

TWO NEW SPECIES OF *METAPOCYRTUS* HELLER, 1912 FROM THE ISLAND OF MINDANAO, PHILIPPINES (CURCULIONIDAE, ENTIMINAE, PACHYRHYNCHINI)

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Abstract

Two new species from the genus *Metapocyrtus* Heller, 1912 (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Pachyrhynchini) from Mindanao Islands are described and illustrated: *Metapocyrtus subanen* sp. nov., and *Metapocyrtus subangan* sp. nov. These new species are closely related to *Metapocyrtus salesi* Cabras & Medina 2021, and *Metapocyrtus kitangladensis* Cabras, Medina & Zhang 2018.

Keywords: Biodiversity, taxonomy, endemic, new species.

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INTRODUCTION

The tribe Pachyrhynchini (Curculionidae: Entiminae) is one of the most well-studied beetle groups in the Philippines, primarily due to their vibrant iridescent coloration and unique elytral patterns. Weevils within this tribe have fused elytra, making them flightless, limiting their distribution (Schultze 1923, Schultze 1925). The Philippines is recognized as the tribe's center of diversity garnering 99% rate of species endemism, with Luzon Island being the hotspot, accounting for

over 260 species out of more than 600 known species (Schultze 1925, Cabras et al. 2022, 2024). One of the genera under this tribe is *Metapocyrtus* Heller, 1912, an extraordinarily diverse genus characterized by Schultze (1925) as having: “Rostrum apically not swollen, basally with a more or less strongly pronounced transverse groove. Eyes moderately convex, not bulging. Scape of antenna reaching at least to or beyond the hind margin of the eye.” The genus consists of seven subgenera all of which are distributed across the Philippine archipelago. However,

despite its specious status, the genus needs a thorough taxonomic revision, with many ill-defined subgenera and species having erroneous generic and subgeneric placement. Currently, the genus taxonomy is being revised, spearheaded by Filipino researchers, in the attempt to address its chaotically organized status.

Mindanao, the second-largest island in the country, spans an area of 97,530 km² and is regarded as one of the last ecological frontiers of the Philippines. The island hosts a diverse array of mountain ecosystems and is home to many of the nation's unique and endemic flora and fauna (Diesmos & Brown 2009). The island currently houses four genera: *Metapocyrtus*, *Pachyrhynchus* Germar, 1824, and *Homalocyrtus* Heller, 1912, with *Filipinorhynchus* Cabras, 2025 as the recent addition (Cabras et al. 2025). In the last decade, Mindanao has gained momentum in the discovery of new species and its faunistic diversity within the Pachyrhynchini tribe, with most description papers from the genera *Metapocyrtus* and *Pachyrhynchus*, and as mentioned earlier a new genus *Filipinorhynchus* (Bollino et al. 2020, Bollino 2022, Bollino & Bordoni 2021, Cabras et al. 2022, Cabras et al. 2023, Cabras et al. 2025, Obrial et al. 2024, Agbas et al. 2024). However, despite these significant milestones in beetle research and conservation, many of the pristine forests in Mindanao continue to disappear, along with countless wildlife species that rely on these forested ecosystems (Agduma et al. 2023). In this paper, two new species within the genus *Metapocyrtus* are described from the island of Mindanao. High-definition images of the habitus and genitalia are also presented.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Morphological characters were observed under Leica, Luxeo 4D and Nikon SMZ745T stereomicroscopes. The treatment of the genitals follows Yoshitake (2011). Images of the habitus were taken using Canon EOS 6D digital camera equipped with an MP-E 65-mm

macro lens. Images were stacked and processed using a licensed version of Helicon Focus 6.7.0, then contrast adjusted in Photoshop CS6 Portable software.

Abbreviations and symbols mentioned are abbreviated as follows:

/ different lines;

// different labels;

LB body length, from the apical margin of pronotum to the apex of elytra;

LR length of rostrum;

LP pronotal length, from the base to apex along the midline;

LE elytral length, from the level of the basal margins to the apex of elytra;

WR maximum width across the rostrum;

WP maximum width across the pronotum;

WE maximum width across the elytra.

