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Redescription of the genus *Pseudognypeta* CAMERON (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae: Aleocharinae)

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Abstract: The genus *Pseudognypeta* CAMERON is redefined. Lectotype is designated for *Pseudognypeta picta* CAMERON 1923. One species is given in new combination: *Pseudognypeta salvini* (SHARP 1883) comb.n. (= *Thamiaraea salvini* SHARP 1883). The species are diagnosed, compared and illustrated.

Key words: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Aleocharinae, *Pseudognypeta*, new combinations, taxonomy, Neotropic.

Introduction

The genus *Pseudognypeta* was established by CAMERON (1923) to accommodate the single species *Pseudognypeta picta*. CAMERON erected the new genus emphasizing as distinguishing character the build of mouthparts, the separation of mesocoxa, the different shape of prosternum and mesosternum and the margined genae. Till now, no additional species have been assigned to *Pseudognypeta*.

The type material is deposited in The Natural History Museum in London (BMNH).

Genus *Pseudognypeta* CAMERON 1923 (Figs 1-5, 6, 11)

Pseudognypeta CAMERON 1923: 365.

Type species: *Pseudognypeta picta* CAMERON 1923: 366 (by monotypy).

Diagnosis: Body. Medium sized, length 3.0-3.7 mm. Body slender, parallel-sided, convex, glossy (Figs 6 and 11).

Head. Circular, temples broadly arcuately narrowed to hind angles; eyes strongly protruding from lateral contours of head; head with infraorbital ridge complete to maxillary insertion. Antennae long, strongly increased in width apically, extending to 2 of elytra.

Mouthparts. Maxilla (Fig. 1) with lacinia subequal in length to galea; galea wide, rounded apically, subequal in width to lacinia at widest area; apex of galea with membranous lobe covered by short setae, base of apical lobe with patch of long setae; lacinia with inner margin of spines and long setae; maxillary palpus with 4 articles, article 1 very short, article 2 elongate, slightly widened apically, article 3 distinctly widened apically, slightly longer than article 2, article 4 elongate, about $\frac{3}{4}$ length of article 3.

Labrum (Fig. 4) transverse, narrowly and deeply emarginate apically and with characteristic arrangement of setae. Labium (Fig. 2) with ligula relatively long and broad, about $\frac{3}{4}$ length of labial palpus 1; apex of ligula deeply bifid nearly to base; prementum with moderately long medial setae, insertions of setae almost adjacent; median pseudopore field narrow and more or less linear, lateral pore field with a single setose pore, two aetose pores and about 15 small pseudopores; labial palpi 3-articled, article 1 elongate, parallel-sided, with 4 long setae, article 2 slightly narrower and about 3 times shorter than article 1, article 3 long, about 2 times longer than article 2. Mentum transverse (Fig. 5), widest at base, apical margin weakly concave, anterior angles broadly rounded, 4 long setae on each side present. Mandibles curved towards apex, right mandible (Fig. 3) with small median tooth at middle of inner margin, very weakly serrate in dorsal molar region, "velvety patch" area relatively small, composed of combination of anterior row of teeth and basal area of very fine spinules; condylar molar patch large, composed of numerous rounded lobelike structures.

Thorax. Pronotum quadrate, distinctly convex, glossy, widest in apical third, lateral sides gradually narrowed in straight line to rounded hind angles. Hypomera fully visible in lateral view. Mesocoxae moderately widely separated. Mesoventral process narrowly triangular, rounded at apex, extending to 2 of mesocoxae; metaventral process triangular in outline, broadly rounded at apex, extending to $\frac{1}{2}$ of mesocoxae. Mesocoxal cavities margined posteriorly by fine bead.

Elytra. Quadrate, lateral sides straight, widest before base, postero-lateral angles straight.

Abdomen. Narrowed from base to apex, widest at base, tergites 3-5 weakly transversely impressed at base, impressions smooth, impunctate, sternites 3-5 not impressed at base. Legs elongate, metatarsus long, exceeding to $\frac{3}{4}$ of metatibia; basal article of metatarsus short, shorter than article 2, articles 2-4 subequal in length, article 5 elongate, longer than articles 2-4 combined; tarsal formula 4-5-5.

***Pseudognypeta picta* CAMERON 1923 (Figs 6-10)**

Pseudognypeta picta CAMERON 1923: 366.

Type material: Lectotype: ♀: Jamaica, Dr. Cameron (BMNH)(present designation).
Paralectotype: ♀: W. Indies, Jamaica (BMNH).

Additional material: Jamaica, Dr Cameron, 2♂♂ (BMNH).

Redescription: Body. Length 3.0-3.4 mm, convex, parallel-sided, glossy (Fig. 6); body colour dark brown, pronotal base yellow, abdomen black, tergites 3-4 yellow with black spot at middle, legs yellow, antennae brown with antennomeres 1-4 and apical half of antennomere 11 yellow.

