

THE GENUS *SIMAETHEA* BALY FROM BORNEO (COLEOPTERA: CHRYSOMELIDAE: ALTICINAE)

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ABSTRACT

Presently, the genus *Simaethea* Baly is represented by one species from Borneo: *S. sabahensis* Mohamedsaid. In this paper, another two species were described and illustrated from Borneo: *S. furthi* and *S. sarawakensis*. A key to all the species from Borneo was provided.

ABSTRAK

Genus *Simaethea* Baly diwakili oleh satu spesies dari Borneo, *S. sabahensis* Mohamedsaid. Di dalam kajian ini, sejumlah dua lagi spesies dari Borneo diperihai dan dilustrasikan: *S. furthi* dan *S. sarawakensis*. Kekunci untuk kesemua spesies dari Borneo disediakan.

INTRODUCTION

The flea beetles of the genus *Simaethea* Baly (1865) was erected with *S. laportei* Baly, described from Terengganu, Peninsular Malaysia, as the type species. The genus, which is restricted in Southeast Asia, is represented by six species (Kimoto 2001;

Mohamedsaid 1998, 2004), including on recently described from Borneo: *S. sabahensis* Mohamedsaid. In this paper, another two species from the genus were described and illustrated from Borneo. Type specimens of the new species were deposited in the collection of the Centre for Insect Systematics, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Bangi (UKM).

TAXONOMY

Key to *Simaethea* species from Borneo

1. Elytra bluish-green, head, pronotum, abdomen and legs black. Pronotum, elytra impressed with moderately large punctures arranged in nine rows, the interstices smooth, impunctate. In male, front leg with protibia (Fig. 3) strongly curved inward and strongly dilated at apex. Aedeagus (Fig. 4) less thickened, moderately curved. Body length 7.5 mm*sarawakensis* Mohamedsaid, new species
Elytra not bluish-green, pronotum brownish. Aedeagus (Fig. 2) thickened, strongly curved.....2
2. Abdomen and legs black; antennae entirely brownish. Elytra impressed with moderately large punctures, distinctly arranged in nine rows. In male, front leg with protibia (Fig. 5) strongly curved and strongly dilated at apex. Body length 7.8-8.3 mm*sabahensis* Mohamedsaid
Abdomen and legs brownish; antennae brownish, except for the four terminal segments black. Elytra impressed with moderately large punctures not distinctly arranged in nine rows. In male, front leg with protibia (Fig. 1) rather straight, not dilated at apex. Body length 8 mm*furthi* Mohamedsaid, new species

Simaethea furthi Mohamedsaid, new species
(Figs. 1- 2)

Dorsal and ventral surfaces brownish. Antennae 11-segmented, brownish, except for the four terminal segments black. Head with vertex smooth, impunctate, shiny; frontal tubercles elongate-triangular, strongly raised; clypeus broadly depressed; labrum transverse, truncate at apex, covered with few long hairs; mandibles strongly curved; maxillary palpi with apical segment swollen. Eyes small, the interocular space twice as broad as transverse diameter of each eye. Antennae robust, extended to middle of elytra; segment 1 longest, club-shaped; segment 2 shortest, as long as broad; segments 3-10 gradually shortened; segment 11 longer than 9, pointed. Pronotum subquadrate, 1.3 times as broad as long, broadest at apical third; antero-lateral areas deflexed; anterior, lateral and posterior borders margined; anterior margin concave, posterior margin slightly sinuate in middle; antebasal area shallowly depressed; surface shiny, sparsely impressed with small punctures; angles with seta-bearing pores. Procoxal cavities open posteriorly. Scutellum triangular, as long as broad, smooth, impunctate. Elytra subparallel-sided, truncate at apex; surface shiny, impressed with moderately large punctures, not distinctly arranged in nine rows, and confused small punctures; epipleuron broad, concave, gradually narrowed to apex. Leg robust, with metafemur strongly incrassate; protibia thickened at apex, not strongly curved inward; protarsus with first segment nearly as broad as long, twice as broad as second segment; metatarsus with first segment twice as long as broad, as long as the following two segments combined; tarsal claws appendiculate. Abdomen with apical sternite triobed; median lobe transverse, short. Pygidium rounded at apex. Aedeagus strongly curved, pointed at apex. Body length 8 mm.

Female. As male, but apical sternite truncate, leg with protibia not thickened at apex, protarsus with first segment narrower, twice as long as broad. Body length 8 mm.

HOLOTYPE. MALE. MALAYSIA, Sarawak, Bario, Kg. Paukat (Hutan Kerangas), 11.iv.1995, Ismail & Ruslan (UKM).

PARATYPE. Sarawak, Bario, Kg. Padang Pasir (Hutan Kerangas), 15.iv.1995, Ismail & Ruslan, female (UKM).

Etymology. The new species, *furthi*, is named after Dr. David G. Furth, our colleague from the Smithsonian Institution, USA.

Remarks. *Simaethea laportei* Baly differs from the new species in having frontal tubercles subquadrate, pronotum black, impressed with large punctures and elytra reddish brown with fourth apical black.

