

A NEW SPECIES OF PRIONINE GENUS *OLETHRIUS* FROM
TORRES ISLANDS, S. PACIFIC
(COLEOPTERA : CERAMBYCIDAE). *

Masao HAYASHI

From September to December in 1958, the Osaka Museum of Natural History sent an expedition party to New Britain, Solomon and New Caledonia Islands in South Pacific. Prof. K. TORIGØE of the Osaka University of the Liberal Arts and Education and of a member of the expedition, collected a large Prionine beetle at Lo (Saddle) Island of the Torres which is found between the southern limit of the Solomons and the northern New Hebrides, when their small boat was touched at the isle by severe storm. So far as his careful examination goes, the writer arrives at the conclusion to describe it as a new species differing from the known congeners of *Olethrius* THOMSON (1860). The members of the genus is chiefly distributed over eastern Papuan and East Melanesian zoogeographical subregions and additionally extends to Micronesian and Central Polynesian subregions, and seven species have been known up to the present. The writer wishes to express his sincere appreciation to Prof. K. TORIGØE, the collector of this interesting species, and to Mr. Y. TSUTSUI who was the chief of the expedition and is the director of the museum, for their kindness enabling him to study it freely and to publish the report in the bulletin. And also he is very much due to Dr. J. L. GRESSITT, Dr. L. S. DILLON and Dr. E. F. GILMOUR for their constant kind help.

Prioninae : Macrotomini

Olethrius torresianus sp. nov. (Text fig. 2)

Female : Dark chestnut brown, somewhat shining, dorsal surface of antennae and legs piceous blackish, underside of body a little reddish, abdomen shining piceous; furnished with dark reddish yellow hairs rather densely throughout on dorsal surface of body, gula and breast.

Head between eyes with a well-defined, but not deep, narrow longitudinal median furrow; front with a sinuate and arcuate impression; head coarsely but weakly scabrose on the dorsum, very finely so on front and on the sides, and finely obliquely rugose behind inferior eye lobes; mandibles with a prominent crest on basal two-

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thirds, nearly, samely scabrose as on vertex. Antennae long and slender, arriving at apical one-tenth of elytra, the apex of fourth antennal joint distinctly attaining behind humerus, the scape about 1.5 times as long as third, somewhat depressed and weakly arcuate, moderately asperate and punctate, being denser on upper and external sides; third joint about 1.16 times as long as fourth; second to eighth joints sparsely punctured, apical half of ninth posteriorly to eleventh joints minutely strigose. Pronotum broadest across hind angles, narrower than base of elytra, coarsely and closely punctate on disc, dull, middle of apical portion and sides somewhat scabrose; a pair of smooth areas beside middle of center rather small, irregular internally and nearly longitudinally straight externally; and a narrow, smooth area at middle of base; the sides weakly, arcuately narrowed anteriorly, and finely dentate, the tooth at hind angle short, but acutely produced; posterior margin arcuately expanded at the sides with a few blunt, shallow teeth, and sinuate at the middle. Scutellum irregularly, somewhat shallowly punctured excepting glabrous center, the punctures not coalescent. Elytra about 2.1 times as long as the basal breadth, gradually broadened posteriorly, broadest behind middle, then narrowed apically, apex rounded and weakly emarginate near sutural angle, having a minute spine; disc

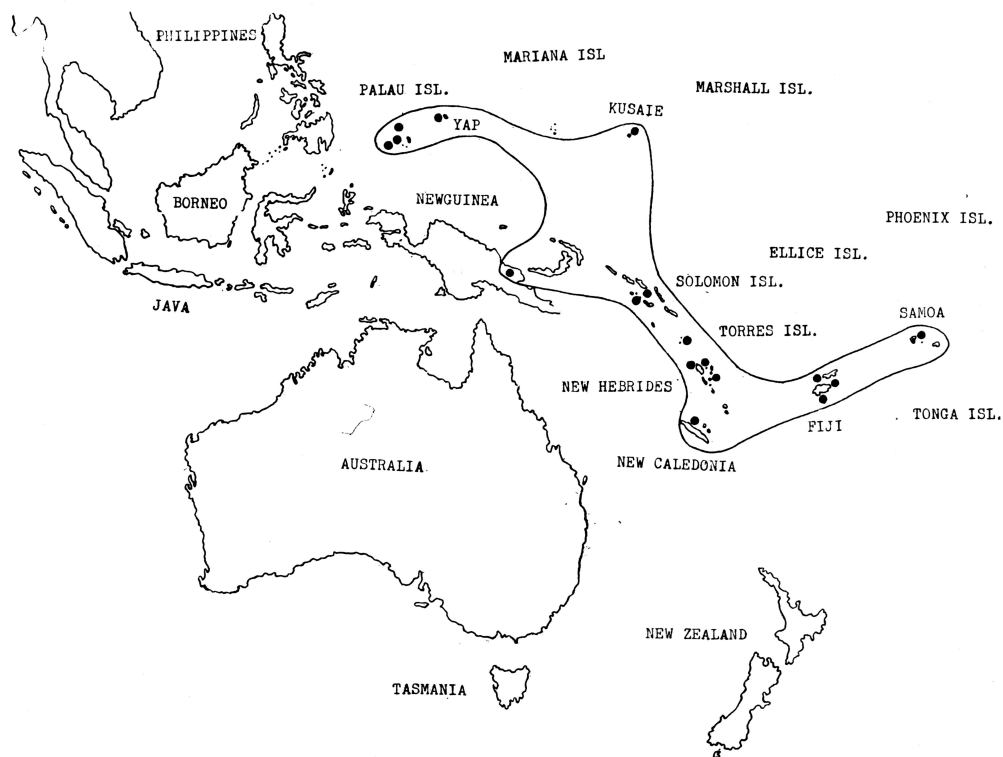


Fig 1 The distribution of Prionine genus *Olethrius*.