Head circular in outline, convex, glossy, narrower than pronotum, widest across eyes; eyes large, strongly protruding from lateral contours of head, length of each seen from above longer than postocular region; surface of head with distinct isodiametric mesh microsculpture; punctuation relatively coarse and sparse; pubescence short and sparse, directed inward. Antennae long, clearly increase in width apically, antennomeres 2 and 3 subequal in length, antennomeres 4-5 longer than wide, antennomeres 6-7 as long as wide, antennomeres 8-10 transverse, antennomere 10 about 2 times wider than long.

Pronotum quadrate, moderately convex, glossy, widest in apical third, lateral sides gradually narrowed in straight line to rounded hind angles; before base without transverse impression, surface with fine isodiametric mesh microsculpture; punctuation relatively coarse and moderately sparse; pubescence at midline directed posteriorly.

Elytra subquadrate, slightly wider than pronotum, at suture as long as pronotal length at midline; surface with fine transversely stretched isodiametric mesh microsculpture; punctuation coarse and dense, interstices between punctures smaller than their diameter, pubescence short and dense.

Abdomen narrowed from base to apex, bases of tergites 3-5 each with shallow transverse impression, impressions smooth, inpunctate, tergal punctuation minute, pinprick-like and very sparse, surface of tergites with fine microsculpture composed of transverse line.

Male. Aedeagus as in Figs 7-8; tergite 8 as in Fig. 10.

Female. Spermatheca as in Fig. 9.

Remarks. *Pseudognypeta picta* is very similar to *P. salvini* (SHARP 1883), from which it can be easily distinguished by the pronotum dark brown with yellow base, the bicoloured antennomere 11, the uniformly coloured elytra and by the shape of aedeagus.

***Pseudognypeta salvini* (SHARP 1883) nov.comb. (Figs 11-15)**

Thamiaraea salvini SHARP 1883: 197.

Type material: Lectotype: ♀: Panama, Volcan de Chiriqui, 3000-4000 ft., Champion (BMNH). Paralectotype: ♀: same data as lectotype (BMNH).

Additional material: Costa Rica, Carpintera, 18.VI.1939, ♂ and ♀ (BMNH).

Redescription: Body. Length 3.6-3.7 mm, convex, parallel-sided, glossy (Fig. 11); body colour pitchy brown, elytra reddish-brown, its lateral and posterior parts black, shoulders yellow, abdomen black, tergites 3-4 yellow with black spot at middle, legs yellow, antennae brown with antennomeres 1-3 yellow.

Head circular in outline, convex, glossy, narrower than pronotum, widest across eyes; eyes large, strongly protruding from lateral contours of head, length of each seen from above longer than postocular region; surface of head with distinct isodiametric mesh microsculpture; punctuation relatively coarse and sparse; pubescence short and sparse, directed inward. Antennae long, clearly increase in width apically, antennomeres 2 and 3 subequal in length, antennomere 4 longer than wide, antennomeres 5-6 as long as wide, antennomeres 7-10 transverse, antennomere 10 about 1.5 times wider than long.

Pronotum quadrate, moderately convex, glossy, widest in apical third, lateral sides gradually narrowed in straight line to rounded hind angles; before base without transverse impression, surface with fine isodiametric mesh microsculpture; punctuation fine and dense; pubescence at midline directed posteriorly.

Elytra subquadrate, slightly wider than pronotum, at suture as long as pronotal length at midline; surface lacking microsculpture; punctuation relatively coarse and dense, interstices between punctures smaller than their diameter, pubescence short and dense.

Abdomen narrowed from base to apex, bases of tergites 3-5 each with shallow transverse impression, impressions smooth, inpunctate, tergal punctuation minute, pinprick-like and very sparse, surface of tergites with fine microsculpture composed of transverse line.

Male. Aedeagus as in Figs 12-13; tergite 8 as in Fig. 15.

Female. Spermatheca as in Fig. 14.

R e m a r k s : See under *Pseudognypeta picta*.

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I am most grateful to Martin Brendell and Roger Booth (London) for making material described herein available for study. I am indebted also to Alfred F. Newton Jr. (Chicago) for information about *Thamiaraea salvini* as possible member of the genus *Pseudognypeta*.

