Revalidation of the genus *Cobria* Pascoe (Coleoptera, Cerambycidae: Lamiinae) and two new species from the Papuan Region

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Zusammenfassung. Die Gattung *Cobria* Pascoe, 1865 wird revalidisiert und eine kurze Diagnose gegeben. Mit den beiden hier neu beschriebenen Arten *C. grekeae* sp. nov. und *C. nigromaculata* sp. nov., enthält diese Gattung derzeit vier Arten, die in der papuanischen Region verbreitet sind.

Abstract. The genus *Cobria* Pascoe, 1865 is revalidated and a brief diagnosis is given. The genus currently comprises four species distributed in the Papuan Region and this includes two new descriptions, *C. grekeae* sp. nov. and *C. nigromaculata* sp. nov.

INTRODUCTION

In the first volume of the Australian longhorn beetles monograph (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) that deals with the subfamily Lamiinae (Ślipiński & Escalona 2013), numerous nomenclatural acts such as genus-rank synonymies, new combinations, replacement names etc. were introduced. Almost all of them appear unjustified according to the rules of taxonomy, in part incorrect and incomprehensible as already mentioned by Weigel & Skale (2014). For example, *Mimosybra* Breuning, 1939 and *Mycerinopsis* Thomson, 1864 synonymized with *Sybra* Pascoe, 1865 by Ślipiński & Escalona (2013), are both already resurrected from the synonymy (Weigel & Skale 2014).

A total of 28 genera have been synonymized with the genus *Rhytiphora* Audinet-Serville, 1835 by Ślipiński & Escalona (2013). Unfortunately, their software-controlled and exclusively genes-based assessment using insufficient data sets led to nomenclatural instability within the family of longhorn beetles and not to the solution of numerous problems in taxonomy of this speciose group. Ashman et al. (2023) supplemented the definition of the species-rich genus *Rhytiphora* which includes more than 200 described species. The vast majority of species of this genus occur in Australia. Ashman et al. (2023) list many features to define the genus, including a wide range of morphologically variable characters which is unusual for a genus definition and makes little taxonomic sense (e.g., body size 6 to 39 mm; oval to elongate body shape 2.5 to 4 times as long as wide; eyes medium to large, finely or coarsely faceted, lobes fully divided or connected; antennal scape slender to clavate; prothorax subquadrate to transverse, lateral margin with or without small anterior tubercle; prosternal process very narrow, rounded or angulate, etc.). Thus, the genus *Cobria* Pascoe, 1865 was also considered congeneric with *Rhytiphora* by these authors (Ashman et al. 2023). Notwithstanding, the type species of *Cobria*, *C.albisparsa* Pascoe, 1865, appears completely different from the typical species of *Rhytiphora* (e.g. Ślipiński & Escalona 2013; Ashmann et al. 2023) both in the habitus shape as well as in a row of other morphological characteristics. The published synonymy of the genus *Cobria* with *Rhytiphora* was possibly based on the features of the Australian species *Cobria rufa* Breuning, 1961 which is strongly different from the type species of *Cobria* and should indeed remain in the genus *Rhytiphora*.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

For the present study, altogether 53 specimens were examined. The genitalia and terminalia (penis with endophallus, tegmen, tergite 8) were dissected and examined for most of the available male specimens. For the examined type material, genitalia were dissected only if the specimen was in good condition. However, most of the type specimens were only examined using images. The dissected genitalia were mounted on cards with corresponding specimens. Images were taken using a Flexacam C5 attached to a Leica M125C stereomicroscope and subsequently processed, measured and stacked with Helicon Software version 8.2.2 lite. The final manipulations were made with Adobe Photoshop version 7.0. Total body length is measured from anterior edge of clypeus to apex of elytra and does not include partially exposed abdominal segments. Label data of type material are transcribed verbatim, using single slash to separate rows of the same label and double slash for separation of different labels. Additional remarks by the authors are placed in square brackets. For non-type specimens, no special delimitation is given for rows on the labels.

Specimens examined, including type material, are deposited in the following collections:

CASG Collection André Skale, Gera, Germany;
CAWW Collection Andreas Weigel, Wernburg, Germany;
CPVK Collection Petr Viktora, Kutná Hora, Czech Republic;
HNHM Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest, Hungary;
NHML Natural History Museum London (former BMNH), United Kingdom;
MNHN Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France;
RBINS Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels, Belgium.

additional abbreviations used:
♀ - female; ♂ - male; HT - Holotype; PNG - Papua New Guinea; PT - Paratype; spm(s) - specimen(s).

TAXONOMY

Diagnosis of the genus *Cobria* Pascoe, 1865

"This genus has the habit of *Ropica*, but is more robust, and differs in the antennae and legs; the tarsi, particularly, are remarkably short. The eyes are finely granulated, an unusual character in this subfamily, and the inferior lobe forms a slightly conical projection" (Pascoe 1865). The genus *Ropica* Pascoe, 1958 belongs to the tribe Apomecynini Thomson, 1860 characterized by a presence of the furrow or an incision near the tip of the outer edge of mesotibia lacking in *Cobria*.

