

Orochlesis in the Solomon Islands (Coleoptera, Curculionidae)

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Heretofore, the cryptorhynchine genus *Orochlesis* Pascoe, 1873, has not been recorded from the Solomon Islands. In my review of the genus (Bishop Museum, Occasional Papers, vol. 12, no. 1, 1936), I listed 16 species distributed from the Malay Peninsula to the Society Islands. In a later paper (*Orochlesis* of Fiji, Bishop Museum, Occasional Papers, vol. 12, no. 22, 1936), I added four new species to the Fijian fauna to make a total of seven species from Fiji. Three species have been recorded from islands adjacent to Papua, but none have been described from the mainland; neither has the genus been found in New Caledonia nor the New Hebrides. Numerous species undoubtedly occur in those regions, however. The finding of the genus in the Solomon Islands reduces a geographical gap of almost 2,000 miles by approximately half. We may safely assume that the genus has a continuous distribution from Malaya to eastern Oceania.

The specimens representing the new species herein described were sent to me from the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard College through the cooperation of Mr. P. J. Darlington.

***Orochlesis conspersa*, new species.**

Derm black, moderately shiny, with the antennae and tarsi reddish-brown; densely clothed above with black scales interspersed with patches of brown, pale brown and white scales; scaling on the head dusky with a slight iridescent tinge and with a few scattered white setae on the crown and a line of pale setae along the inner margin of each eye; pronotum with pale brown to white scales interspersed with black scales and setae, the pale scales distinctly predominating, with a basal patch of dark or black scales before the second and third elytral intervals; scaling on the elytra basically very dark brown or black, but tessellated with many patches of pale brown scales; each elytron with the scales of the posterior callus white, making a small but conspicuous white spot, the second or second and third usually with a distinct, variable, pale area of either very pale or white scales at about the middle, the fourth interval with a patch of white scales just before the middle in front of the pale patch on the second and third intervals, all of these pale patches distinct and noticeable to the unaided eyes, the median patch on the second and third intervals the most indefinite, scaling on the legs similar to that on the head, picked out with white, elongate, squamiform setae; scaling below pale to dusky.

Head coarsely, densely, reticulately punctured on the crown and interocular area, each puncture bearing an oval scale or slanting, subsquamiform seta; interocular area only one half as broad as the base of the rostrum, straightly expanding from the top of the eyes distally. *Rostrum* very coarsely punctured as the interocular area to about half way between the eyes and the

antennae, thence shiny and minutely punctate to the apex. Antennae with the scape as long as the first three funicular segments; first funicular segment slightly shorter and not broader than the second which is as long as three to five inclusive, segments three to seven successively slightly shorter and broader; club as long as the preceding five segments, in clean specimens very densely clothed with short white or grey pile and sharply contrasting in color with the shiny, reddish funiculus. *Prothorax* about three fifths as long as broad, strongly rounded on the sides from the bisinuate base to about the apical fourth and there slightly constricted, the subapical constriction continuing deeply and conspicuously across the dorsum which is otherwise strongly convex; coarsely and densely punctate, the interstices of the discal punctures about half as broad as the diameters of the punctures, each puncture bearing and capped by a large round scale or stout, subsquamiform, anteriorly inclined, prostrate seta, the scales three or four times as large as those of the elytra and but slightly imbricated but almost completely concealing the derm; the setae condensed in a small patch on either side of the median line at the apex. *Scutellum* bare, shiny, convex. *Elytra* slightly more than two thirds as broad as long, two and one-half times as long as the prothorax; base very slightly concave on either side of the scutellar emargination, subparallel-sided from the base to about the middle, thence broadly arcuate to the rather pointed, but obtuse, apex, strongly convex, strongly gibbous in longitudinal dorsal outline, highest at one third from the base; striae squamose and but slightly impressed between the punctures which are large, deep, round and conspicuous; intervals broader than the strial punctures, flat, densely squamose, each bearing a row of posteriorly inclined black or white setae usually borne from low, polished tubercles. *Legs* with the femora edentate, densely squamose, coarsely and densely punctate; tibiae strongly flattened, the fore pair distinctly concave along the posterior face and finely, longitudinally carinate along the lower edge of the anterior face; first tarsal segment as long as two plus three, second one third longer than broad, as long as the third which is slightly broader than long and three fifths as long as the fourth. *Sternum* with the walls of the mesosternal receptacle rather flattened and on the same plane as the metasternum, not produced below it; metasternum closely set with large, coarse, round deep punctures, almost or quite as long as a metacoxal cavity at its narrowest point between the mid and hind coxae. *Venter* with all the ventrites squamose and setose, but not densely so, the first ventrite with rather coarse punctures at the base, smaller and less conspicuous caudad, the other ventrites shallowly and finely punctate but with the fifth somewhat more coarsely punctate than the second. Length, 3-7 mm.; breadth, 2.25-4 mm.

Solomon Islands: Holotype male, and two paratypes to be deposited in the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Cambridge, and two paratypes stored in Bernice P. Bishop Museum. All the specimens were collected by Dr. W. M. Mann, and unfortunately labeled only "Solomon Isl." with no additional data as to locality.

The holotype is a male with its aedeagus protruding, and although the female sex seems to be represented in the series, I am not certain of my diagnosis and have, therefore, not designated a female allotype.

This species is closely allied to the Fijian *Orochlesis eluta* Zimmerman, but on this species the walls of the mesosternal receptacle are on a continuous plane with the metasternum and not at all produced below it as they are in *O. eluta*. The strial punctures on this species are larger and more conspicuous than those of *O. eluta*.