

A peculiar new species of *Pogonoglossus* Chaudoir from New Guinea

(Insecta, Coleoptera, Carabidae, Helliudinae)

By Martin Baehr

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Pogonoglossus laevisimus, spec. nov. is described from the western part of Irian Jaya (New Guinea) and is distinguished from the other species of *Pogonoglossus* of the Australian region.

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Introduction

Pogonoglossus is a moderately large genus of odd-shaped beetles ranging from southern Asia through Indonesia, New Guinea, New Britain to northern Australia. Because specimens are rarely collected, most species are very unsatisfactorily represented in collections and several species are even known from single specimens or from the type locality only. Hence the distribution of the species is generally poorly known. It seems, however, that Indonesia and in particular New Guinea are especially rich in terms of species numbers (Andrewes 1937, Darlington 1968, Baehr 1987), whereas Australia has significantly fewer species (Baehr 1989, 1993).

The species live apparently under bark in rain forest, but in Australia also in more open forest types. Adults have been collected most commonly at light. Actually very little is known about their biology.

Measurements

Measurements have been taken under a stereo microscope using an ocular micrometer. Length has been measured from tip of labrum to apex of elytra, hence measurements may slightly differ from those of other authors. Some width/length ratios have been taken in the same manner as in Baehr (1988, 1993). It should be noted that for the width/length ratio of pronotum length has been measured from apex of anterior angles.

Location of type

The holotype of the new species is presented to the Zoologische Staatssammlung, München, but is retained as permanent loan in the working collection of the author (ZSM-CBM).

Types. Holotype: ♂, Irian Jaya, Panai-Pr., Nabire, Pemukiman, 200 m, 17.8.1991, leg. A. Riedel (ZSM-CBM).

Diagnosis. Easily recognized from all New Guinean and Australian species by the combination of the following characters: complete black colour without light markings on vertex; wide head with laterally exceptionally protruding eyes; presence of a conspicuously projecting tooth **below** eye that is divided from eye by a deep furrow; very short and wide though cordiform pronotum with peculiar dentiform basal angles; short elytra with almost impunctate and very sparsely pilose intervals and with aetose and barely serrate marginal borders; very glossy surface.

Description

Measurements. Length: 9.6 mm; width: 3.7 mm. Ratios. Base/apex of pronotum: 0.96; width/length of pronotum: 1.60; with of pronotum/width of elytra: 0.77; length/width of elytra: 1.58; length/width of 10th antennomere: 1.44.

Colour. Glossy black, mouth parts, lateral parts of labrum, four basal antennomeres, and base of abdomen piceous, terminal antennomeres reddish with dark median stripe.

Head. Very wide, though slightly narrower than pronotum, wide between eyes, posteriorly markedly triangular. Frons with two deep, irregular impressions, neck separated by a deep furrow. Eyes large, semicircular, laterally remarkably projecting. Orbits very small. Below and slightly behind eye with a large, projecting tooth, separated from orbit by a deep furrow, at apex with a single elongate seta. This tooth far less projecting than eye. Behind eye without any elongate setae. Clypeus with four elongate setae, median setae as long as lateral ones. Labrum 6-setose, lateral seta far longer than inner setae. Mandibles elongate, though for genus comparatively short and stout, inner border almost straight, only near apex incurved. Palpi moderately elongate, very sparsely pilose. Antenna short, rather sparsely setose, scapus short and thick, distinctly shorter than width of base of clypeus, median antennomeres $<1.5 \times$ as long as wide. Surface of head very sparsely punctate and pilose. Microreticulation absent, surface remarkably glossy.

Pronotum. Remarkably wide, widest in anterior third. Apex deeply and widely excised, anterior angles projecting though rounded off. Lateral borders anteriorly strongly convex, posteriorly feebly sinuate. Base in middle slightly concave, laterally straight though faintly oblique. Basal angles acute, dentiform, lateral margin just in front of angles incurved, hence border here slightly impressed. Lateral explanation rather wide, lateral borders upturned. Near base a rather deep transverse furrow, median line distinct. Puncturation and pilosity very sparse, microreticulation absent, surface remarkably glossy.

Elytra. Rather short and wide, laterally parallel, without any sinuation in anterior third. Apex laterally rounded, in middle obliquely obtuse, with wide membraneous area. Marginal channel very narrow. Striae well impressed, impunctate, intervals convex, in middle impunctate, though on either side with a fine row of spaced punctures near striae, median intervals almost impilose, lateral ones sparsely pilose. Microreticulation absent. Surface markedly glossy. Lateral border barely serrate, without fringe of setae. Marginal setae moderately elongate. Fully winged.