Total body length of the examined material: 5.3 - 6.8 mm; elytra short, parallel-sided up to apical third, 1.7 times as long as wide, elytral surface smooth, anterior third to half with large deep punctures arranged irregularly and covered with short, less dense recumbent pubescence; head touching procoxae in repose, means is "rectratile"[1]; clypeus nearly square-shaped; eyes small, finely faceted, fully divided into two lobes (contrary, Pascoe (1865) stated for the genus *Cobria* the eyes are not divided), both upper lobes and antennal insertions widely separated, the latter more widely than the former; antennae 11-segmented, much shorter than elytra (over a half to two thirds of elytral length), antennal scape short and remarkably thickened beyond base, not

carinate, glabrous and punctured, ventrally not flattened, distinctly shorter than antennomere 3 or 4, extending somewhat beyond anterior margin of pronotum, antennomere 3 longer than 4, antennomere 4 at least at base white pubescent, sometimes antennomeres 7 and 8 remarkably white pubescent, all antennomeres barely fringed ventrally; prothorax subquadrate in dorsal view, pronotal disc deeply punctured, with large, very dense punctures, lateral edge of pronotum with or without an inconspicuous small tubercle immediately posteriad to anterolateral margin; legs short, femora medially swollen, tibiae straight, significantly widened distally, outer edge of mesotibiae without incision, tarsi appear 4-segmented, tarsomere 5 very small, hidden within deeply incised tarsomere 3 and hardly visible, claws simple, divergent, underside of tarsomeres 1-3 covered with dense yellowish setae, especially distincton widened tarsomere 3; prosternal process between coxae narrower than coxa, strongly widened posteriorly; coxae strongly developed, spherical, procoxal cavity closed posteriorly, procoxae never spinose in males, mesoventral process wide, less narrower than mesocoxa, nearly parallel-sided, with or without angulate projection; mesocoxae narrowly separated, cavities open to mesepimeron, abdominal sternite 2 in males without paired sex patches, abdominal sternite1 and 5 longer than each of 2-4.

Due to the numerous distinctive morphological dissimilarities from the genus *Rhytiphora*, *Cobria* stat. rev. is resurrected from the synonymy.

footnote

[1)] About the incomprehensible and sometimes questionable feature often used by Breuning in many revisional studies: "head retractable" or "head not retractable". Gressitt (1951: 327) introduced a term "retractile". He explained the opposite condition, making the term "retractable" not so difficult to understand, and interpreted it like in the following example: "Head generally rectractile, touching coxae in repose or head not touching coxae in repose". I'm very indebted to Mr. Wen-Xuan Bi (Shanghai, China) for pointing me on this important clue from the literature.

In the revision of the Australian Pteropliini (Breuning 1963) three species of the genus *Cobria* are listed: *C. albisparsa*, *C. biroi*, *C. rufa*. Later, two more species, *C. fuscostictica* Breuning, 1970 and *C. transversevittata* Breuning, 1979, were described. The type spm of *C. transversevittata* was not found in the National Museum in Prague and was unavailable for this study (J. Hájek pers. comm.). This species, originally from South Australia, is certainly not a member of the genus *Cobria*, and is listed as *Rhytiphora* in Slipinski & Escalona (2013).

Based on the results of the present study, the genus *Cobria* is comprised by four species, two of which are described herein.

CATALOGUE OF THE GENUS *COBRIA*

Cobria Pascoe, 1865 type species *C. albisparsa* Pascoe, 1865 stat. rev.
Cyardiopsis Breuning, 1938: 62 synonymy by Breuning (1961)
Cobria albisparsa Pascoe, 1865: 141, 147 (pl. VIII. fig. 1.) **comb. rev.**
Rhytiphora Ślipiński & Escalona (2013)
Cyardiopsis setifera Breuning, 1938: 62 synonymy by Breuning (1961)
Cobria fuscostictica Breuning, 1970: 375 **syn. nov.**
Rhytiphora anthonyi Tavakilian & Nearns, 2014 **syn. nov.** (unjustified nom. nov.)
Cobria biroi Breuning, 1953: 101 **comb. rev.**
Rhytiphora Ślipiński & Escalona (2013)
Cobria grekeae **sp. nov.**
Cobria nigromaculata **sp. nov.**

Cobria albisparsa Pascoe, 1865 comb. rev.