Comparative materials and specimens used in the study are deposited in the following institutional collections:

ACPC Analyn Cabras Personal Collection, Philippines;

CASENT California Academy of Science, Entomological Collection;

CMN Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa, Canada;

DGC Private Collections of Daven Agbas and Graden Obrial, City of Mati, Philippines;

DUBC Daugavpils University Beetle Collection, Daugavpils, Latvia;

PNM Philippine National Museum (currently known as National Museum of Natural History, Philippines), Kalaw St. Ermita, Manila, Philippines;

SMTD Senckenberg Natural History Collections, Dresden, Germany.

RESULTS

Metapocyrtus subanen sp. nov.

(Figure 1 A, B)

Holotype female (Fig. 1A, B): Philippines-Mindanao Island / Misamis Occidental / iii.2022 / leg. LC. / ACPC coll. (typed on white card) // **HOLOTYPE** female / *Metapocyrtus subanen* / OBRIAL, AGBAS &

CABRAS (typed on red card)” (to be deposited at PNM).

Diagnosis. *Metapocyrtus subanen* sp. nov. is closely related to *M. kitangladensis* Cabras, Medina & Zhang 2018, described from Bukidnon, Marilog, and Kidapawan based on their overall morphology and sharing similarities in their elytral scaly markings consisting of sub-circular, longitudinal, and transverse bands. However, *M. subanen* sp. nov. differs from *M. kitangladensis* based on the following characteristics: a) Prothorax; shorter and less globular, bearing two sub-circular scaly spots on each side of disc, as compared to *M. kitangladensis* with slightly

longer and wider prothorax bearing much elaborated pronotal scaly markings of longitudinal and transverse stripes, b) narrowly-wide profile of elytra, as opposed to stouter and broader profile in *M. kitangladensis*, c) differently shaped rostrum, with basal half having a shallow, wide, lacrimiform depression, surrounding a deep cordiform concavity, compared with rostrum of *M. kitangladensis* with only a narrow concavity depression. Despite being represented by a single specimen (holotype), *M. subanen* sp. nov. exhibits consistent morphological characters not observed among other individuals of *M. kitangladensis*.

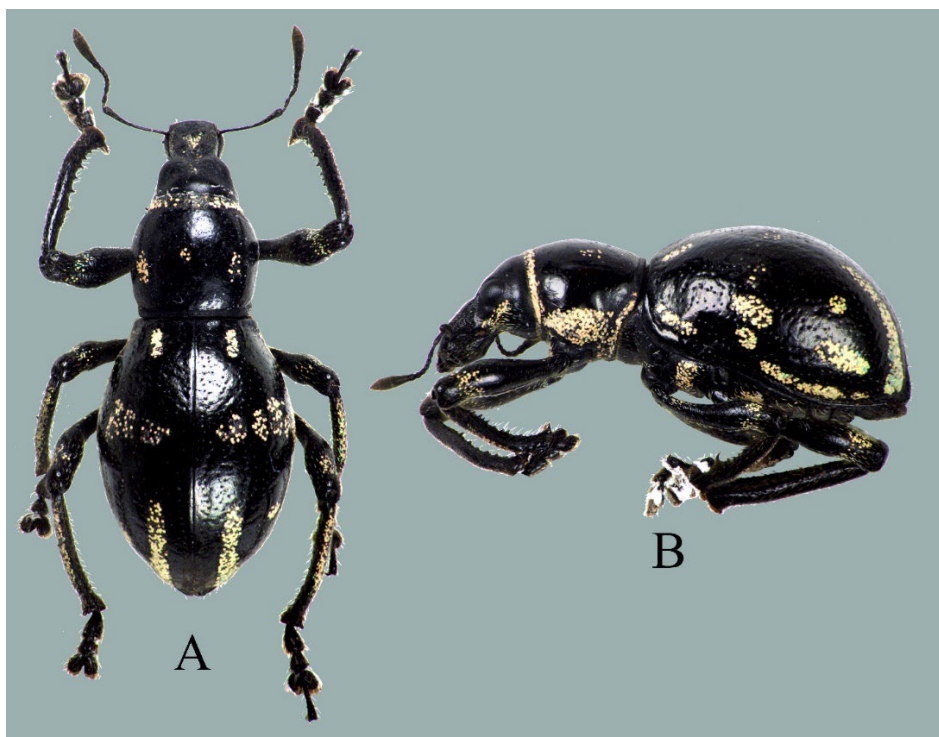


Figure 1. *Metapocyrtus subanen* sp. nov. A: female holotype, dorsal view, B: idem, lateral view. Image courtesy: Obrial G.G.

