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Description of a new species of *Maronius* Gorham, 1881 from Ecuador (Coleoptera, Cantharidae)

by Robert Constantin

Abstract. *Maronius papallactae* sp.nov., a new species from Papallacta (Napo province) is described, with illustration of the habitus, of the last abdominal segments and of the genitalia. Judging by pattern, it is close to *Maronius nigerrimus* Brancucci, 1981, from Peru.

Key words. Coleoptera – Cantharidae – *Maronius* – new species – Ecuador

Introduction

Knowledge of the Cantharidae of Ecuador is somewhat limited. The last published world catalogue (DELKESKAMP 1977) recognizes citations of 49 species in Ecuador, most of which, if not all, are known only by their original descriptions. Dr. W. Wittmer added two new species of *Plectonotum* Gorham, 1892. A notable exception is the tribe Chauliognathini, the brachelytral genera of which – *Belotus* Gorham, 1881, *Lobetus* Kiesenwetter, 1852, *Maronius* Gorham, 1881, *Maroniodes* Brancucci, 1981, *Micromalthinus* Pic, 1919, *Paramaronius* Wittmer, 1963, and *Pseudolobetus* Champion 1915 – have had the benefit of progressive revision by Dr. Michel Brancucci between 1979 and 1982. The genus *Maronius* was defined by GORHAM (1881), relying on the external characters of the antennae, palpi and pronotum. The definition and revision given by BRANCUCCI (1981) includes 15 species distributed between Mexico and Argentina.

My personal surveys of the Ecuadorian Cantharidae has brought to light a series of a new *Maronius*, here described as new.

Material and Methods

The taxonomic study benefited from examination of type materials held in the Musée national d’Histoire naturelle, Paris and the Naturhistorische Museum Basel.

Abbreviations of institutions in which the material is deposited:

MNHN Muséum national d’Histoire naturelle, Paris
NHMB Naturhistorische Museum Basel
QCAZ Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador, Museo de Zoología, Quito
RCC Robert Constantin collection, Saint-Lô

The anatomical terms employed below follow BRANCUCCI (1980, 1981).