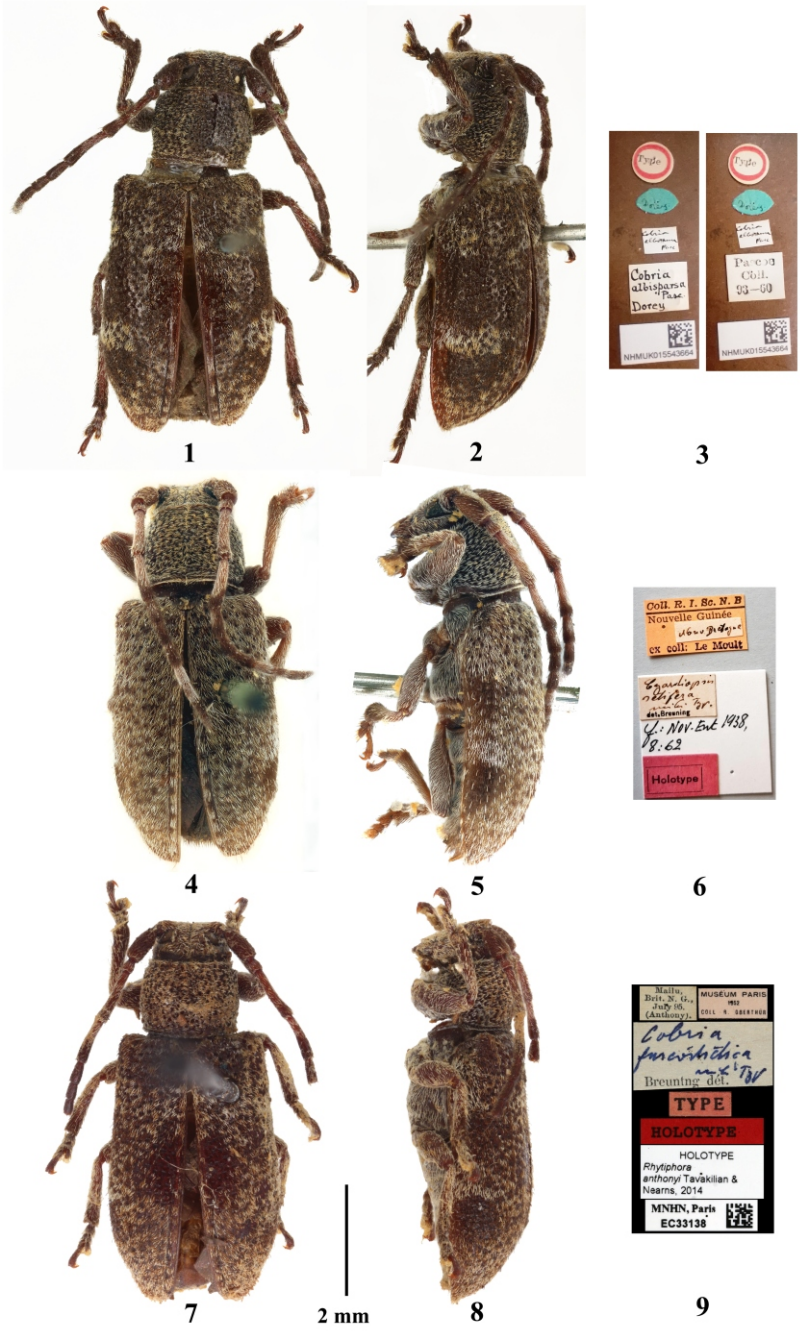
(Figs. 1-9, 10-16)

Type material examined: *Cobria albisparsa* HT (NHML): studied from three colour images (Figs. 1-3) provided by D. Telnov (NHML); locus typicus: "Dorey" [West Papua]; body length 6.75 mm (Pascoe 1865).
Cyardiopsis setifera HT (RBINS): studied from three colour images (Figs. 4-6) provided by B. Daniels (RBINS); locus typicus: "New Britain" [Bismarck Archipelago, PNG]; body length 6 mm (Breuning 1938).
Cobria fuscostictica HT (MNHN); studied from three colour images (Figs. 7-9) provided by C. Rivier (MNHN); locus typicus: "Mailu" [island] [PNG]; body length 6.5 mm (Breuning 1970).

