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New genera of Alleculinae (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae: Alleculinae: Alleculini) from the Oriental Region XVIII - *Novistela* gen. nov.

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Taxonomy, new genus, new species, description, Coleoptera, Tenebrionidae, Alleculinae, Alleculini, *Novistela*, Oriental Region

Abstract. A new genus of Alleculini Laporte, 1840 - *Novistela* gen. nov. is described to include the following new species: *Novistela crockerica* sp. nov. from Borneo Island as a type species and *Novistela harauica* sp. nov. from Sumatra I. Species *Novistela nitidior* (Pic, 1956) comb. nov. is transferred from the genus *Stilbocistela* Borchmann, 1932. Species of the new genus *Novistela* gen. nov. have very small, glabrous and strongly convex body, very narrow space between eyes, antennomeres 4-10 serrate, antennomere 1 is distinctly longer than antennomere 3, antennomere 2 is approximately as long as very short antennomere 3 and antennomeres 4-11 are more than three times longer than antennomere 3.

INTRODUCTION

After checking new material from Borneo and Sumatra Islands (SMNS, ZSMG) some important differences between species of the genus *Stilbocistela* Borchmann, 1932 (you can see in Novák (2009 and 2013)) and species of new alleculine genus *Novistela* gen. nov. were found. Species of the newly described genus have very small, glabrous and strongly convex body, very narrow space between eyes, antennomeres 4-10 are serrate, antennomere 1 is distinctly longer than antennomere 3, antennomere 2 is approximately as long as very short antennomere 3 and antennomeres 4-11 are more than three times longer than antennomere 3. These characters allow to establish the new genus *Novistela* gen. nov. with the following new species: *Novistela crockerica* sp. nov. Borneo Island (Malaysia, Sabah) and *Novistela harauica* sp. nov. from Indonesia (Sumatra Island). A further species transferred from the genus *Stilbocistela* is *Novistela nitidior* (Pic, 1956) comb. nov. from Indonesia (West Papua) and Papua New Guinea.

The new genus is compared with the closest genus *Stilbocistela* Borchmann, 1932 and its new species are described, illustrated and compared together.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Two important morphometric characteristics used for the descriptions of species of the subfamily Alleculinae, the ‘ocular index’ dorsally (Campbell & Marshall 1964) and ‘pronotal index’ (Campbell 1965), are used in this paper as well. The ocular index equals (100 × minimum dorsal distance between eyes) / (maximum width of head across eyes). The

pronotal index is calculated as (100 × length of pronotum along midline) / (width across basal angles of pronotum).

In the list of type material, a slash (/) separates data in separate rows, a double slash (//) separates different labels.

The following collection codes are used:

HNHM collection of Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest, Hungary;
VNPC private collection of Vladimír Novák, Praha, Czech Republic;
SMNS collection of Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde, Stuttgart, Germany;
ZSMG collection of Zoologische Staatssammlung, München, Germany.

Measurements of body parts and corresponding abbreviations used in text are as follows: AL - total antennae length, BL - maximum body length, EL - maximum elytral length, EW - maximum elytral width, HL - maximum length of head (visible part), HW - maximum width of head, OI - ocular index dorsally, PI - pronotal index dorsally, PL - maximum pronotal length, PW - pronotal width at base, RLA - ratios of relative lengths of antennomeres 1-11 from base to apex (3=1.00), RL/WA - ratios of length / maximum width of antennomeres 1-11 from base to apex, RLT - ratios of relative lengths of tarsomeres 1-5 respectively 1-4 from base to apex (1=1.00).

Other abbreviations are used in the text: hb= handwritten black; ol= orange label; pb= printed black; pr= printed red; rf= red frame; wl= white label; yl= yellow label.

Measurements were made with Olympus SZ 40 stereoscopic microscope with continuous magnification and with Soft Imaging System AnalySIS. Snapshots were taken by using camera Canon EOS 550 D and Canon Macro Photo Lens MP-E and software Helicon Focus 5.2.

TAXONOMY

Novistela gen. nov.

(Figs. 1-12)

Type species. *Novistela crockerica* sp. nov.