Lower surface. Comparatively sparsely punctate and setose. Metepisternum elongate, twice as long as wide. Terminal sternite in male on either side with one elongate seta in middle and 2 setae near apical border.

Legs. Moderately elongate. In particular tarsi rather sparsely pilose. Male protarsus with a small tuft of adhesive hairs on 1st-3rd tarsomeres.

♂ genitalia. Rather elongate, slightly widened in apical third, lower surface almost straight, apex obtusely rounded. Inner sac complexly folded, with a large, on upper side open, only partly sclerotized fold, and with a small heavily sclerotized sclerite on left side. Parameres very dissimilar, left paramere very large, apex of right paramere unusually narrow and elongate.

♀ genitalia. Unknown.

Variation. Unknown.

Distribution. Western part of Irian Jaya, New Guinea. Known only from type locality.

Examined material (1). Only the holotype.

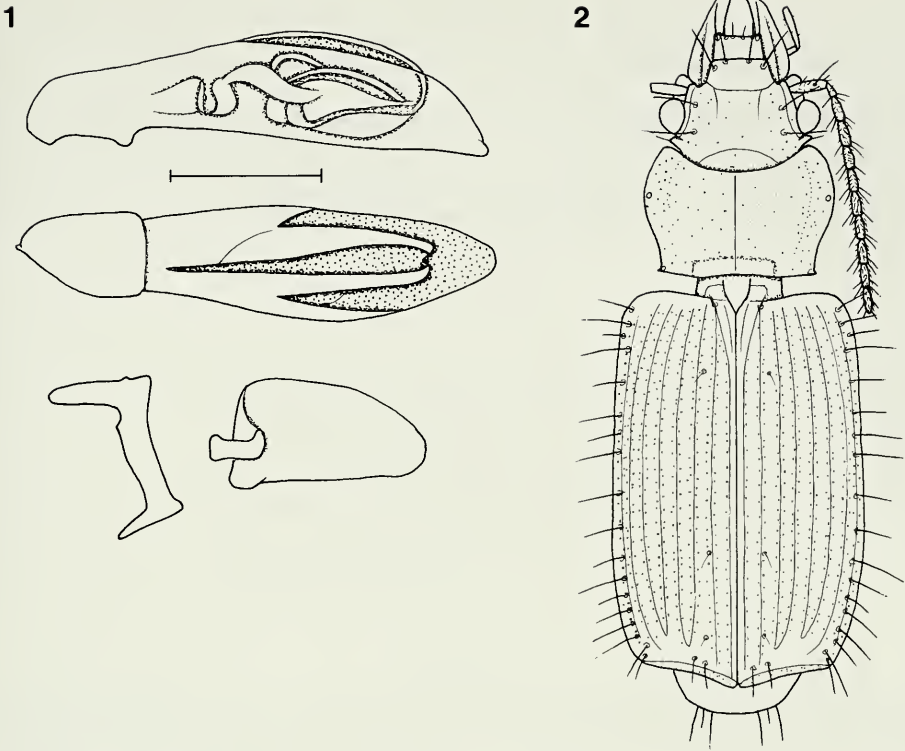


Fig. 1. *Pogonoglossus laevisissimus*, spec. nov. ♂ genitalia. Scale: 0.5 mm.

Fig. 2. *Pogonoglossus laevisissimus*, spec. nov. Habitus. Length: 9.6 mm.

Habits. Largely unknown, though the specimen was presumably collected by sieving bark or litter from beneath fallen logs in rain forest.

Etymology. The name refers to the exceptionally smooth and glossy surface.

Recognition

In the key to the species of *Pogonoglossus* from New Guinea (Darlington 1968, p. 223) *P. laevisissimus* would run to couplet 8. This must be changed as following:

- 8. Gena **behind** eye tuberculate, without a deep furrow between eye and tubercle(s); lateral margin of elytra distinctly serrate and setulose; intervals densely punctulate and setose; colour brownish to piceous, vertex always with light markings 8a.
- Gena **below** eye angulate, with a deep furrow between eye and tubercle; lateral margin of elytra not distinctly serrate, not setulose; intervals very sparsely punctulate, barely setose; colour glossy black, vertex without light markings *laevisissimus*, spec. nov.
- 8a. Length 9.6-11.0 mm *grossulus* Darlington
- Length 7.0-9.0 mm *parvus* Darlington

Note. In the form of the postocular area *P. laevisissimus*, spec. nov. is unlike any known New Guinean species, but rather similar to the Australian *P. porosus* (Sloane) and *P. rufopiceus* Baehr. In the very wide shape of head and pronotum and the glossy, almost impilose surface of the elytra, however, it differs from all known species in the Australian region.

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