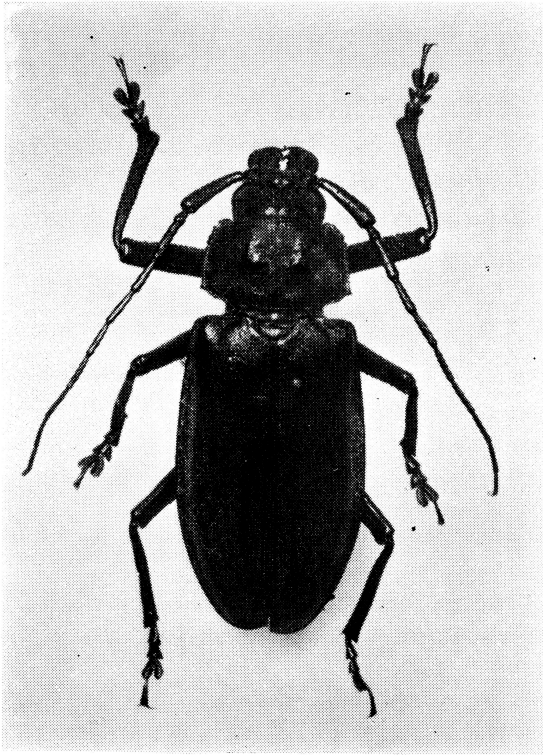


Fig. 2: *Olethrius torresianus* sp. nov.

body, the punctation and the hairs, between *O. scabripennis* and *O. villosus* which were samely described from Fiji, and it seems to the writer it has rather more close affinity to *O. scabripennis* than to *O. villosus*. From *O. scabripennis* it differs in having the larger and darker body, the different outline of pronotum with the different marginal teeth and smooth areas on disc, the relief and the denser hairs on body and the very longer antennae, etc. From *O. villosus*, it differs in having the longer antennae, the anteriorly narrowed pronotum with the different marginal teeth, the relief on body, and the sparsely punctate prosternum with transversely truncate apex of the process, etc.

Among these rather primitive groups, there are frequently found the variation in the structures of body, for instance, the length of body or antennae, the relief or punctures on body, etc., when the comparing materials are long series. Dr. GILMOUR (1954) recorded, there was the variation in the antennal length, in some Fijian *O. scabripennis*. The species should possibly be a subspecies of *O. scabripennis* represented in the Torres, in further study.

coarsely, rather closely and partly somewhat elongate-rugosely punctured on basal half, and the punctures gradually become shallower and finer to apex. Prosternum sparsely punctate, and the very sparsely punctate process strongly and narrowly prolonged posteriorly and the apex dully and transversely truncate. Front tibiae and femora coarsely densely asperate especially on inner sides, middle and hind pairs somewhat weakly and sparsely so. Length, 73 mm. (excl. mandibles); breadth, 24 mm. (across humerus), 29 mm. (at maxim.)

Holotype, female, Lo (Saddle) Island, of the Torres Islands, September 29th 1958, Prof. K. TORIGOE leg. In the collection of the Osaka Museum of Natural History.

This new species has intermediate structural characters of the

List of the known species

- O. brevicornis* DILLON et DILLON, Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Bull. 206, p. 7, f. 1, d (1952) Fiji.
- O. carolinensis* (MATSUSHITA), Sapporo N.H. Soc., Trans., 14(2), p. 115 (1935) Palau, Yap.
- O. glabrus* GRESSITT, Ins. Micronesia, 17 (2), p. 70, f. 1, a (1956) Kusaie.
- O. insularis* FAIRMAIRE, Rev. Zool., p.57 (1850) Samoa, Fiji, New Britain.
- O. scabripennis* THOMSON, Syst. Ceramb., p. 577 (1865) Fiji.
- O. torresianus* HAYASHI, sp. nov. Torres.
- O. tyrannus* THOMSON, Classif. Ceramb., p. 316 (1860) Fiji?, New Hebrides, New Caledonia, Solomon, E. New Guinea, New Britain.
- O. villosus* DILLON et DILLON, loc. cit., p. 6, f. 1, a (1952) Fiji.

Literature cited

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- 1864-1865; J. THOMSON, Systema Cerambycidarum, pp. 478, 577 & 578.
- 1913; AUGUSTE LAMEERE, Coleopterolum Catalogus, pars 52, Ceramb.: Prioninae, p. 15.
- 1935; MASAKI MATSUSHITA, Beitrag zur Cerambyciden-Fauna von Micronesien, *Sapporo N.H. Soc., Trans.*, XIV (2), pp. 115, 116.
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