

A new species of *Prionocyphon* from Taiwan (Coleoptera: Scirtidae: Scirtinae)

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Abstract. A new species of *Prionocyphon* Redtenbacher, 1858, *P. babai* sp. nov., is described from Taiwan.

Key words. Coleoptera, Scirtidae, *Prionocyphon*, new species, Taiwan

Introduction

The genus *Prionocyphon* Redtenbacher, 1858 is a small genus and represented by about 30 described species from Eurasia, America and Australia (NYHOLM 1971, YOUNG 2002, YOSHITOMI 2005, KLAUSNITZER 2009, WATTS 2010). Recently two species of the genus were discovered in Taiwan (RUTA 2010) and here I describe a remarkable new species from north Taiwan.

Material and methods

The specimen used in this study is housed in the Ehime University Museum, Matsuyama, Japan (EUM).

For methodology and technical terms see YOSHITOMI (2005).

The abbreviations for measurements used in the present paper are as follows: PL – length of pronotum along the suture; PW – maximum width of pronotum; EL – maximum length of elytra; EW – maximum width of elytra; TL – total length (PL plus EL).

Taxonomy

Prionocyphon babai sp. nov.

(Figs. 1–9)

Type material. HOLOTYPE: ♂ (EUM), 'Pa Lon, Tao Yuen Hsien, N-Taiwan 28. V. 1989 Col. K. Baba'.

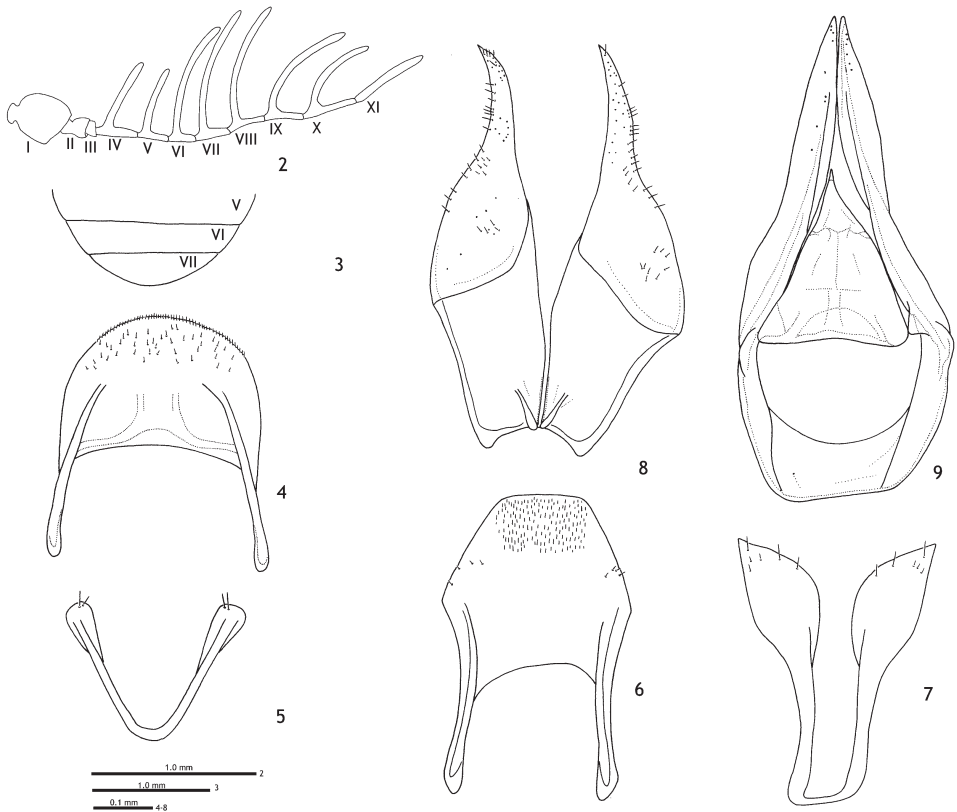
Description. Male. Body (Fig. 1) oval, strongly convex dorsally, strongly shiny, closely covered with easily removable setae. Coloration of head, pronotum, scutellum, and ventral surface of thorax blackish-brown; antennae, abdomen and legs pale brown; elytra pale



Fig. 1. Habitus of *Prionocyphon babai* sp. nov., holotype, male.

brown, with five black maculations; humeral ones oval and small; median one large and oval, situated around the scutellum; posterior ones large, protruding from basal 2/5 to near apex.