Description. Female. Dimensions: LB: 9.8mm. LR: 1.6mm. WR: 1.4mm. LP: 3.5mm. WP: 3.6mm. LE: 6.8mm. WE: 4.8mm. N = 1 for all measurements.

Integument black. Head, prothorax, elytra, rostrum, scape, funicle and legs sub-glabrous; underside and tarsi with weak luster.

Head, rugo-punctate, with few adpressed ochre round scales, lateral surface below eyes, with sparse, round, elliptical and lacrimiform scales of same color interspersed with minute, piliform scales, ventrally with sparse bluish and pale-yellow piliform scales. Forehead between the eyes slightly depressed at middle;

eyes medium-sized and feebly convex, not protruding on the outline of head.

Rostrum longer than wide, separated from head by a deep and irregularly shaped transverse groove almost reaching lateral margin of eyes, (LR 1.6mm/WR 1.4mm); dorsal surface flattish, weakly, coarsely rugopunctate from base to apical 2/3rd, and gradually declining towards apex; basal half with distinct midline furrow directed towards apex, forming a deep, cordiform concavity surrounded by a shallow, wide, lacrimiform depression reaching apical 2/3rd, beset with ochre round and elliptical scales with pale-yellow sheen, interspersed with minute, suberect piliform scales of same color slantedly directed towards middle, lateral sides before antennal scrobe with sparse, minute piliform scales, after antennal scrobe with sparse sub-appressed long brown setae, interspersed with appressed iridescent, turquoise piliform scales apically; dorsal contour in lateral view, flattish, weakly constricted at base and gradually declining at apex, lateral contour in dorsal view subparallel, slightly narrowed basally and almost uniformly wide apically. Antennal scape moderately clavate, slightly shorter than funicle, covered with sparse, sub-appressed white and brown setae; antennal scape, reaching beyond the hind margin of eyes. Funicular segments I and II subequal in length, nearly three times longer than wide; segments III–VI nearly as long as wide; segment VII slightly longer and wider than III–VI, club sub-elliptical, nearly 3X longer than wide.

Prothorax sub-globular, broadly truncated at base, as long as wide (LP 3.5mm/WP 3.6mm); with sparse, minute punctures and sparse, thin, minute sub-appressed setae; lateral contour in dorsal view, weakly arcuate, widest at apical 1/3rd; dorsal contour in lateral view weakly arcuate, widest before apex. Prothorax with the following scaly markings of round, tessellated, ochre scales: a) three sub-circular scaly marking, one on each side of disc, and one small at middle, b) one thin stripe along anterior margin, and c) a wide scaly patch along lateral sides near coxae.

Elytra ovate, longer than wide, moderately longer and wider than prothorax (WE 4.8mm /WP 3.6mm, LE 6.8mm/LP 3.5mm), sub-glabrous with minute, irregular punctures; dorsal contour in lateral view moderately and uniformly convex, highest point at middle, lateral contour in dorsal view, uniformly arcuate. Each elytron with the following scaly markings composed of iridescent ochre with pale-yellow sheen round scales: a) one, short, narrow oblongate scaly marking before base near suture, lateral side with a short stripe just above lateral margin extended up to basal 1/3rd, b) before middle, with one short scaly band narrowed near suture and widened dorso-laterally, discontinuous with a wide, subovate scaly patch above a small subcircular scaly patch, d) at apicad, one small, circular scaly patch near dorsolateral surface, one sub-oblongate on lateral side, and one long scaly stripe just above lateral margin from middle, gradually narrowed subapically, and e) one scaly longitudinal stripe near suture starting at apical declivity, extended subapically.