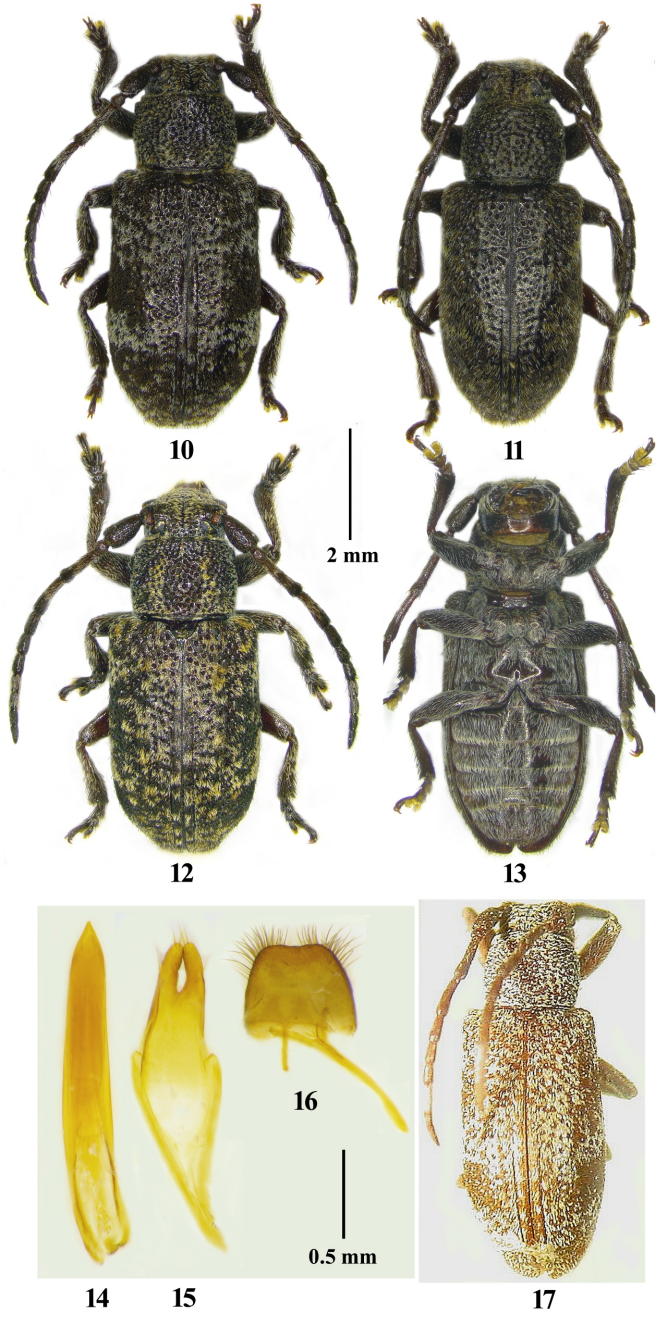
New material examined (29 spms): INDONESIA: 1 ♂ (CAWW): Indonesia Irian Jaya, 100km S Nabire, N Unipo-Ebore, 500m, 02.I.1996, leg. A. Weigel; 1 ♂ (CAWW): Indonesia Irian Jaya, Nabire, S, km 120, 120-150 m, Unipo-Ebomani, 09.I.1997, leg. A. Weigel [this spm is slightly different, therefore the determination label reads "det. cf."]; 1 ♀ (CAWW): Indonesia Irian Jaya, Nabire, 62 km, Ilaga road, Sowa camp, 22.I.1998, 300 m, leg. A. Weigel UWP KL; 1 ♀ (CAWW): Indonesia Irian Jaya, Nabire 70 km W, Yamor-lake, Gariau, 134°56'E, 03°43'S, 01.III.1998, leg. A. Weigel UWP KL; 1 ♀ (CAWW): Indonesia Irian Jaya, Nabire 70 km W, Kwatisore, Mt. Botak, VIII.1998, leg. M. Balke, 180 m üNN; 5 ♂♂, 1 ♀ (CAWW): Indonesia W-Papua, ca. 50 km SE Kaimana, Triton bay, vic. Kamaka village, S3°49'50" / E134°11'27", 10-50 m, 02.-05.II.2011 leg. A. Weigel (006); 2 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀ (CASG): same data; 1 ♀ (CAWW): Indonesia W-Papua, vic. Kaimana, road 18 km NE, S3°31'11" / E133°40'15", 50-80 m, 21.-25.II.2011 leg. A. Weigel (014); 1 ♀ (CASG): Indonesia W-Papua, vic. Kaimana, road 10 km NE, S3°34'42" / E133°42'41", 40 m, 01.II.2011, leg. A. Skale (002); 1 ♂, 2 ♀♀ (CASG): Indonesia W-Papua, Manokwari Prov., 6 km N Manokwari, Desa Pami,160m, 0°48'34"S, 134°03'15"E 09.III.2007, leg. A. Skale; 2 ♂♂ (CAWW): Indonesia or. Aru Isl., Wokam island, vic. Samang village, 10-20m (012), S5°40'20" / E134°15'06", 15.II.2011 (plantation) leg. A. Weigel; 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (CASG): same data, leg. A. Skale; PAPUA NEW GUINEA: 1 ♂, 2 ♀♀ (CAWW): PNG: East New Britain Prov., 37 km SW Kokopo, Baining Mts., 600-700 m, 04°37'12"S, 152°04'99"E, 28.II.2000, leg. A. Weigel, UWP [primary forest] KL (umbrella); 1 ♀ (CAWW): PNG: East New Britain Prov., 30 km SW Kokopo, Arabam, 200 m, 04°35'75"S, 152°06'84"E, 21.II.-04.III.2000, leg. A. Weigel.

Remarks. Body length in males 5.0-7.1 mm, females 5.5-7.0 mm; this more widespread species demonstrates only a vague external sexual dimorphism: females with last abdominal sternite flat longitudinally furrowed medially; a narrow hem of whitish pubescence at posterior margin of sternites is only rarely present in females, in males this whitish hem is denser and more distinct, especially on sternite 1; the examined spms exhibit variability in punctation and pubescence, especially the very coarse and deep pronotal punctures which can be confluent or separated by half their diameters; elytral pubescence varies from uniformly whitish, mostly dirty yellow or mixed whitish to entirely yellowish, in individual spms a transverse band of setae is indicated on posterior half of elytra; the small tubercle on anterior lateral margin of pronotum as mentioned above is only present in some males and females.
The four non-type specimens from New Britain mentioned above have in part somewhat more dense and uniform dorsal pubescence which corresponds the range of variation discussed above, otherwise these spms agree well with the holotype of *C. setifera* (also described from New Britain), so the synonymy of it with *C. albisparsa* is confirmed herein.
The male genitals of *C. albisparsa* are depicted for the first time (Figs. 14-16).
Judging from the images of the holotype (Figs. 7-8) of *C. fuscostictica*, this taxon is conspecific with *C. albisparsa* and thus a new junior synonym is introduced *Cobria albisparsa* = *Cobria fuscostictica* **syn. n.**

Distribution. Indonesia (W-Papua, Aru Islands), PNG (SE-Papua, Bismarck Archipelago: New Britain).



Figs. 1-9. *Cobria* species (habitus, lateral view, type labels): 1-3- *C. albisparsa* Pascoe, 1865 (HT NHML); 4-6- *Cyardiopsis setifera* Breuning, 1938 (HT RBINS); 7-9- *C. fuscostictica* Breuning, 1970 (HT MNHN).



Figs. 10-17. *Cobria* species: 10-15: *C. albisparsa* Pascoe, 1865: 10- ♀ from Yamor lake; 11- ♂ from New Britain; 12- ♂ from Aru island; 13- ♀ from vic. Nabire [underside]; 14-16- male genitals [medianlobe, tegmen, tergite 8] spm from Kaimana; 17- *C. biroi* Breuning, 1953 (HT HNHM).