Head large, slightly convex dorsally, finely punctate; eyes large, strongly prominent; distance between eyes about 2.8 times as long as the maximum diameter of an eye. Clypeus relatively long, subparallel-sided, with front margin straight. Labrum transverse, gently arcuate in front margin. Antennae (Fig. 2) long and slender, reaching about proximal 2/5 of elytra, antennomeres IV–X pectinate; scape large, strongly arcuate in anterior margins; pedicel ovate, smaller than scape; antennomeres III smallest, with diagonal distal margins; antennomeres IV–X shorter than those of respective rami which are arising from base; antennomeres XI longest; approximate ratio of each segment ($n = 1$, each ramus in parentheses) as 5.1 : 2.1 : 1.0 : 3.6 (6.1) : 2.9 (5.7) : 2.4 (9.7) : 3.0 (10.4) : 3.3 (10.0) : 3.6 (10.0) : 4.9 (7.1) : 7.1. Pronotum strongly convex dorsally in mesal portion, finely punctate; anterior margin bisinuate; lateral and posterior margins gently arcuate; antero-lateral corners rectangular, slightly projecting anteriorly; postero-lateral corners about 120° ; PW/PL 2.26. Scutellum subtriangular, about 1.2 times as long as wide, punctuation as on pronotum. Elytra oval, strongly convex dorsally, closely and strongly punctate, widest at the middle; humeri distinctly elevated; EL/EW 1.20; EL/PL 3.79; EW/PW 1.39; TL/EW 1.52.



Figs. 2–9. *Prionocyphon babai* sp. nov. 2 – antennomeres I–XI; 3 – sternites V–VII; 4 – tergite VIII; 5 – sternite VIII; 6 – tergite IX; 7 – sternite IX; 8 – tegmen in ventral view; 9 – penis in ventral view.

Caudal margin of sternite VIII (Fig. 3) gently arcuate. Tergite VIII (Fig. 4) moderately sclerotized, trapezoidal, bearing short spines along caudal margin, sparsely covered with short setae in caudal portion, with a pair of long apodemes. Tergite IX (Fig. 6) slightly sclerotized, trapezoidal, bearing short spines in caudal portion, bearing short setae in lateral portions, with a pair of long apodemes. Sternite VIII (Fig. 5) moderately sclerotized, V-shaped, bearing short setae in apical portions. Sternite IX (Fig. 7) slightly sclerotized, U-shaped, expanded apically, bearing short setae in apical portions. Tegmen (Fig. 8) well sclerotized; basal portion subtrapezoidal; parameres long, pointed at apices, closely covered with short setae. Penis (Fig. 9) long, 1.2 times as long as tegmen; pala wide, subtrapezoidal, straight in basal margin; parameroids long, sparsely punctate, pointed at apices; trigonium subtriangular, wide, 0.5 times as long as parameroids, pointed at apex.

Female unknown.

Measurements. Male ($n = 1$): TL 3.35 mm; PW 1.58 mm; PL 0.70 mm; EL 2.65 mm; EW 2.20 mm.

Remarks. This species is similar to the European and Near East species, *Prionocyphon ornatus* Abeille de Perrin, 1881 in having pectinate antennae and reddish yellow coloration with black spots on elytra, and distinguished from the latter by the following characteristics: 1) each antennomere having longer rami; 2) formation of elytral maculations (*P. ornatus* has four maculations); 3) penis with wide and subtrapezoidal pala (subparallel-sided in *P. ornatus*); 4) trigonium subtriangular, distinctly shorter than parameroids (elongate and slightly shorter than parameroids in *P. ornatus*). This species is also distinguished from the other Taiwanese species by the following key.

Etymology. The species is dedicated to late Dr. K. Baba, who was the collector of the holotype.

Key to Taiwanese species of the genus *Prionocyphon*

1. Body oval; antennae pectinate in male; head and pronotum black; elytra yellowish-orange, with five black markings. *P. babai* sp. nov.
- Body elongate; antennae serrate in male; head, pronotum and elytra evenly testaceous. 2
2. Body convex dorsally, large (TL 4.8 mm); elytra with indistinct longitudinal carinae; parameres pointed at apices; pala subrectangular. *P. macrodascilloides* Ruta, 2010
- Body flattened dorso-ventrally, moderate in size (TL 3.6 mm); elytra with distinct longitudinal carinae; parameres obtuse at apices; pala oval. *P. costipennis* Ruta, 2010

Discussion

Up to the present three specimens of the genus *Prionocyphon* have been collected from Taiwan, therefore, only one (= holotype) specimen was known for three respective species (RUTA (2010) and present study). Because adults of this genus are somewhat rare, it is difficult to collect them in the field. The adults are most likely rare for the following reasons: 1) the larvae inhabit the phytotelmata of the trunks of living trees (e.g. BENICK 1924, STRIGANOVA 1961, YOSHITOMI 2005), 2) the adults perhaps act in the canopy of natural forests, and 3) in general the adults are active for relatively short periods of time. If we are able to investigate the canopies of natural forests using malaise trap or flight intercept trap (FIT), additional specimens of this genus including females may be obtained.

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