape of the body, the new species differs from all other species of this genus by six yellow spots on elytra and triangular lateral spot in the middle of pronotum. No other species of this genus known so far have such characteristics.

Etymology. This species is named after the Palawan island, where it occurs [*Palawan - palawana*].

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