Cobria biroi Breuning, 1953 comb. rev.

(Fig. 17)

Type material examined. HT, not sexed (HNHM), examined from one colour image provided by A. Skale (Gera); locus typicus: "Friedrich-Wilhelmhafen" [PNG]; body length 4-6.5 mm (Breuning 1953), 4 PT spms from "Stephansort, Astrolabe Bay" [PNG] not examined.

Remarks. According to Breuning (1953), *C. albispara* can be distinguished from *C. biroi* as follows: "Cette espèce se distingued' *albisparsa* Pasc. par la longueur des lobes infèrieurs des yeux, le tuberculelatèro-infèrieur du pronotum peu accusèe et a livrèe." In *C. biroi*, lower eye lobes are as long as genae in contrast to *C. albisparsa*, where they are clearly shorter than genae. For this study only one image of the HT was available, where this feature is not visible. Furthermore Breuning (1970) compared *C. fuscostictica* with *C. biroi*: „Proche de *biroi* Breun., mais le pronotum densèment ponctuè, mème dans la moitiè postèrieure, et al livrèe diffèrente. Brun foncè, couvert de pubescence brun rougeàtre. Les èlytres très densèment par semès de très petites taches brun foncè. La moitiè apicale du quatirème article des antennes, les articels 5 à 7 et les articles 10 et 11 à pubescence brun foncè". This differential diagnosis is not comprehensive and also lies within the range of individual variability of *C. albisparsa*. The elytra in *C. biroi* are longer with a length/width ratio of about 2.1 (Fig. 17) while only 1.6 to 1.7 in *C. albisparsa*. Furthermore, in *C. biroi* legs are comparatively longer and femurs less strongly thickened.

Cobria grekeae sp. nov.

(Figs. 18-24)

Type material designated. HT ♂ (NHML): SOLOMON ISLANDS, Guadalcanal / Is., Honiara S env., Barana vill. S / env., 9°29'17"S 159°58'30"E, / 14.v.2023, 200 m, primary lowland / rainforest on limestone, / leg. D. Telnov BMNH(E) 2023-95. Paratypes: 20 PT: 4 ♂♂, 6 ♀♀ (NHML, CAWW): same data like HT; 2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀ (NHML): same data but without BMNH(E) 2023-95; 1 ♂ (NHML): SOLOMON ISLANDS, Guadalcanal / Is., Honiara S env., Barana vill. S / env., 9°29'05"S 159°59'01"E, / 05.v.2023, 230-350 m, disturbed / lowland rainforest on limestone, / leg. D. Telnov; 1 ♀ (NHML): SOLOMON ISLANDS, Guadalcanal / Is., Honiara S env., Barana vill. S / env., 1 km around 9°29'5"S 159°58'40"E, / 20–23.iv.2023, 220- / 350 m, disturbed lowland rainforest / on limestone, leg. D. Telnov / BMNH(E) 2023-95; 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (CAWW): SOLOMON ISLANDS, Guadalcanal / Is. Marau area, Puatanarau vill. env., / 9°45'44"S 160°46'44"E, 09.v.2023, / 20-40 m, mangroves & *Pandanus* / forest, leg. D. Telnov; 1 ♂ (CPVK): South Pacific, Solomon Is. GUADALCANAL I., 80-250 m LUNGA river env., 5-15 km S of Barana vill., [Honiara]reg. 20.XI.-15.XII.2013, St. Jákl lgt.; 1 ♀ (CPVK): SOLOMON Isls., Guadalcanal ca. 3,5 km SE of BARANA vill. 09°29.8'S 159°59.5'E, 190 m, 23.xi.-15.xii.2013, J. Horák leg.

The types are provided with a printed red label "HOLOTYPUS" or "PARATYPUS" respectively and "*Cobria / grekeae* sp. nov. / det. A. Weigel 2024".

Description of the HT. Uniformly black species with whitish speckled pubescence. Body length 7.5 mm.

Head dull; frons rectangular, covered with flat, coarse punctures, distances from narrower to wider than their diameters; eyes separated, lower eye-lobes nearly square-shaped in lateral view, slightly longer than genae, finely wrinkled and only a few small punctures recognizable ventrad to lower lobes; upper eye lobes comparatively smaller, elliptical, widely separated on frons but less wide than antennal insertions; ground pubescence whitish to dirty yellowish, adjoining and somewhat spotty.

Pronotum length/width ratio 0.7; slightly wider than long; anterior and posterior margin straight; lateral sides evenly rounded; entire upper surface with large, deep punctures, their distances variable, from subconfluent to more than twice as wide as puncture diameters, with

adjoining white setae on interspaces.

Elytra length/width ratio 1.75; elytral width/pronotal width ratio 1.3; elytra somewhat parallel-sided up to apical fourth, constricted to slightly concave afterwards; apex almost truncated, apical outer angle obtusely rounded, apical sutural angle nearly right-angled; humeri well developed, rounded; entire upper surface with numerous small fascicles of recumbent white setae between generally dark, adjoining ground pubescence; entire surface with needle-like incisions up to apex, punctures are larger near elytral base and smaller on apical portion, distance mostly wider than their diameters, becoming wider towards elytral apex; elytral dorsum dull, finely chagrined, area along suture not punctured; scutellum strongly transverse, broadly rounded behind and covered with long white setae; epipleura glabrous, finely granulated, reaching up to apex but apically very narrow.

