

A new species of *Aristolebia* Bates, 1892 from the Philippines (Coleoptera: Carabidae: Lebiini)

Oldřich HOVORKA

Středočeské Muzeum v Roztokách u Prahy,
Zámek 1, CZ-252 63 Roztoky, Czech Republic
e-mail: zoolog@muzeum-roztoky.cz

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Abstract. A new species of the genus *Aristolebia* Bates, 1892 from the Philippines (Luzon Island), *Aristolebia baehri* sp. nov., is described, illustrated and compared with congeners.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Aristolebia* Bates, 1892 with twenty one described species is relatively widely distributed from south-eastern part of the Palaearctic Region (Nepal, South China) through the Oriental Region to the northern and north-western part of Australian Region (Queensland, New Guinea and Timor). The genus as a whole has never been revised. Most species of *Aristolebia* were described just recently (past the year 2000) by Anichtchenko (2017), Kirschenhofer (2011, 2012) and mainly by Baehr (2004, 2010, 2011, 2015, 2017) and Baehr & Reid (2017). *A. davaonis* (Heller, 1921) is so far the only species known from Philippines (Mindanao). The purpose of present paper is to describe a new Philippine *Aristolebia* species from Luzon.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The present paper is based on the study of type material of the new species described below and available consubgenera from the author's collection. The specimens included in this study are deposited in the following private collection:

OHPK = Oldřich Hovorka, private collection, Praha, Czech Republic.

Measurements were made with a MBS-10 stereoscopic microscope, at magnifications of 8x, 16x and 32x. Measurements of body parts and corresponding abbreviations used in the text are as follows:

ABL = apparent body length - length measured from the apex of left mandible (mandibles closed) to the apex of abdomen;

EL = elytral length - length of left elytron measured from humerus to apex;

EW = elytral width - maximal width of both elytra combined;

HL = length of head - measured from apex of clypeus to the neck-constriction;

HW = width of head - maximal width of head (including eyes);

PL = pronotal length - length of pronotum measured along mid-line;

PW = pronotal width - maximal width of pronotum;

TL = total length - length measured from the apex of left mandible (mandibles closed) to the apex of left elytron.

The type specimen of newly described species is provided with locality label and red printed label: “*Aristolebia baehri* sp. nov. / HOLOTYPE / det. O. Hovorka, 2020”.

DESCRIPTION

Aristolebia baehri sp. nov.

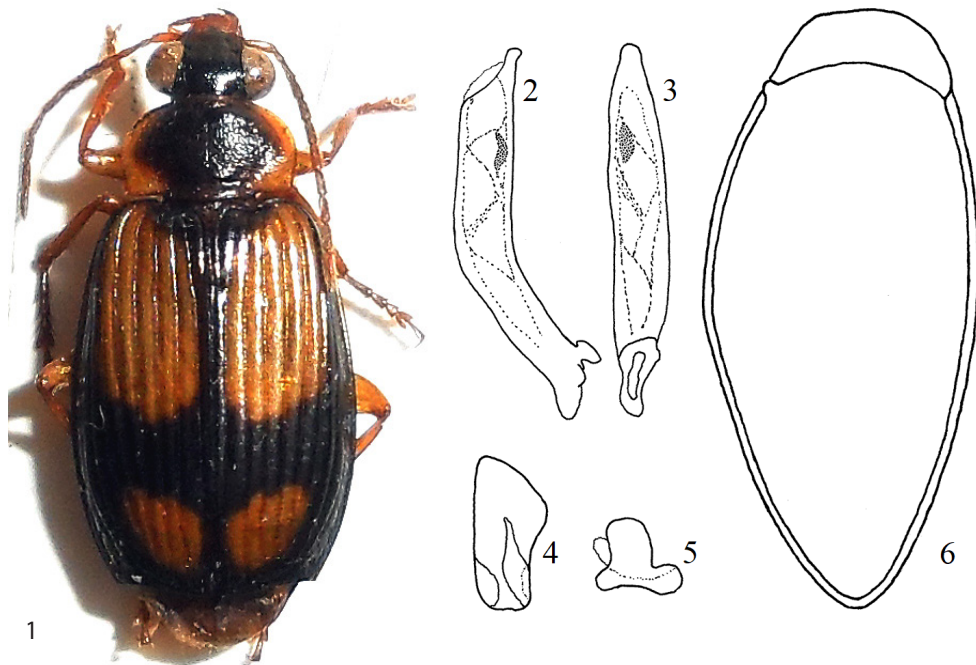
(Figs. 1-6)

Type material. Holotype (♂) labelled: “Philippines, Eastern Luzon / Isabela Prov., San Mariano / Sierra Madre, July 2019 / local collector”, (OHPC). Holotype is slightly damaged, right maxillary palpus, whole labium including labial palpi and last protarsomeres are missing.

Description. Habitus as on Fig. 1. The new species is relatively small (TL 7.3 mm; ABL 8.0 mm; maximal body width 3.5 mm). Body colour: head black, clypeus, labrum, maxillary palpus and mandible (with exception of black apex) pale red, whole antennae yellowish; pronotal disc dark brown-black, lateral pronotal margins yellowish; elytron black, very narrow elytral margin in anterior half and two spots yellowish; anterior elytral spots large, lying between first and sixth striae, both anterior spots divided by black first interval, anteriorly delimited by black area around scutellum, only at level of fifth and partly sixth intervals touching basal elytral border, posterior margin of the spot slightly undulated, reaching 0.55 elytral length; posterior elytral spot small, covering second to sixth intervals, both separated from elytral suture, posterior and lateral margins; whole legs yellow to pale red; ventrally is whole body yellowish to yellow-red with exception of dark-brown genae and lateral parts of proepisternites. Head with huge, semicircular, bulging eyes. Pronotum distinctly wider than head (PW:HW 1.33), strongly transverse (PW:PL 1.63), widest approximately at midlength. Elytra slightly elongate (EL:EW 1.36), widest at two-thirds their length.

