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**A SECOND RECORD FOR *Aplosonyx wallacei*  
(JACOBY)(COLEOPTERA: CHRYSOMELIDAE:  
GALERUCINAE)**

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**ABSTRACT**

*Aplosonyx wallacei* (Jacoby), which was discovered from Prapat, Sumatra Utara is the second record since it was described in 1894. *Calocasia esculenta* (L.) Schott is reported for the first time as host plant for the beetle.

**ABSTRAK**

*Aplosonyx wallacei* (Jacoby), yang telah dijumpai di Prapat, Sumatra Utara merupakan rekod kedua sejak ianya diperihalkan pada tahun 1894. *Calocasia esculenta* (L.) Schott dilaporkan untuk pertama kali sebagai tumbuhan hos bagi kumbang tersebut.

During a holiday trip in August 2005 to Lake Toba, Sumatra Utara, Indonesia, while having an evening stroll along the beach of Prapat town, I encountered eight specimens of bright reddish brown galerucine beetle of the genus *Aplosonyx* feeding on an herbaceous monocot plant of the family Araceae. There were several leaves from the plant marked with oval or rounded-shaped holes. However, there were no larvae found on the leaves because

they are subterranean, living in the soil and fed on roots of the host plants. All the beetles were captured by hand and kept in an envelope and two blades of the aroid leaves were taken to be photographed later.

The beetle was identified as *A. wallacei* (Jacoby) and the host plant as *Colocasia esculenta* (L.) Schott. The species is distinguished from other *Aplosonyx* with coloration of the dorsal surface entirely reddish brown and the ventral generally black. The occurrence of *A. wallacei* from Prapat is the second record for the species, since it was described by Jacoby (1894) more than a century ago from Deli, also in the province of Sumatra Utara. At present this beautiful *Aplosonyx* species is endemic to Sumatra. Specimens examined in this study are deposited in the Centre for Insect Systematics, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Bangi (UKM), with duplicates in the Museum Zoologicum Bogoriense, Cibinong, Indonesia (MZB).

Previous reports on *Aplosonyx* from Indonesia feeding on Araceae was reported by Reid (1998), where *A. semiflavus* (Wiedemann) and *A. albicornis* (Wiedemann) recorded feeding on *C. esculenta* and *Schizmatoglottis*, respectively. In other region, the genus is also reported feeding on the Araceae. Darling (*in press*) in his study in Vietnam on feeding behaviour of *A. ancora* Laboissiere discovered that the beetle feed on two species of aroids, *Colocasia gigantea* (Blume) and *Alocasia navicularis* (Koch and Bouche). In Malaysia, I have collected specimens of *A. albicornis* and *A. quadripustulatus* (Baly) on *Colocasia*.

**Specimens examined.** INDONESIA, Sumatra Utara, Lake Toba, Prapat, 14 August 2005, feeding on *Colocasia esculenta*, M. S. Mohamedsaid, 4 (UKM), 4 (MZB).

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**Fig. 1** *Aplosonyx wallacei*.



**Fig. 2** A leaf of *Colocasia esculenta* marked with holes caused by *Aplosonyx wallacei*.