Description (male). Habitus as in Figs. 1, 3 and 8, body small, oval, strongly convex, almost glabrous, shiny, dorsal surface with punctuation, widest near middle elytra length. Head (Figs. 4 and 9) shiny, wider than long, widest through the eyes, narrower than apical margin of pronotum. Dorsal surface with sparse and small punctures. Clypeus arcuate laterally, rounded in apex. Mandibles glabrous dorsally with pale setae in lateral margins. Eyes very large, transverse, distinctly excised, space between eyes very narrow, distinctly narrower than diameter of one eye; approximately as wide as length of antennomere 2. Antenna (as in Figs. 5 and 10), antennomeres 1-3 short, slightly shiny, antennomeres 4-11 matte, antennomeres 4-10 serrate. Dorsal surface with setation, microgranulation and punctures. Antennomeres 2 and 3 shortest, antennomere 1 distinctly longer than antennomere 3, antennomeres 4-11 more than 3 times longer than antennomere 3. Ultimate palpomere of maxillary palpus axe shaped. Pronotum (Figs. 4 and 9) very wide, transverse, slightly convex, almost glabrous, shiny, approximately as wide as elytra at humeri. Dorsal surface with very sparse and very small punctures. Posterior and anterior angles distinct, obtuse. Elytra oval, strongly convex,

glabrous, shiny, widest near middle. Elytral striae with distinct rows of relatively small punctures. Elytral epipleura well-developed, glabrous, shiny, widest near base, distinctly narrowing to ventrite 1. Legs narrow, dorsal surface with pale setation, microgranulation and punctures, outer margins of tibiae with strong, short setae. Pro- and mesotarsomeres 3, 4 and metatarsomere 3 slightly widened and distinctly lobed. Metatarsomere 1 longer than metatarsomeres 2-4 together. Anterior tarsal claws with a few visible teeth. Aedeagus as in Figs. 6, 7 and 11, 12.

Females has space between eyes slightly wider and antenna is shorter than in male, antennomere 1 is approximately as long as antennomere 3 and antennomere 2 is distinctly shorter than antennomere 3.

Differential diagnosis. The closest genus is *Stilbocistela* Borchmann, 1932. Species of the new genus *Novistela* gen. nov. clearly differs from similar species of *Stilbocistela* mainly by very narrow space between eyes, by antennomeres 4-10 serrate, by antennomere 1 distinctly longer than antennomere 3, by antennomere 2 approximately as long as very short antennomere 3 and by antennomere 4-11 more than three times longer than antennomere 3; while species of *Stilbocistela* have almost space between eyes wider, antennomeres 4-10 are almost and narrower, antennomere 3 is distinctly longer than antennomere 2 and antennomere 4 is less than three times longer than antennomere 3.

Etymology. The name *Novistela* is taken from Latin (novus - new) *Nov-* and ending *-istela* marking similarity to the genus *Stilbocistela*. Gender: feminine.

Distribution. Indonesia (Sumatra and West Papua Islands), Malaysia (Borneo Island), Papua New Guinea.

Novistela crockerica sp. nov.
(Figs. 1-7)

Type locality. Borneo Island, Sabah, Crocker Mountains National Preserve, Gunung Emas, 1500-1700 m.

Type material. Holotype (♂): yl: BORNEO: Sabah,Crocker / Range N.P.,Gunung Emas / 6.-18.VI.1996 1500-1700 m / leg. J. KODADA (SMNS). Paratypes: (1 ♂, 2 ♀♀): same data as holotype, (VNPC, SMNS); (1 ♂): yl: BORNEO:Sabah,Crocker / Range N.P., Sunsuron Wa- / terfall,8.VI.1996 1100- / leg. J. KODADA 1200 m, (SMNS); (1 ♂, 1 ♀): wl: BORNEO, Sabah / Crocker Mts. 500-1900 m / Gunung Emas / 6. - 21. V 1995 / Ivo Jeniš leg., (ZSMG); (1 ♂): wl: BORNEO - SABAH 1995 / Crocker Mt. 500 - 1900 m / *Gunung Emas* 6 21.5 / Ivo Jeniš leg., (VNPC).
The types are provided with a printed red label: 'Novistela / crockerica sp. nov. / HOLOTYPUS [or PARATYPUS] / V. Novák det. 2022'.

Description of holotype. Habitus as in Fig. 1, body small, oval, strongly convex, almost glabrous, shiny, from ochre yellow to dark brown, dorsal surface with punctuation, BL 3.95 mm. Widest near middle elytra length; BL/EW 2.18.