Antennae reaching about last fourth of body length when directed posteriad; black, shiny, with recumbent dark ground pubescence and single, white and dark erected bristles; conspicuous whitish pubescent are basal half of antennomere 4, whole antennomere 8 and nearly whole antennomere 9; scapus strongly thickened shortly beyond base and nearly parallel-sided towards tip; antennomere 3 is the longest; length ratios of antennomeres 1-11: 0.73/0.25/1.00/0.88/0.41/0.39/0.34/0.36/0.33/0.28/.036.

Legs black, partly shiny; femora somewhat thickened medially, profemora thicker than other; tibiae clearly widened from base to tip; dark ground setae intermixed with white, especially on distal parts of femora and on base of tibiae; underside of femora relatively densely whitish setose; tarsi short, tarsomeres 1-3 about twice as wide as long, whitish to brownish setae on upper side; tarsomere 3 bilobate up to base; claws about as long as tarsomeres 1-3 combined; underside of tarsomeres 1-3 with dense dirty yellow bristles of setae most conspicuous on tarsomere 3.

Ventral side mostly dull, shiny only on some areas; with more or less dense whitish, adjoining setation, somewhat spotty on lateral sides of thorax; prosternal process between coxae widened posteriorly, broadly medially longitudinally furrowed; surface with wrinkled punctures; mesoventral process wider than prosternal process, parallel-sided, rounded posteriorly, broadly furrowed medially, surface with wrinkled punctures; first abdominal sternite the longest, sternites 2 and 3 short, sternites 1 to 3 with a narrow hem of dense whitish pubescence on posterior margin more conspicuous and denser on sternite 1, sternite 5 longer than any of previous ones, subtruncate at posterior margin.

Genitals. Median lobe length 1.95 mm, width 0.3 mm, lobe slightly narrows towards apex, and pointed; endophallus (not inverted) very short, about one fifth the length of median lobe, with thin, s-shaped basal sclerites, surface of endophallus partly covered with fine curved structures; tegmen length ~1.6 mm, width ~ 0.5 mm, parameres short, parallel-sided, close together at base, broadly rounded and covered with single yellowish bristles at apex; tergite 8 length 0.7 mm, width 0.6 mm, lateral sides slightly narrowed-rounded towards apex, anterior margin subtruncate, not concave around slightly rounded edges, covered with long brownish bristles of setae up to middle of anterior margin.

Dimorphism. Both sexes can hardly be distinguished externally, females have a narrow, flat median longitudinal furrow on last abdominal sternite; white pubescence at posterior margin of abdominal sternites is only rarely present in females, denser and more remarkable in males, especially on first abdominal sternite.

Variability. Body length ♂♂ 5.8-7.8 mm, ♀♀ 6.3-7.8 mm; punctation of dorsum is somewhat variable, i.e. distances between punctures vary but not their depth; white fascicles of setae on

elytra are variably dense and numerous, sometimes nearly fused or condensed to a short transverse lateral band beyond midlength of elytra; basal white pubescence of antennomere 3 is often indistinct, probably worn in some spms; in one specimen lateral sides of pronotum are nearly straight, one female with femora and the basal third to half of tibiae reddish.

Differential diagnosis. Among the congeners, the new species is morphologically most similar to *C. albisparsa*. The new species can be distinguished from the latter by the different elytral pubescence, this is nearly uniform in *C. albisparsa*, consists of numerous small, whitish fascicles of setae in *C. grekeae* sp. nov.; lateral sides of pronotum more evenly rounded and the anterior border of the pronotal sides not tuberculate medially as mentioned for *C. albisparsa*; the abdominal sternite 1 is comparatively longer in the new species compared to that in *C. albisparsa*; in *albisparsa* the whitish pubescence at the posterior margin of sternites 1-4 is less obvious; in average, the new species is also slightly larger than *C. albisparsa*.

Etymology. The new species is dedicated to Mrs. Kristīne Greķe (Latvian National Museum of Natural History, Rīga), a well-known Latvian malacologist, my colleague and a participant of the 2023 Solomon Islands expedition. Feminine.

Distribution. Solomon Islands (Guadalcanal). The "locus typicus" locality is shown on Fig. 31.

***Cobria nigromaculata* sp. nov.**

(Figs. 25-30)

Type material designated. HT ♂ (CAWW): INDONESIA Irian Jaya / Nabire E, Kwatisore 47km / S Urie-Camp 3°32'26"S / 134°51'69"E, 27.II1998 / leg. A. Weigel UWP [primary forest] KL [umbrella]. The type is provided with a printed red label: HOLOTYPUS / *Cobria / nigromaculata* sp. nov. / det. A. Weigel 2024.

Description. Black species with reddish legs.Body length 6.4 mm.

Head somewhat shiny; sparsely covered with recumbent whitish setae; frons rectangular, overall covered with shallow, coarse punctures with distances usually narrower than their diameter; lower and upper eye lobes widely separated by at least the diameter of lower eye lobe; lower lobes nearly square-shaped in lateral view, slightly shorter than genae; area ventrad to lower lobes smooth and somewhat shiny, with fine pubescence and only a few small punctures; upper eye lobes smaller, elliptical, widely separated on frons, but situated closer to one other than antennal insertions.