Legs with moderately clavate femorae. Femorae covered with appressed pale yellow elliptical round scales near the apex forming an irregular scaly band intersperse with metallic pale yellow and turquoise piliform scales. Tibiae densely covered with the same appressed colored piliform and round and elliptical scales on the outer margin, with suberect brown setae; protibia and mesotibia strongly serrated with semi-erect denticles along inner edge, mucronate at apex; metatibia less pronounce denticles. Tarsomeres moderately long and pubescent. Tarsomere I subtriangular, longer than tarsomere II; tarsomere II short, subtriangular, and simple without sharp projections at apical corners; tarsomere III bilobed, subequal in length with tarsomere II; tarsomere V slightly longer than tarsomere II; tarsal claws free.

Coxae covered with metallic pale yellow piliform scales intersperse with appressed elliptical, round scales. Mesoventrite and metaventrite bearing suberect metallic turquoise and bluish metallic setae on middle and tessellated iridescent pale yellow and

turquoise round to elliptical scales on sides in metathorax. Ventrite I nearly flat, covered with similar long metallic setae at middle with appressed sub-elliptical and round iridescent pale yellow and turquoise scales on each side. Ventrite II similar with ventrite I but with less piliform-like setae in the middle with minute round scales on sides. Ventrites III–V bearing minute metallic setae. Ventrite V slightly convex, and weakly punctate with sparse metallic setae in the apex. Male unknown.

Etymology. The species epithet “*subanen*” is derived from the Subanen tribe, an Indigenous group from the mountainous areas of Misamis Occidental.

Distribution. Philippines- Mindanao Island, Misamis Occidental.

***Metapocyrtus subangan* sp. nov.**

(Figure 2 A–D, Figure 3 A–C)

Holotype male (Fig. 2A, C): Philippines-Mindanao Island / Davao Oriental / vi.2024 / leg. LC. (typed on white card) / HOLOTYPE male / *Metapocyrtus subangan* / OBRIAL, AGBAS & CABRAS (typed on red card)” (to be deposited at PNM). **Paratypes** (3 ♂♂, 6 ♀♀) same data as holotype. (All Paratypes with additional yellow labels) *Metapocyrtus subangan* / OBRIAL, AGBAS & CABRAS. **Deposition** (1♂, 1♀ -DGC; 1♂, 1♀ -DUBC; 1♂, 1♀ -SMTD; 1♀ -CMN; 1♀ -CASENT; 1♀ -PNM)

Diagnosis. *Metapocyrtus subangan* sp. nov. shares morphological similarities with *M. salesi* Cabras, Villanueva & Medina, 2021 described from Maragusan, Davao de Oro. At first glance, *M. subangan* can be mistaken for an older specimen of *M. salesi*, as it closely resembles the latter’s appearance worn out scaly markings. However, *M. subangan* sp. nov. is distinguished from *M. salesi* based on the following morphological characteristics: a) Prothorax, strongly convex, bearing two median sub-circular scaly patches, whereas *M. salesi* has a less convex prothorax with two

thick longitudinal stripes on each side of the disc and one thin stripe at the middle, confluent anteriorly and posteriorly, b) profile of elytra; stouter, with scaly markings consisting of sub-circular and sub-elliptical patches and stripes; in contrast, *M. salesi* which exhibits three thick transverse scaly bands of three intervals, c) differently shaped aedeagus (Fig. 3), and d) with notable proportionally larger size, whereas *M. salesi* are relatively smaller in size.

Description. Male. Dimensions: LB: 9.0 mm - 9.2 mm (Holotype 9.2 mm). LR: 1.8 mm - 1.9 mm (Holotype 1.9 mm). WR: 1.5 mm - 1.6 mm (Holotype 1.6 mm). LP: 3.1 mm - 3.2 mm (Holotype 3.2 mm). WP: 2.9 mm - 3.0 mm (Holotype 3.0 mm). LE: 5.9 mm - 6.0 mm (Holotype 6.0 mm). WE: 3.9 mm - 4.0mm (Holotype 4.0 mm). N= 4 for all measurements.

Integument black. Body, head, rostrum, scape, funicles, legs and underside subglabrous. Body and legs densely covered with sparse metallic reddish, minute scales with tinge of greenish, red and purple.

Head dorsal surface between eyes punctate, covered with adpressed iridescent pale-yellow, orange and red round scales; lateral sides below the eyes densely covered with tessellated, contiguous round, elliptical, and piliform scales of similar color facing anteriorly and towards ventral surface; forehead weakly convex; eyes medium size and moderately convex, not protruding on the outline of the head.