Head (Fig. 4) reddish brown, shiny, distinctly wider than long, widest through the eyes, distinctly narrower than pronotum in apex. Dorsal surface slightly shiny, posterior part

glabrous with sparse small punctures and a few short, pale setae between eyes. Anterior part paler, apex of anterior part and clypeus pale reddish brown with longer, pale setae. Clypeus arcuate laterally, rounded in apex. Mandibles pale reddish brown with sides darker, glabrous dorsally with pale setae in lateral margins. HW 0.72 mm; HW/PW 0.60; HL (visible part) 0.83 mm. Eyes very large, transverse, distinctly excised, space between eyes very narrow, distinctly narrower than diameter of one eye; approximately as wide as length of antennomere 2; OI equal to 9.04.

Antenna (Fig. 5). Brown, long (distinctly exceeding two thirds body length, AL 2.78 mm; AL/BL 0.70), antennomeres 1-3 short, slightly shiny, antennomeres 4-11 rather matte, antennomeres 4-10 serrate. Dorsal surface with setation, microgranulation and punctures. Antennomere 3 shortest, antennomere 1 distinctly longer than antennomere 3, antennomeres 4-11 three times longer than antennomere 3. Apex of ultimate antennomere distinctly paler.
RLA(1-11): 1.93 : 1.05 : 1.00 : 3.13 : 3.03 : 3.12 : 3.21 : 3.52 : 3.33 : 3.21 : 3.70.
RL/WA(1-11): 1.08 : 1.12 : 1.18: 3.10 : 1.85 : 1.91 : 1.86 : 2.32 : 3.33 : 3.12 : 3.30.

Maxillary palpus ochre yellow, palpomeres 2 and 3 with a few pale setae distinctly narrowest at base and widest at apex, ultimate palpomere distinctly darker than penultimate, axe shaped with a few dark setae.

Pronotum (Fig. 4) reddish brown, very wide, transverse, slightly convex, almost glabrous, shiny, approximately as wide as elytra at humeri. Dorsal surface with very sparse and very small punctures. PL 0.73 mm; PW 1.39 mm; PI equal to 52.52. Border lines distinct, narrow, only in the middle of anterior margin and in base near posterior angles not clearly conspicuous. Lateral margins finely rounded, base bisinuate. Posterior and anterior angles distinct, obtuse.

Elytra. Ochre yellow with dark brown spot (as in Fig. 1), oval, strongly convex, glabrous, shiny, widest near middle. EL 2.50 mm; EW 1.81 mm; EL/EW 1.38. Elytral striae with distinct rows of relatively small punctures. Elytral interspaces slightly convex with sparse punctures distinctly smaller than those in striae.

Scutellum. Pale reddish brown, pentagonal, shiny, glabrous with micropunctures.

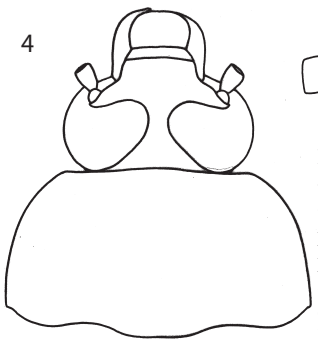
Elytral epipleura well-developed, reddish brown, glabrous, shiny, widest near base, distinctly narrowing to ventrite 1. Row of punctures in basal part is distinct, narrow and parallel leads in apical part.

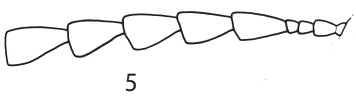
Legs. Narrow, pale reddish brown, tarsi ochre yellow. Dorsal surface with pale setation, microgranulation and punctures, tibiae with strong, short setae. Pro- and mesotarsomeres 3, 4 and metatarsomeres 3 slightly widened and distinctly lobed. Metatarsomere 1 longer than metatarsomeres 2-4 together. RLT: 1.00 : 0.49 : 0.42 : 0.88 : 1.65 (protarsus), 1.00 : 0.54 : 0.32 : 0.40 : 0.86 (mesotarsus), 1.00 : 0.28 : 0.18 : 0.51 (metatarsus).

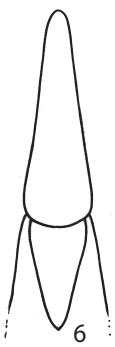
Anterior tarsal claws with 4 visible teeth.

Ventral side of body reddish brown, with sparse punctures. Abdomen reddish brown, shiny with rugosities and microgranulation. Ultimate and penultimate ventrites slightly darker.