Pronotum length/width ratio 0.8; slightly wider than long; anterior and posterior margin subtruncate, lateral sides evenly rounded; entire surface and sides with large, deep punctures, their distances usually much narrower than puncture diameters, interspaces partly reduced to narrow ridges, interspaces covered with sparse, short adjacent white setae.

Elytra black; length/width ratio1.6; elytra width/pronotum width ratio1.4; parallel-sided up to apical third, evenly rounded at apex; apical sutural angle right-angled; elytral base straight; humeri distinct, rounded; elytral surface covered with short, semi-erect beige to white setae; five dark areas of brown setation on each elytron; for their arrangement see Fig. 25; entire surface covered with large but flat punctures becoming more extensive and shallower towards apex and almost disappear on apical portion, larger on frontal portion than postmedially, distances on basal portion narrower than puncture diameter but becoming larger towards apex; distally and especially below humeri more strongly and denser punctate, punctures sometimes arranged into indistinct rows; surface finely shagreened but moderately shiny, a small interspace along suture

impunctate from beyond apical third up to apex; scutellum strongly transverse, broadly rounded behind, shiny and sparsely setose; epipleura finely setose, impunctate, very narrow and nearly disappear before apex.

Antennae black; reaching about last third of elytra when directed posteriad; somewhat shiny, with fine recumbent ground pubescence, and scattered short, erected white and dark bristles; distinctly white pubescent are antennomeres 2 and 3, basal three fifth of antennomere 4; two fifth of antennomere 4 and antennomeres 5 to 11 are densely dirty yellowish setose beneath; third antennomere the longest; scapus strongly thickened behind base and nearly parallel-sided towards apex, sparsely pubescent and coarsely granulated; length ratios of antennomeres 1-11: 0.82/0.29/1.00/0.86/0.49/0.42/0.38/0.35/0.32/0.32/0.32.

Legs reddish; tibiae in distal portion and tarsi blackened; claws reddish; sparsely whitish and brownish setose, basal two thirds to basal half of tibiae more distinctly whitish setose; femora somewhat thickened medially, profemora more strongly; protibiae distinctly widened shortly before apex; tarsi short, tarsomeres 1-3 about twice as wide as long, sparsely pubescent on upper side and with single long black bristle of setae, claws about as long as tarsomeres 1-3 combined.

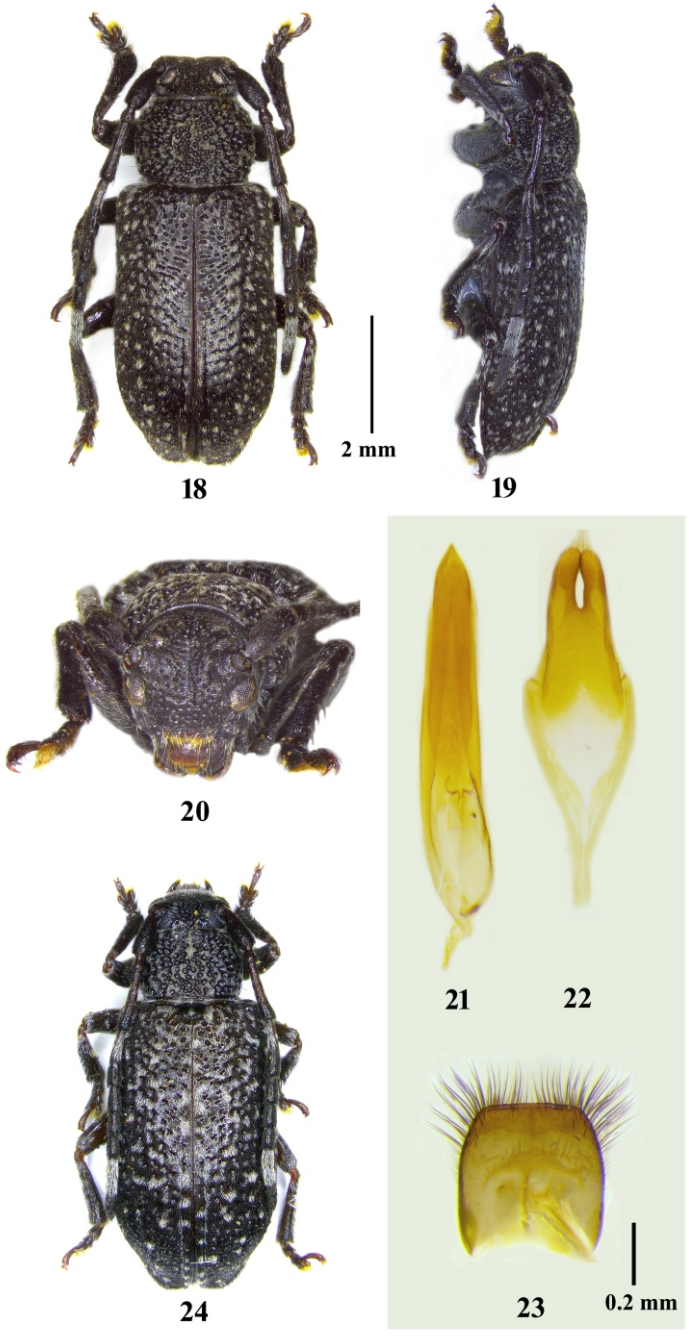
Ventral side black and somewhat shiny; sparsely whitish pubescent; surface almost finely granulated, posteromedial portion of metacoxae glabrous; longer whitish setae at posterior margins of abdominal segments, more distinct on segment 1; metacoxa with shallow longitudinal furrow; prosternal process distinctly thickened to the subtruncate posterior margin, surface slightly wrinkled; metaventral process parallel-sided, posterior margin subtruncate; surface of slightly wrinkled; abdominal sternite 1 the longest, sternites 2 to 4 short, sternite 5 longer than each of previous segments; posterior margin of sternite 5 subtruncate and with longer whitish setae.