Rostrum longer than wide (LR 1.9mm/WR 1.6mm); separated from head by distinct transverse groove almost reaching lateral margin, beset with iridescent pale-yellow and turquoise recumbent round and elliptic scales; dorsal surface coarsely rugo-punctate on basal half, almost glabrous with minute punctures on apical half; basal half of rostrum with short midline furrow connecting with distinct pyriform-shaped concavity reaching until apical third or rostrum, beset with the same set of scales in head; dorsal contour in lateral view

flattish until apical third that gradually declined towards apex; lateral contour in dorsal view subparallel moderately widened apically; lateral sides before antennal scrobe with few metallic red round scales and sparse minute appressed piliform scales of the same color, after antennal scrobe with similar set of scales but sub-appressed, anterior surface with iridescent light-yellow and orange long setae. Antennal scape moderately clavate, slightly shorter than funicle, reaching beyond the hind margin of eyes, with sparse appressed metallic setae, while funicle covered with suberect white and brown setae. Funicular segments I and II subequal in length, nearly three times longer than wide; segments III–VI nearly as long as wide; segment VII slightly longer and wider than III–VI, club sub-elliptical, nearly 3 times longer than wide.

Prothorax globular, truncated at base, as long as wide (LP 3.0mm/WP 3.0mm); lateral contour in dorsal view uniformly arcuate, widest at middle; dorsal contour in lateral view uniformly convex. Prothorax minutely and irregularly punctured, bearing scaly markings of round pale-yellow and turquoise recumbent scales: a) thin transverse stripe at anterior margin, b) two sub-circular scaly markings on each side of disc, and c) a scaly patch on lateral side before coxae.

Elytra strongly ovate, longer than wide and nearly twice longer and slightly wider than prothorax (WE 4.0mm/WP 3.0mm, LE 6.0mm/LP 3.0mm) dorsal contour in lateral view, moderately and uniformly convex; lateral contour in dorsal view, moderately arcuate, widest before middle, with some fine and irregular punctures, sparsely covered with

tiny round metallic reddish-orange scales, that gets denser towards lateral margin. Each elytron with the following scaly markings composed of metallic pale-yellow and turquoise round scales: a) two sub-basal spots near suture, one small subcircular confluent with bigger, narrowed elliptical spot. Laterally, with one, thick, large scaly patch before margin, not reaching middle, b) three median subcircular and sub-elliptical spots, one dorsally near suture, and another two at dorsolateral side not reaching lateral margin, c) three small subcircular spots at pre-apical declivity, one dorsally near suture, one at dorsolateral surface and one at lateral surface, d) one subapical spot, and e) one median stripe along lateral margin extended up to apical 2/3rd.

Legs with moderately clavate femorae, densely covered with sparse minute scales, intersperse with pale-yellow suberect piliform scales; femora before apex with thick scaly band of same set of scales. Tibiae densely covered with the same set of scales on outer margin, and with long brown setae on inner margin; protibia and mesotibia irregular denticles along inner edge, mucronated at apex; metatibiae with relatively shorter denticles. Tarsi moderately long covered with sparse metallic piliform scales and suberect long brown setae on sides. Tarsomere I subtriangular, longer than tarsomere II; tarsomere II short, subtriangular and simple without sharp projections at apical corners; tarsomere III bilobed, subequal in length with tarsomere II; tarsomere V slightly longer than tarsomere I; tarsal claws free.