***Simaethea sarawakensis* Mohamedsaid, new species
(Figs. 3- 4)**

Elytra bluish-green. Head, pronotum, scutellum, ventral surface and legs black. Antennae 11-segmented yellowish. Head smooth, impunctate, shiny; frontal tubercles elongated-triangular, strongly raised; clypeus broadly depressed; labrum with vertex transverse, truncate at apex, sparsely covered with long hairs; mandibles strongly curved; maxillary palpi with apical segment swollen. Eyes small, the interocular space twice as broad as transverse diameter of each eye; sides behind eyes straight, parallel. Antennae moderately robust, extended to middle of elytra; segment 1 longest, club-shaped; segment 2 shortest, one and one-half as long as broad; segments 3-4 thickened, twice as long as 2, dilated at apex; segments 5-6 subequal in length, narrower than 4; segments 7-10 subequal in length, shorter than 6; segments 11 longer than 10, pointed. Pronotum subquadrate, 1.3 times as broad as long, broadest at apical third, subparallel-sided; anterior-lateral areas deflexed; anterior, lateral and posterior borders margined; anterior margin concave, posterior margin straight; antebasal area transversely, shallowly depressed; surface shiny, sparsely impressed with small punctures, shiny; angles with seta-bearing pores. Procoxal cavities open posteriorly. Scutellum triangular, as long as broad, smooth, shiny. Elytra subparallel-sided, truncate at

apex; surface shiny, distinctly impressed with nine rows of small punctures; interstices smooth, impunctate; epipleuron broad, concave, gradually narrowed to apex. Leg robust, with metafemur strongly incrassate; protibia strongly curved inward, strongly dilated at apex, densely covered with pubescence; protarsus with the first segment twice as long as broad, slightly broader than second segment; metatibia strongly channeled subapically; metatarsus with first segment twice as long as broad, as long as the following two segments combined; tarsal claws appendiculate. Abdomen with apical sternite trilobed; median lobe transverse, short. Aedeagus moderately curved, pointed at apex. Body length 7.5 mm.

Female. Unknown.

HOLOTYPE. Male. MALAYSIA, Sarawak, Bario, Kg. Paukat (Hutan Primer), 14.iv.1995, Ismail & Ruslan (UKM).

Etymology. The new species, *sarawakensis*, is named after Sarawak, one of the three states in the Malaysian territory in Borneo.

Remarks. The new species differs from other known species of *Simaethea* in having the elytra bluish-green.

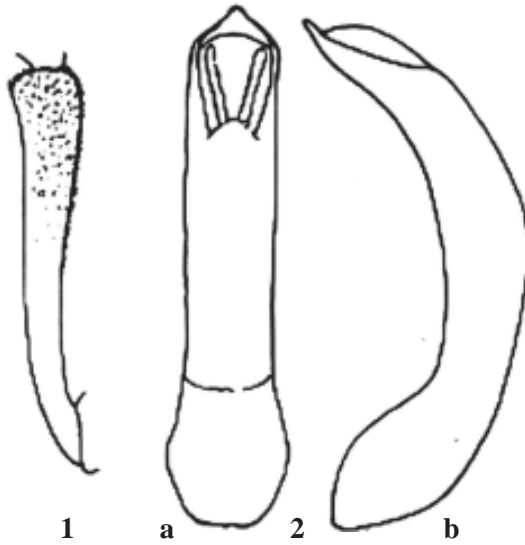
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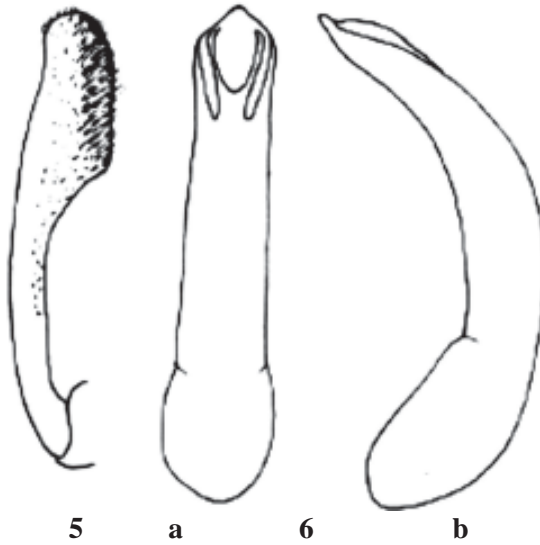
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Figs. 1-2 *Simaethea furthi* Mohamedsaid, new species (male). 1, protibia, 2, aedeagus: a) ventral view, b) lateral view.



Figs. 3-4 *Simaethea sarawakensis* Mohamedsaid, new species (male). 3, protibia, 4, aedeagus: a) ventral view, b) lateral view.



Figs. 5-6 *Simaethea sabahensis* Mohamedsaid (male). 5, protibia, 6, aedeagus: a) ventral view, b) lateral view.