Zusammenfassung

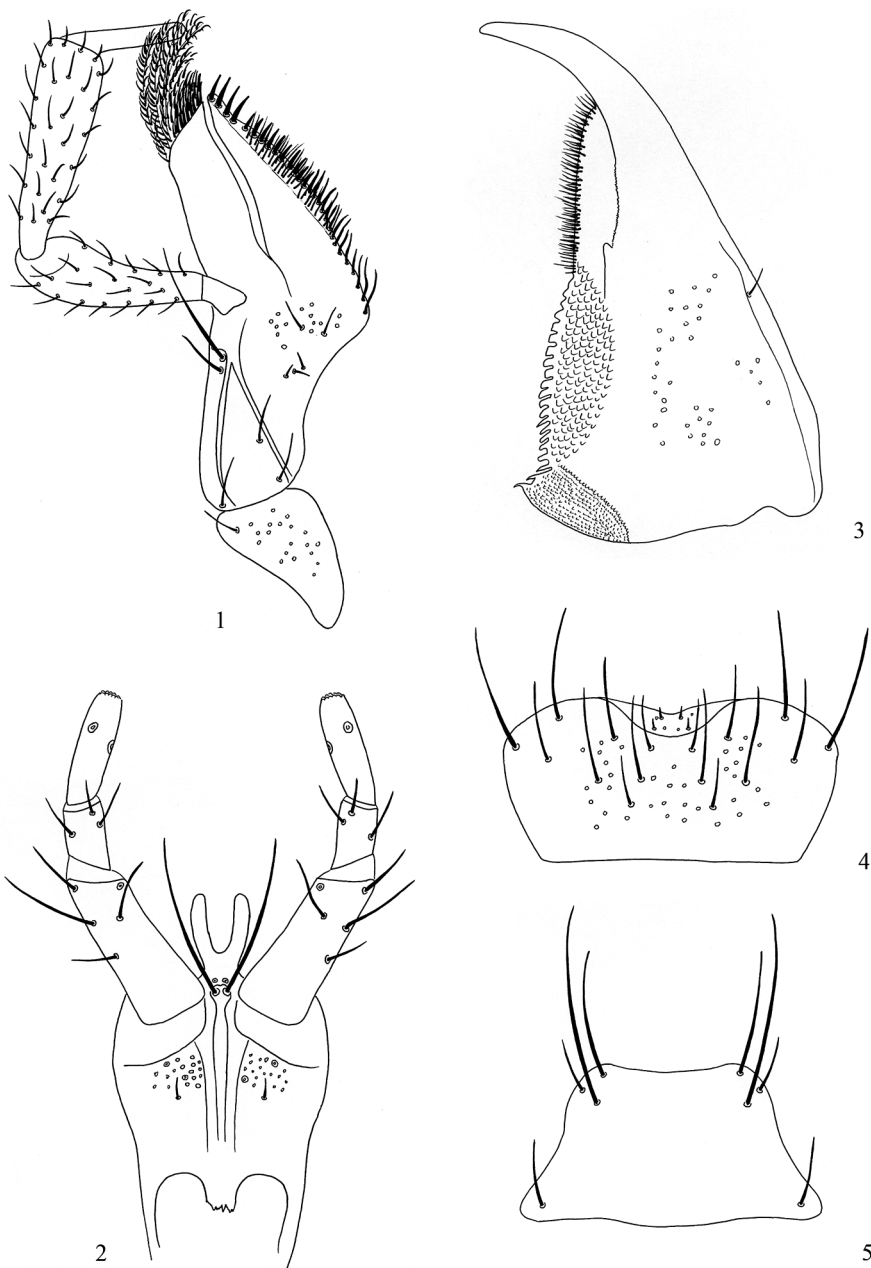
Die Gattung *Pseudognypeta* CAMERON wurde neu definiert. Lectotyp wurde für *Pseudognypeta picta* CAMERON 1923 festgelegt. Eine Art wurde neu kombiniert: *Pseudognypeta salvini* (SHARP 1883) comb.n. (= *Thamiaraea salvini* SHARP 1883). Die Arten wurden besprochen, illustriert und mit verwandten Arten verglichen.