Aedeagus (Figs. 6, 7) ochre yellow, slightly shiny. Basal piece rounded laterally and narrowing in apical part from dorsal view. Apical piece elongate triangular in dorsal view,







Figs. 1-7. *Novistela crockerica* sp. nov. (1, 4-7: male holotype): 1- habitus of holotype; 2a, b- habitus of female paratypes; 3a-c- habitus of male paratypes; 4- head and pronotum; 5- antenna; 6- apical piece of aedeagus, dorsal view; 7- apical piece of aedeagus, lateral view.

beak-shaped dorsally and laterally. Ratio of length of apical piece to length of basal piece from dorsal view 1: 2.37.

Female (Fig. 2) has space between eyes slightly wider than those in male (OI approximately 21), antenna is shorter than half body length, antennomere 1 is approximately as long as antennomere 3 and antennomere 2 is distinctly shorter than antennomere 3. Anterior tarsal claws have 4 teeth.
Measurements of female body. BL 4.08 mm; HL 0.71 mm; HW 0.82 mm; OI 20.14; PL 0.73 mm; PW 1.45 mm; PI 50.35; EL 2.64 mm; EW 1.90 mm; AL 1.89 mm; AL/BL 0.46; HW/PW 0.57; BL/EW 2.15; EL/EW 1.39.
RLA(1-11): 1.00 : 0.61 : 1.00 : 1.74 : 1.61 : 1.76 : 1.90 : 1.90 : 1.82 : 1.84 : 2.34.
RL/WA(1-11): 1.23 : 0.82 : 1.58 : 1.74 : 1.53 : 1.52 : 1.90 : 2.12 : 1.87 : 1.63 : 2.17.
RLT: 1.00 : 0.60 : 0.45 : 0.79 : 1.76 (protarsus), 1.00 : 0.39 : 0.20 : 0.36 : 0.75 (mesotarsus); 1.00 : 0.34 : 0.29 : 0.65 (metatarsus).

Variability. Dorsal surface is very different in colour - from pale reddish brown, with dark spots or dark blackish brown (Figs. 1-3). The type specimens somewhat vary in size; each character is given as its mean value, with full range in parentheses. Males (n= 5). BL 4.00 mm (3.81-4.23 mm); HL 0.73 mm (0.71-0.76 mm); HW 0.84 mm (0.83-0.87 mm); OI 9.87 (8.56-11.84); PL 0.74 mm (0.73-0.78 mm); PW 1.41 mm (1.38-1.46 mm); PI 52.69 (51.75-53.43); EL 2.54 mm (2.41-2.72 mm); EW 1.87 mm (1.81-1.94 mm). Females (n= 3). BL 4.02 mm (3.88-4.10 mm); HL 0.71 mm (0.69-0.72 mm); HW 0.81 mm (0.79-0.83 mm); OI 20.87 (20.14-21.51); PL 0.73 mm (0.72-0.75 mm); PW 1.46 mm (1.44-1.48 mm); PI 50.34 (50.00-50.68); EL 2.58 mm (2.47-2.64 mm); EW 1.88 mm (1.81-1.93 mm).

Differential diagnosis. Similar species are *Novistela harauica* sp. nov. from Sumatra Island and *Novistela nitidior* (Pic, 1956) comb. nov. from West Papua and Papua, New Guinea.
Novistela crockerica sp. nov. distinctly differs from the similar species *N. harauica* mainly by almost bicolor dorsal surface of body, by antennomere 1 almost two times longer than antennomere 3 and by shape of apical piece of aedeagus (beak shaped as in Figs. 6 and 7); while *N. harauica* has dorsal surface unicolored pale reddish brown, antennomere 1 is only 1.25 times longer than antennomere 3 and apical piece of aedeagus is knife shaped from lateral view (Fig. 12) or paddle shaped from dorsal view (as in Fig. 11).
N. crockerica is clearly different from the similar species *N. nitidior* mainly by almost bicolor dorsal surface of body, by scutellum pentagonal, by sparse punctures in elytral interspaces and by anterior tarsal claws with 4 visible teeth; while *N. nitidior* has dorsal surface dark brown, scutellum is semicircular, elytral interspaces have denser punctuation and anterior tarsal claws have 3 teeth.

Etymology. Toponymic, named after the type locality Crocker Mountains in Borneo Island.

Distribution. Malaysia (Borneo Island).

Novistela harauica sp. nov.
(Figs. 8-12)

Type locality. Indonesia, Western Sumatra, Payakumbuh, Harau Valley, 1000 m.

