

# ON THE GENUS *MICROPLOCIA* HELLER, 1924 (COLEOPTERA: CERAMBYCIDAE: LAMIINAE) OF THE PHILIPPINES

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Barševskis A. 2024. On the genus *Microplocia* Heller, 1924 (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae: Lamiinae) of the Philippines. *Acta Biol. Univ. Daugavp.*, 24(1): 129-132.

## Abstract

*Microplocia medinai* sp. nov. from Luzon Island (Philippines) is described and illustrated. This is the second species of the genus *Microplocia* Heller, 1924 from the Philippine archipelago. Both species of this genus in the Philippines are known from Luzon Island. The determination key for species of the Philippines is given. The world fauna of this genus now contains five species distributed in the Oriental Region.

Keywords: *Microplocia*, long-horned beetles, fauna, new species, taxonomy, Luzon, Philippines.

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## INTRODUCTION

The Oriental fauna of the long-horned beetles (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) is very diverse. There are still many new species undiscovered and undescribed. Many new species are discovered every year. At the same time, there is little published information about the distribution of species in this region and our knowledge about details of their natural history is highly limited. All this greatly complicates the real protection of species in a region where deforestation is so intense.

The Oriental genus *Microplocia* Heller, 1924 belongs to the subfamily Lamiinae and the tribe Apomecynini Thomson, 1860. This tribe is represented in the world's fauna by 1823 species plus 45 non-nominal

subspecies combined to 292 genera plus 32 non-nominal subgenera (Roguet 2004–2024). During the study of the material of the tribe Apomecynini from the Philippines, I found an undescribed species of *Microplocia* from Luzon Island. Thus, this new species is described and illustrated. This is the second species of the genus from the Philippine archipelago and the world fauna of it is now presented by five species.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

The studied material is deposited in the beetle's 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 AZ 100, Nikon SMZ 745T 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-E 65 mm macro lens, using Helicon Focus auto montage and subsequently was edited with Photoshop. All measurements are given in millimeters. In the present paper, I followed the taxonomic nomenclature provided by Tavakilian & Chavillotte (2024).

## RESULTS

### *Microplocia medinai* sp. nov. (Fig. 1)



**Figure 1.** Holotype of *Microplocia medinai* sp. nov. Photo: A. Anichtchenko.

**Type material. HOLOTYPE:** Male. Label data: Philippines: Luzon Isl., / Tapsoy, Nagtipunan, / Quirino, 03.2018. / local collector leg. [handwritten]; // Holotypus: / *Microplocia / medinai* sp. nov. / A.Barševskis det. 2024 [red label, handwritten]. The type specimen is damaged, its parts are glued to the paper card. The genitalia could not be dissected.

**General distribution:** Philippines: Luzon Island.

**Description.** Body dark brown, dorsal surface with spots of white dense pubescence. Length: 4.0 mm, maximal width: 1.2 mm.

Head quadrangular, flattened, transverse, with lightly convex eyes. Dorsal surface of head shiny, with coarse punctures and pubescence, middle portion between antennal bases with wide impression. Antennal bases wide, extended. Labrum pubescent, covered with numerous long setae. Clypeus dark-brown, transverse, covered with setae. Cheeks convex, with pubescence. Antennae brown, covered with sparse pubescence; basal antennomere elongate, dark, with dense pubescence; antennomere 2 relatively short, widened apically, dark; antennomere 3-6 elongate, yellow; remaining antennomeres darkened, with pubescence; inner margin of antennomeres with long, dark bristles.

Pronotum dark-brown, subcylindrical, shiny, with very coarse punctures. Basal angles of pronotum indistinct. Apical margin of pronotum widely impressed; basal margin slightly concave, with very narrow transverse impression. Dorsal disc of pronotum at basal portion in the middle with narrow elongate band of silver-grey pubescence. Pronotum of holotype in right frontal portion damaged. Scutellum small, elongate, widely rounded apically, with dense silver-grey pubescence.

Elytra parallel-sided, shiny, dark-brown. Each elytron with seven small spots of white pubescence. Two round spots obliquely

located relative to base of elytra and located behind shoulders. Each elytron with additional longitudinally striped spot near suture and with two round spots located perpendicular to elytral suture. Each apical part of elytron with two small elongate spots: one closer to the suture and other near lateral margin. Elytral apex rounded.

Ventral surface of body shiny, covered with pubescence.

Forelegs brown with paler tarsomeres. Middle and hind legs dark brown, with paler tarsomeres. Legs covered with silvery-gray pubescence. Hind femora strongly thickened.

#### Differential diagnosis.

Based on the general shape of the body, the new species is similar to *M. puncticollis* Heller, 1924, also known from Luzon. It can be distinguished from this species by the following features in the key below:

1 (2) Dorsal disc of pronotum at basal margin with elongate narrow band of white pubescence but at frontal margin laterally with two distinct white spots. First white spot of elytron located almost on shoulders  
***Microplocia puncticollis* Heller, 1924**

2 (1) Dorsal disc of pronotum at basal margin with elongated narrow band of white pubescence, without two distinct white spots at frontal margin. First white spot pair atelytralocated behind scutellum. Shoulders are spotless.  
***Microplocia medinai* sp. nov.**

**Etymology.** This species is named after my friend and colleague, Philippine entomologist Milton Norman Medina in appreciation of cooperation, and in gratitude for his great contributions to the knowledge of Coleoptera of the Philippines.

## Checklist of species of *Microplocia* of the Philippines

### 1. *Microplocia puncticollis* Heller, 1924

#### References:

- Heller, 1924: 208  
Breuning, 1960: 139  
Breuning, 1964: 80  
Vives: 2015: 51  
Barševskis et al. 2021: 235

**Distribution:** Philippines, Luzon Island.

**Type deposited:** SNSD -Senckenberg Naturhistorische Sammlungen Dresden, Germany

### 2. *Microplocia medinai* Barševskis, 2024 sp. nov.

**Distribution:** Philippines, Luzon Island.

**Type deposited:** DUBC -Daugavpils University Beetles Collection, Ilga, Latvia

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to express my gratitude to Alexey Shavrin for help during the preparation of the manuscript, and Alexander Anichtchenko (both from Daugavpils, Latvia) for help in the preparation of photographs of beetles.

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*Received: 11.07.2024.*

*Accepted: 25.07.2024.*