

## Note on the distribution of the genus *Aerogrammus* Bates, 1875 in Asia (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae: Prioninae)

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### Abstract

The occurrence of the species *Aerogrammus procerus* (Pascoe, 1866) in Thailand and Vietnam is reported for the first time. The distribution of the species is studied based on recent records and an updated distribution map for this species is provided. The range of the species *A. procerus* is thereby extended in the Southeastern Asia region.

**Key words:** Coleoptera, Cerambycidae, Prioninae, *Aerogrammus*, *A. procerus*, Asia, Thailand, Vietnam, new country records

### Introduction

The monotypic genus *Aerogrammus* was established by Bates (1875) to include a very peculiar species *Aerogrammus rufus*, described in the same work and collected in the interior of northwestern Borneo. This data was also mentioned by Lansberge (1884). However, Lameere (1909) later regarded this species as a junior synonym of *Megopis procera*, a species described by Pascoe (1866) from Penang, Malaysia, but considered the genus *Aerogrammus* as valid. Later, Lameere (1913 & 1919) regarded *Aerogrammus* rather as a subgenus of the genus *Megopis* Audinet-Serville, 1832. This taxonomic position was restored by Gressitt (1970) who reported the species *procerus* for the first time from Laos (Pakkading area).

The genus *Aerogrammus* was recently revised by Komiya (2004) and restored as a full genus. In that revision, a second species, *A. hefferni*, was described from West Sumatra Island but was later transferred to the genus *Nepiodes* Pascoe, 1867 by Komiya & Drumont (2010). The genus currently includes only one species, *A. procerus* (Pascoe, 1866), which is characterized by the following features: body elongated, cylindrical, with integument dark or bright tea-red; elytra deeply punctured,

glabrous, smooth and shiny on yellowish costae, male with antennae hairfringed (Komiya, 2004) (Figures 1 & 2).

Despite these easily recognizable characters, *A. procerus* has been rarely collected since the time of its description and to our knowledge, less than 20 exemplars have been reported until now. New collection data for this species has provided a better understanding of its distribution in South-east Asia.

Recently, specimens have been collected by light trapping in Vietnam and we also had the opportunity to study a female collected in Thailand. These data represent the first records of the species for these two countries and surprisingly widens the distribution of *A. procerus* in Asia.

The detailed collection data, an updated distribution map for *A. procerus* and photographs of a pair from Vietnam are provided.

### Material and collections examined

Collections and institutions or museums shown in the text are abbreviated as follows :

ADC	Collection of Alain Drumont, Brussels, Belgium
IEBR-DIS	Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources, Department of Insect Systematics, Hanoi, Vietnam
NHRS	Swedish Museum of Natural History, Stockholm, Sweden
RBINS	Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels, Belgium
ZKC	Collection of Ziro Komiya, Tokyo, Japan

**Specimens examined. Vietnam:** 1♂, Quang Nam province, Chaval, Nam Giang, 27.IV.2005, light trap, Ce. 0418 (IEBR-DIS); 1♂, same locality, Khe Giua, 25.IV.2005, light trap, Ce. 0419 (RBINS); 1♀, same locality, LaboB, 25.IV.2005, light trap, Ce. 0420 (IEBR-DIS); 1♀, Thua Thien Hue province, A Luoi, A Roang, Tra Lenh, 700 m., 3.V.2005, light trap, Ce. 0421 (RBINS); 1♂, same locality, 29.V.2006, light trap, Ce. 0468 (IEBR-DIS); 1♂1♀, Thua Thien-Hue province, A Luoi, VII-2009, leg. local collector (ZKC); 1♀, Quang Ngai prov., Ba Nam, 3.VI.2011, leg. local collector (ADC). **Myanmar:** 1♀, Tenasserim, 3.IV.1996 (ADC). **Thailand (West):** 1♀, Khao Laem Dam, 1.V.1993 (ADC). **East Malaysia:** 1♂, Sabah state, IV.1993 (ADC); 1♀, Sabah state, Tawau, Maliau Basin, Maliau Basin Studies Centre, 04°44'09.9"N-116°58'27.3"E, 253 m.a.o., 06.XII.2007, 160W Mercury-vapour globe, Field#VKBS-2007-09. FRC Export Permit: JPHTN/PPP/EN: 100-44/1/3(106), B. Viklund & N. Jönsson leg. (NHRS).

## Results and discussion

A distribution map with all known collecting data for *A. procerus* is presented in Figure 3.

The occurrence of this species in Thailand (in one locality) and in Vietnam (in three different localities and provinces) represents new data for the species, though not very surprising as *A. procerus* was already known from adjacent regions. However, these new records extend the geographic range of *A. procerus* and confirms that the species is rather well distributed in the southeast Asia region. Therefore, the updated distribution of *A. procerus* may be summarized as follows: Borneo Island (North-Western part by Bates, 1875, Sabah state of East Malaysia by Komiya, 2004); Laos (Gressitt, 1970); Myanmar (Komiya, 2004); Thailand (new record); Vietnam (new record) and West Malaysia (Pascoe, 1866).



**Figures 1–2.** *Aerogrammus procerus* (Pascoe, 1866), habitus, dorsal view. 1. male, 32 mm. (Vietnam, Quang Nam province, Nam Giang, Chaval, in RBINS). 2. female, 34 mm. (Vietnam, Thua Thien Hue province, A Luoi, A Roang in RBINS) (Figures by N. Mal).



**Figure 3.** Distribution map for *A. procerus* in South-Eastern Asia (map realized by J.-P. Saltin).

Based on the records of *A. procerus* we have presented here, it appears that the species exhibits a habitat preference for the tropical rainforests of Asia. These forests stretch from India and Burma in the west to Malaysia and the islands of Java and Borneo in the east, reaching Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam in the north. Southeast Asia's rainforests are some of the oldest in the world but the human population pressures have dramatically decreased the original forest to scattered fragments (Wikipedia, I. 2013).

The locality of Chaval in Vietnam, one of the three spots where *A. procerus* has been collected in this country, belongs to the Song Thanh Nature Reserve located in a mountainous area. The Song Thanh Nature Reserve is the largest Vietnamese protected area in the Greater Annamites and home to a vast diversity of both flora and fauna. This, coupled with the large tracts of relatively intact forest, make Song Thanh a vital haven for many species that require such large, remote areas.

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