Genitals. Median lobe length 1.5 mm, width 0.2 mm, lobe parallel-sided, apex narrowed apically with rounded tip; endophallus (not inverted) very short of about one fifth the length of median lobe, with thin s-shaped basal sclerites, surface partly covered with shallow roundish structures; tegmen length ~1.5 mm, width ~ 0.3 mm, parameres short, situated close together at base, broadly rounded and covered with single yellowish bristle at apex; tergite 8 length 0.6 mm, width 0.5 mm, parallel-sided to rounded anterior edges, anterior margin slightly concave medially, covered with long brownish bristles around the strong rounded edges.

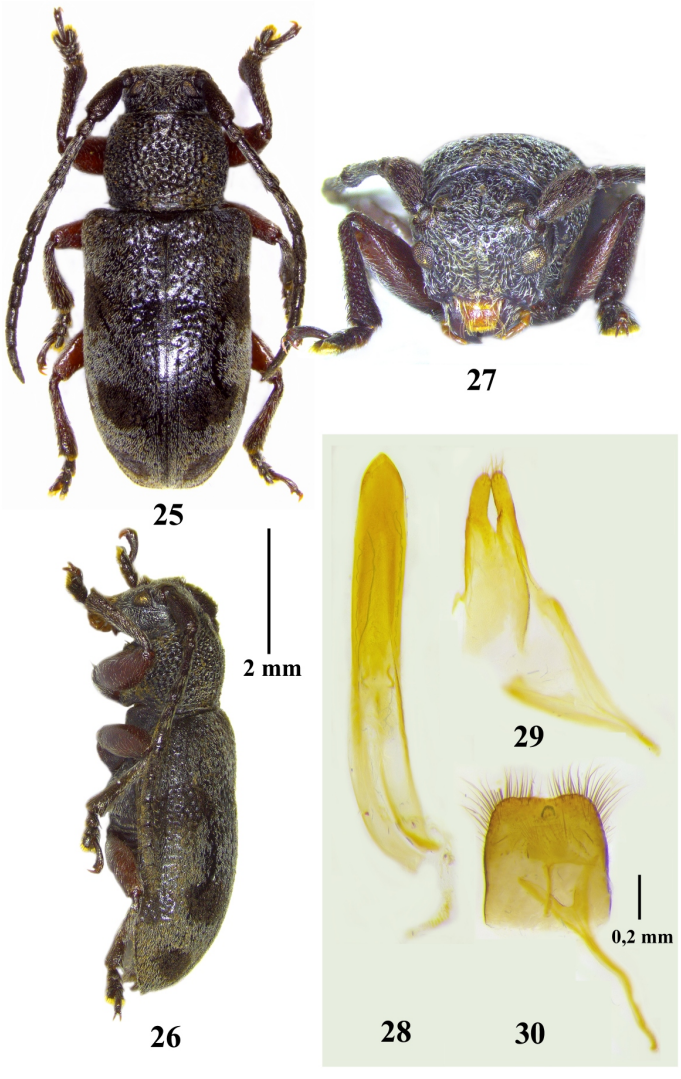
Differential diagnosis. Among the congeners, this new species is morphologically similar to *C. albisparsa* and *C. grekeae* sp. nov. *Cobria nigromaculata* sp. nov. can be distinguished from *C. albisparsa* in the different elytral pubescence which is more or less uniform in *C. albisparsa*, with numerous small fascicles of white setae between generally dark, adjoining ground pubescence in *C. grekeae*. In *C. nigromaculata* consisting of the whitish to beige pubescence and with five dark areas of the brown pubescence on each elytron. Furthermore in *C. nigromaculata* sp. nov. the lateral sides of pronotum are more evenly rounded, and there is no small tubercle in the middle of the anterior border of the pronotum sides as mentioned for *C. albisparsa*; antennomeres 2 and 3 completely covered with whitish pubescence, 8 and 9 without whitish pubescence, and the legs are reddish.

Etymology. The specific epithet derives from Latin adjectives 'nigraemaculatae', and refers to the dark elytral spots.

Distribution. Indonesia (West Papua: vicinity of Nabire).



Figs. 18-24. *Cobria grekeae* sp. nov.: 18-23- HT ♂ (NHML):18- habitus; 19- lateral view; 20- head frontal view; 21- median lobe; 22- tegmen; 23- tergite 8; 24- PT ♀ (NHML) habitus.



Figs. 25-30. *Cobria nigromaculata* sp. nov. HT ♂ (CAWW): 25- habitus; 26- lateral view; 27- head frontal view; 28- median lobe; 29- tegmen; 30- tergite 8.

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Fig. 31. Vicinity of Barana village (Guadalcanal island) "locus typicus" of *Cobria grekeae* sp. nov. (courtesy D. Telnov).