References

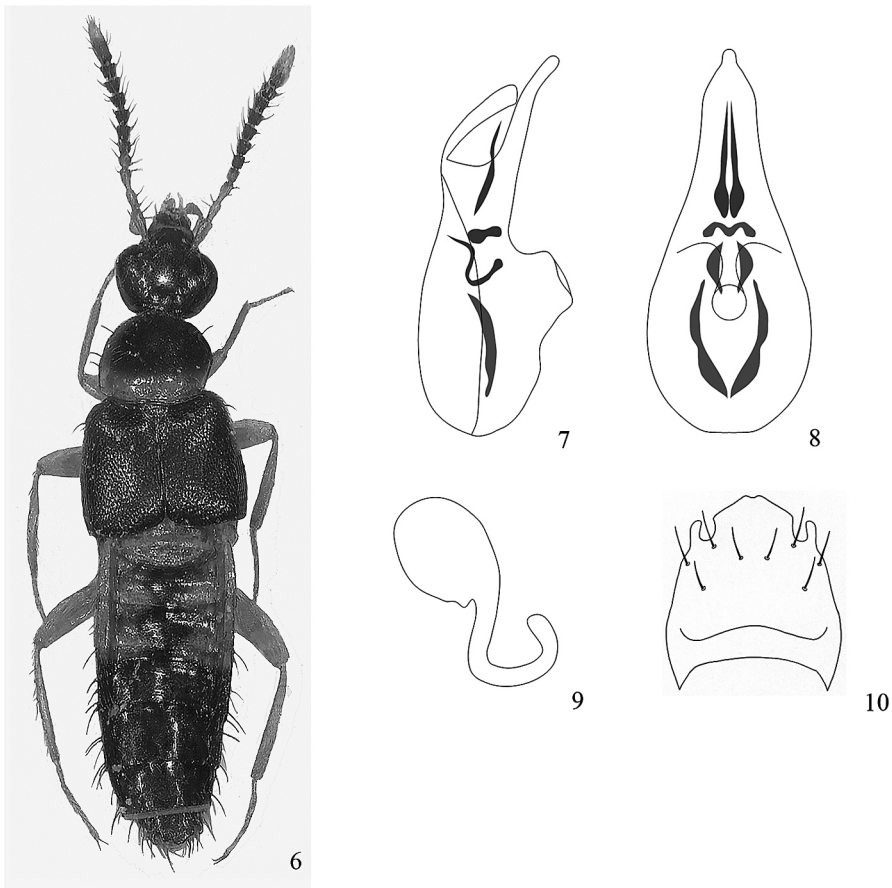
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Author's address:

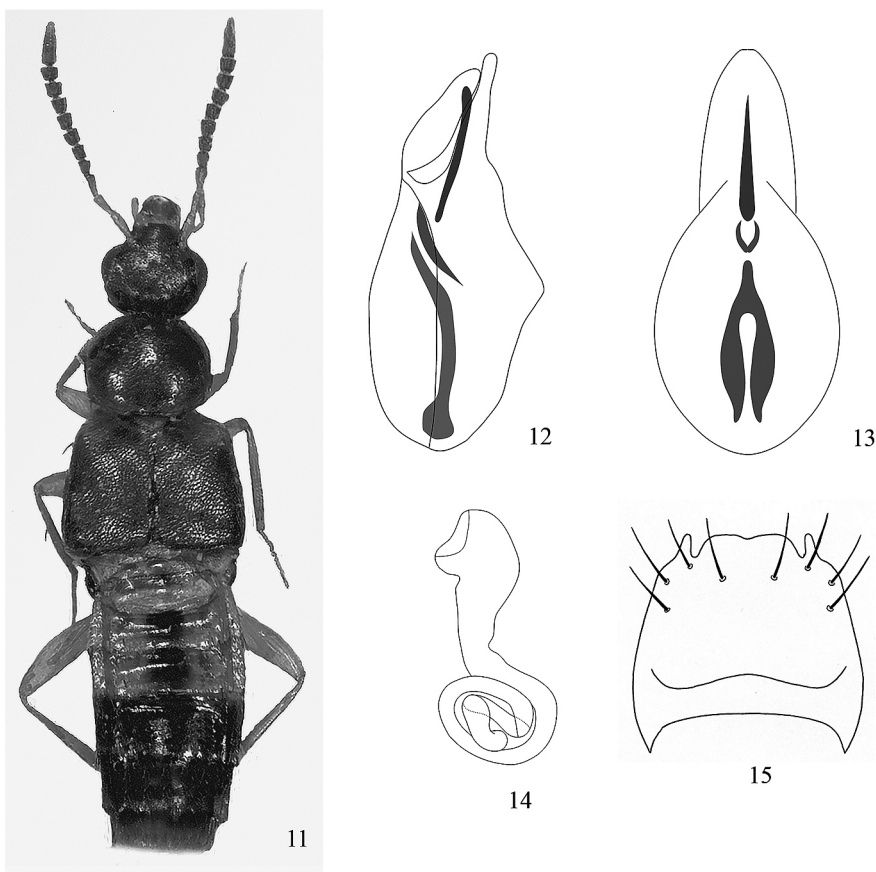
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Figs 1-5. *Pseudognypeta picta* CAMERON: (1) maxilla; (2) labium; (3) right mandible; (4) labrum; (5) mentum.



Figs 6-10. *Pseudognypeta picta* CAMERON: (6) habitus; (7) aedeagus in lateral view; (8) aedeagus in ventral view; (9) male tergite VIII; (10) spermatheca.



Figs 11-15. *Pseudognypeta salvini* (SHARP): (11) habitus; (12) aedeagus in lateral view; (13) aedeagus in ventral view; (14) male tergite VIII; (15) spermatheca.

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