Head (Fig. 1) transverse due to huge, bulging eyes. Labrum transverse with slightly concave anterior margin; three pairs of large setae along anterior margin of labrum; surface with very distinct isodiametric microsculpture, sculpticels in basal part large, gradually smaller towards apex; distinct elongate-oval impression in middle of labrum present. Clypeus with one pair of large setae laterally, surface with distinct isodiametric microsculpture and very delicate but distinct punctures. Frons longitudinally rugoso-punctate, with distinct isodiametric microsculpture. Ligula missing in the studied specimen, mentum with epilobes developed and with distinct, large, subacute median tooth.

Pronotum (Fig. 1) short, transverse, with anterior half about semicircular, as typical for the genus; its sides strongly convex in anterior third, than nearly rectilinear; widest point approximately at midlength. Posterior pronotal angles narrowly rounded, obtuse-angled. Two pairs of lateral setae present; posterolateral (angular) seta inserted exactly in posterior pronotal angle, midlateral (anterior) setae inserted before widest point in anterior third of pronotal length, insertion (pore) is deeply in inner part of lateral depression, distant slightly



Figs. 1-6: Holotype of *Aristolebia baehri* sp. nov., length 7.3 mm: 1- habitus, dorsal view; 2- aedeagus, lateral view; 3- aedeagus, ventral view; 4- left paramere; 5- right paramere; 6- genital ring. Without scales.

more than width of this pore from pronotal margin. Pronotal disc irregularly rugose, with only few punctures along anterior and lateral margins, otherwise practically impunctate. Whole pronotal surface with distinct, strong isodiametric microsculpture. Lateral pronotal depression wide, strongly widened towards hind angles. Median sulcus shallow but distinct, delimited by distinct antero-transverse impression and deep and very distinct basal transverse groove, which connects deep and round basal pronotal impressions. Proepisternites and mesosternum smooth, prosternum and metasternum with very fine punctures and short, sparse, erect setae. Prosternal process laterally not bordered, preapically with central unpaired pore bearing long seta.

Elytra (Fig. 1) wide, only slightly convex. Elytral striae strongly impressed, deep, impunctate; intervals distinctly convex, third interval with two discal setae, anterior seta in basal quarter of elytral length, posterior seta one fifth from elytral apex; both setigerous pores situated at inner margin of third stria. Elytral surface with isodiametric to slightly transverse, weak microreticulation, more shiny than head and pronotum. Elytral intervals with sparse and shallow punctures. Posterolateral elytral angle denticulate, sutural angle blunt, dent only very slightly and indistinctly indicated. Abdominal sternites with sparse, elongate, declined setae. Metepisternite elongate, about 1.7 times longer than wide at anterior margin. Abdominal sternites with isodiametric to slightly transverse microsculpture.

Terminal sternite of male with two pairs of submarginal setae, inner pair very long, outer pair much shorter, about half as long as inner pair.

Legs average. Fourth tarsomeres of all legs widened and very deeply (more than half of tarsomere) excised, with dense tarsal brush. First to third male protarsomeres biserially squamulose. Last meso- and metatarsomere with two sparse rows of setae. Tarsal claws pectinate, each claw with six long teeth. Mesotibiae of male with two deep preapical incisions on inner margin, so that two large triangular teeth are present.

Aedeagus (Figs. 2-3) relatively long, narrow and gracile, without any sclerotized spines or plates, inner sac simply folded, with one distinct ventro-apical microtrichial field; parameres (Figs. 4-5) strongly dissimilar in shape. Genital ring (Fig. 6) slightly sclerotized, nearly symmetrical.

Female unknown.

Differential diagnosis. *A. baehri* sp. nov. is the second species of the genus *Aristolebia* known from the Philippines. The only so far known Philippine species *A. davaonis* (Heller, 1921) differs from *A. baehri* sp. nov., according to data given in the description, by bigger size (body length 10 mm, width 4.8 mm), by acute dentiform sutural elytral angle, by presence of nine teeth on tarsal claw and by very different colour pattern – pronotum is rusty and elytral pattern consists of two black triangular spots (anterior spot around scutellum and posterior one slightly past elytral midlength), both spots connected by black strip on first elytral interval, forming together anchor-shaped pattern; lateral and posterior elytral margin is black. Heller's (1921) description of *A. davaonis* is based on single specimen of not specified sex, but judging from fact that last sternite bears three pairs of long setae, it is presumably a female. The male and/or male genitalia have never been described, the short original description and figure of habitus are so far the only published information about this species.

The *A. baehri* sp. nov. differs from all known congeners by the following combination of characters: body small (TL 7.3 mm); pronotum dark brown-black with contrastingly light lateral margins and elytra with typical vivid colour pattern; both pairs of elytral maculae placed on elytral disc and separated by black colour from the elytral suture, lateral and/or posterior margins; posterolateral elytral angle with a sharp tooth, sutural angle blunt; each tarsal claw with six teeth; median lobe of aedeagus without pilosity, inner sac without any strongly sclerotized structure (spine, plate), only with microtrichial field; genital ring nearly symmetric, slightly sclerotized. None of so far known *Aristolebia*-species seems to be nearly related to the new species described here.

Name derivation. The species is named in honour of the late Martin Baehr, excellent carabidologist who described more than half of the recently known *Aristolebia* species and contributed substantially to the knowledge of this genus.

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