Type material. Holotype (♂): yl: W-Sumatra: Payakum- / buh,Harau-Valley / 9.-29.10.1991 / leg. A. RIEDEL 1000 m, (SMNS). Paratypes: (2 ♂♂): same data as holotype, (VNPC, SMNS); (1 ♂): ol: W-SUMATRA: Paya- / kumbuh, Harau-Vall. / 9.-29.10.1991 / leg. A. RIEDEL 1000 m, (SMNS).
The types are provided with a printed red label: 'Novistela / harauica sp. nov. / HOLOTYPUS [or PARATYPUS] / V. Novák det. 2022'.

Description of holotype. Habitus as in Fig. 8, body small, oval, strongly convex, from pale reddish brown to reddish brown, shiny, glabrous, dorsal surface with punctuation, BL 4.15 mm. Widest near middle elytra length; BL/EW 2.31.

Head (Fig. 9) pale reddish brown, shiny, glabrous, slightly wider than long, widest through the eyes, distinctly narrower than anterior margin of pronotum. Dorsal surface with sparse, small punctures. Clypeus brown with pale brown apex, arcuate laterally with rounded apex. Mandibles pale brown, glabrous, shiny with darker apex and few setae on sides. HW 0.84 mm; HW/PW 0.58; HL (visible part) 0.81 mm. Eyes very large, transverse, distinctly excised, space between eyes very narrow, distinctly narrower than diameter of one eye; approximately as wide as length of antennomere 2; OI equal to 13.34.

Antenna (Fig. 10). Antennomeres 1-3 narrow, pale brown, shiny, antennomeres 4-9 brown, matte, serrate (AL(1-9) 1.97 mm; AL/BL(1-9) 0.47), dorsal surface with recumbent setation, microgranulation and shallow punctures. Antennomere 2 and 3 shortest, antennomere 1 distinctly longer than antennomere 3, antennomere 4-9 almost more than three times longer than antennomere 3.
RLA(1-9): 1.25 : 0.99 : 1.00 : 3.22 : 3.28 : 3.50 : 3.50 : 3.81 : 3.61.
RL/WA(1-9): 1.72 : 1.00 : 1.13 : 2.42 : 2.81 : 3.00 : 3.00 : 3.26 : 3.10.

Maxillary palpus brown or pale brown, rather matte, with pale setation and fine microgranulation. Palpomeres 2 and 3 distinctly narrowest at base and widest at apex, ultimate palpomere axe shaped.

Pronotum (Fig. 9) pale reddish brown, wide, transverse, convex, glabrous, shiny, approximately as wide as elytra at humeri. Dorsal surface with very small and very sparse punctures. PL 0.78 mm; PW 1.45 mm; PI equal to 53.79. Border lines distinct, narrow, only in the middle of anterior margin and in base near posterior angles not clearly conspicuous. Lateral margins arcuate, base bisinuate. Posterior and anterior angles obtuse.

Elytra. Pale reddish brown, oval, strongly convex, glabrous, shiny, widest near middle. EL 2.56 mm; EW 1.80 mm; EL/EW 1.42. Elytral striae with distinct rows of small punctures. Elytral interspaces slightly convex with punctuation, punctures smaller than those in striae.

Scutellum. Pale reddish brown, pentagonal, glabrous without punctures and distinct microgranulation, shiny.

Elytral epipleura well-developed, pale reddish brown, glabrous, widest near base, distinctly narrowing to ventrite 1, narrow and parallel leading in apical part.

Legs. Narrow, pale reddish brown, surface with fine microgranulation, small punctures and pale setation. Tibiae with row of strong short setae in outer margin. Pro- and

mesotarsomeres 3, 4 and metatarsomere 3 slightly widened and lobed. Metatarsomere 1 slightly bent and longer than metatarsomeres 2-4 together. RLT: 1.00 : 0.44 : 0.48 : 1.17 : 2.04 (protarsus), 1.00 : 0.47 : 0.40 : 0.33 : 0.84 (mesotarsus), 1.00 : 0.27 : 0.20 : 0.42 (metatarsus).