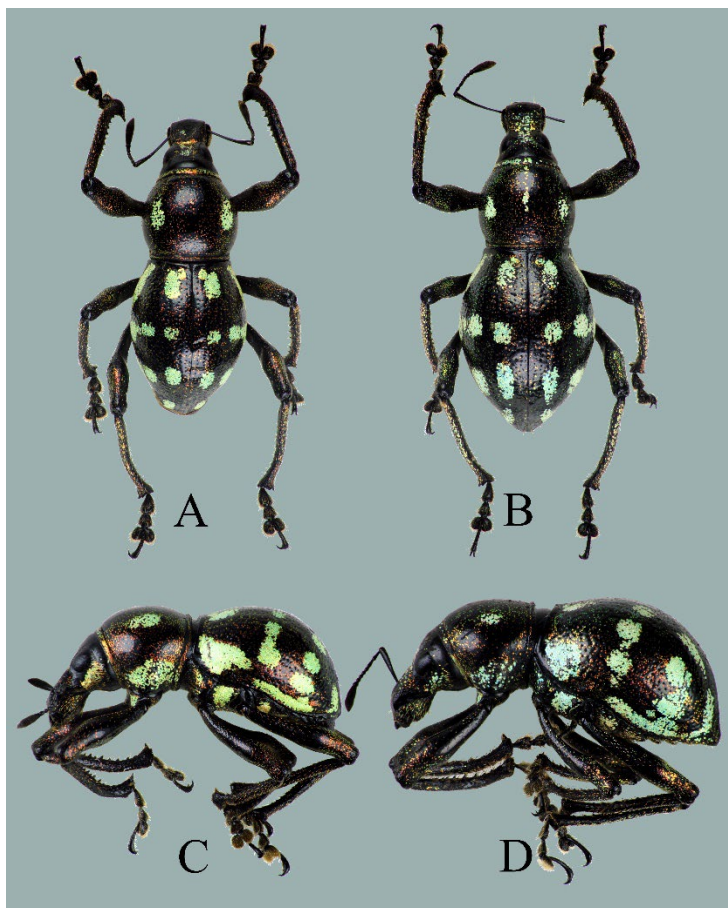


Figure 2. *Metapocyrtus subangan* sp. nov. A, C: male holotype, A: dorsal view. C: idem, lateral view. B, D: female paratype, B: dorsal view. C: idem, lateral view. Image courtesy: Obrial G.G.

Coxae covered with metallic pale yellow piliform scales and appressed subelliptical and round scales. Mesoventrite and metaventrite, densely covered with suberect metallic turquoise with a tinge of orange with long suberect setae at middle and with tessellated iridescent pale yellow and turquoise round to elliptical scales on sides in metaventrite. Ventrite I with wide shallow depression on the middle densely covered with the same metallic long iridescent setae at middle and appressed contiguous round iridescent pale yellow and turquoise scales on sides. Ventrite II similar with ventrite I but with less setae in the middle. Ventrite III–V sparsely covered with the same metallic setae. Ventrite V flattened, and weakly rugose with sparse metallic setae.

Aedeagus of moderate length (2.0mm) stouter a bit constricted forming a blunt pointy apex; apodeme slightly longer than aedeagus (3.0mm:2.0mm).

Male genitalia and sternite IX as shown in figure 3 A–C.

Female. LB: 9.8mm - 10.5mm. LR: 1.8mm - 1.9mm. WR: 1.6mm. LP: 3.0mm - 3.2mm. WP: 2.9mm - 3.0mm. LE: 7.0 mm - 7.2mm. WE: 4.8mm - 5.0mm. N= 6 for all measurements.

Habitus as shown in Figure 2 B, D.

Female (Fig. 2B, D) is very similar to the male but differs in the following characters; a) rostrum with less pronounced pyriform

concavity, b) pronotum less globular than the male, with vestigial longitudinal thin stripe at middle, confluent to anterior margin, c) elytra significantly longer and wider than male, and d) ventrite I without concavity at the middle.

Etymology. The species epithet “*subangan*” translates to “The East” in Bisayan language, in relation to the type locality of the species (Davao Oriental).

Distribution. Philippines- Mindanao Island, Davao Oriental.



Figure 3. Male genitalia and Sternite IX of *Metapocyrtus subangan* sp. nov. A: aedagus, dorsal view, B: idem, lateral view, C: sternite IX, dorsal view. Image courtesy: Obrial G.G.

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DEDICATION

The first and third authors wish to express their gratitude to their mentor, Dr. Analyn A. Cabras. Her passing is a profound loss, but her legacy in Philippine Coleopterology remains unparalleled. Her dedication, passion, and mentorship extended far beyond academia, instilling in both authors a deep commitment to the study and preservation of our rich biodiversity, particularly beetles. Though she is no longer with the authors, the knowledge

she imparted will continue to inspire and guide them in the days to come. Her name, her contributions, and the wisdom she so generously shared will forever live on, in the discoveries yet to come, and in the hearts of those she has mentored. This work is dedicated to her memory.

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