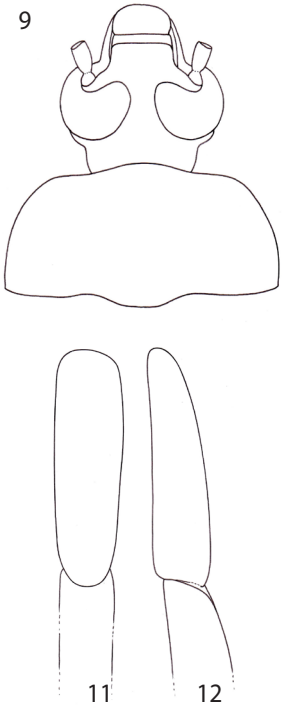
Anterior tarsal claws with 5 visible teeth.

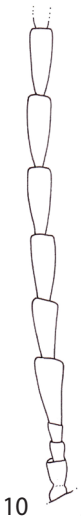
Ventral side of body pale reddish brown with punctures. Abdomen pale reddish brown, shiny, with longitudinal rugosities and small punctures.

Aedeagus (Figs. 11, 12) long, ochre yellow, shiny. Basal piece slightly rounded laterally and narrowing in dorsal view. Apical piece unusually shaped, knife shaped in dorsal view and paddle shaped in lateral view. Ratio of length of apical piece to length of basal piece from dorsal view 1: 6.33.

Female unknown.

Variability. The type specimens somewhat vary in size; each character is given as its mean value, with full range in parentheses. Males (n= 4). BL 4.10 mm (4.04-4.15 mm); HL 0.79 mm (0.77-0.81 mm); HW 0.82 mm (0.80-0.84 mm); OI 11.83 (10.00-13.59); PL 0.78 mm (0.75-0.80 mm); PW 1.45 mm (1.39-1.49 mm); PI 53.76 (53.69-53.96); EL 2.53 mm (2.47-2.59 mm); EW 1.79 mm (1.75-1.81 mm).





Figs. 8-12. *Novistela harauica* sp. nov. (male holotype): 8- habitus; 9- head and pronotum; 10- antennna; 11- apical piece of aedeagus, dorsal view; 12- apical piece of aedeagus, lateral view.

Differential diagnosis. Similar species are *Novistela crockerica* sp. nov. from Borneo Island and *Novistela nitidior* (Pic, 1956) comb. nov. from West Papua and Papua, New Guinea.
Novistela harauica sp. nov. distinctly differs from the similar species *N. crockerica* mainly by dorsal surface unicolored pale reddish brown, antennomere 1 only 1.25 times longer than antennomere 3 and by apical piece of aedeagus knife shaped from lateral view (Fig. 12) or paddle shaped from dorsal view (as in Fig. 11); while *N. crockerica* has dorsal surface of body almost bicolor, antennomere 1 is almost two times longer than antennomere 3 and apical piece of aedeagus is beak shaped as in Figs. 6 and 7.
N. harauica is clearly different from the similar species *N. nitidior* mainly by dorsal surface of body pale reddish brown, by scutellum pentagonal, by sparse punctures in elytral interspaces and by anterior tarsal claws with 5 visible teeth; while *N. nitidior* has dorsal surface dark brown, scutellum is semicircular, elytral interspaces have denser punctuation and anterior tarsal claws have 3 teeth.

Etymology. Toponymic, named after the type locality Harau Valley in Sumatra Island.

Distribution. Indonesia (Sumatra Island).

Novistela nitidior (Pic, 1956) comb. nov.

Cistelopsis nitidior Pic, 1956: 89.
Stilbocistela nitidior (Pic, 1956): Novák 2013: 177.

Type locality. Papua New Guinea, Island Bertrand.

Type material. Holotypus (♂): wl: N. Guinea / Biró 96 [pb] // wl: I. Bertrand / (Taraváj) [pb] // wl with rf: Holotypus [pr] 1956 / Cistelopsis / nitidior Pic [hb], (HNHM).

Remarks. Species was transferred to the genus *Stilbocistela* Borchmann, 1932 by Novák (2013). Habitus of male holotype (see Novák 2013: 178: fig. 35), head and pronotum and antenna (as in figs. 36 and 37 in Novák 2013: 178). Space between eyes very narrow (OI 5.4), antennomeres 4-9 serrate, antennomere 1 1.91 times longer than antennomere 3, antennomere 2 nearly as long as antennomere 3 (0.91 : 1.00), antennomere 4 more than three times longer than antennomere 3 (3.18 : 1.00). These characters allow transferred this species to the newly established genus *Novistela* gen. nov. as *Novistela nitidior* (Pic, 1956).

Distribution. Indonesia (West Papua), Papua New Guinea.

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