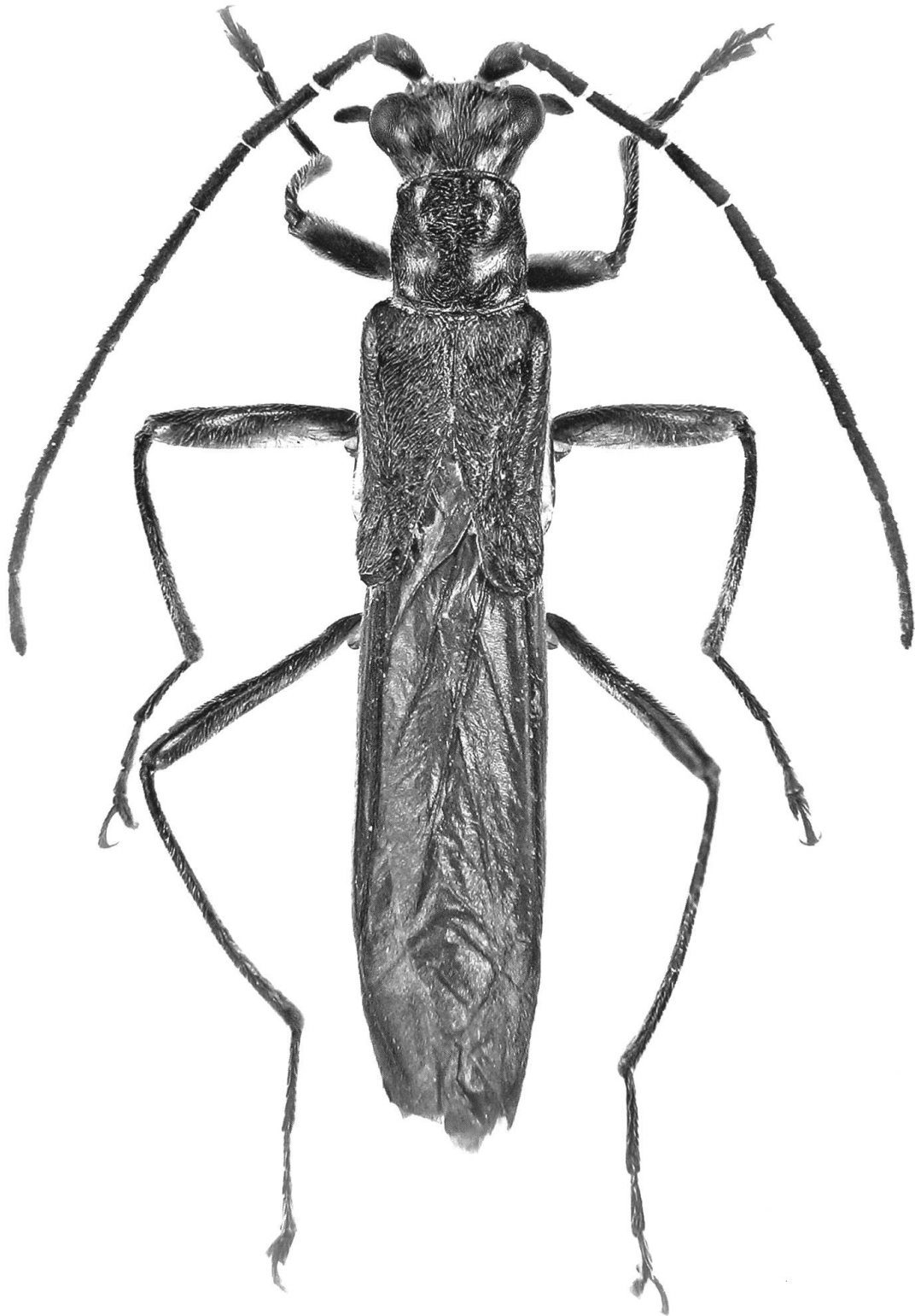


Fig. 1. *Maronius papallactae* sp.nov.: habitus.

Taxonomy

Maronius papallactae sp.nov.

Type material. Holotype ♂: "ECUADOR, prov. NAPO, Papallacta 7 km east, mountain forest, 0°22'S, 78°04'W, 2730 m, 22.XI.2006, R. Constantin".

Paratypes: 3 ♂ 4 ♀ "ECUADOR, prov. NAPO, Papallacta 7 km east, mountain forest, 0°22'S, 78°04'W, 2730 m, 22.XI.2006, R. Constantin"; – 3 ♂ 3 ♀ "ECUADOR, prov. NAPO, Papallacta 7 km east, mountain forest, 0°22'S, 78°04'W, 2730 m, 21.XI.2006, R. Constantin"; – 1 ♂ 1 ♀ "ECUADOR, prov. NAPO, Papallacta 7 km east, mountain forest, 0°22'S, 78°04'W, 2730 m, 23.XI.2006, R. Constantin"; – 1 ♀ "ECUADOR, prov. NAPO, Papallacta 3 km east, forest edge, 0°22'S, 78°07'W, 2933 m, 21.XI.2006, R. Constantin"; – 3 ♀ "ECUADOR, prov. NAPO, Papallacta 6 km east, forest edge, 0°22'28"S, 78°04'40"W, 2755 m, 3.XII.2007, R. Constantin". The holotype and one paratype deposited in NMMB, two paratypes deposited in QCAZ collections, two paratypes deposited in MNHN, remainder in RCC.

Description. Male: Body black, with the exception of the mandibles, the ventral side of the antennae, the base of the palpi, a minute surface on the basal corners of the pronotum, the coxae and trochanter, the ventral side of the front and intermediate femorae, the lateral and apical edges of the first sternites, the entire last two sternites, all yellow to fulvous.

Female: Body darker, antennae and legs pitchy-brown, abdomen reddish-brown, last abdominal segment yellow.

Holotype male: Head lustrous. Frons strongly depressed beyond the antennae, covered with a very thin, pale pubescence. Eyes strongly prominent. Interocular space slightly wider than the maximum eye length. Antenna long, very thin, reaching the middle of the abdomen. Antennal joint I moderately inflated, II very short and small, III–XI elongate, II–IX with longer, erect, brown setae, VII and VIII each 6 times longer than wide. Temples long, narrowing towards the base.

Pronotum 1.03 times longer than wide. Apical side regularly rounded. Basal edge strongly rounded. Lateral side widest at centre. Basal edge and basal part of lateral edges bordered. Apical corners feebly prominent. Discal surface lustrous, with some long, thin, adpressed, yellowish setae.

Elytrae short and straightened 1.6 times longer than wide together, regularly narrowing from their base to the apex. The apical quarter of each elytra showing a slightly convex, smooth, brownish surface covered with thinner setae.

Abdomen segments with paired glandular openings at the apical corner of each segment, the pair on tergite VIII slightly prominent. Tergite VIII symmetrical, apical edge strongly emarginate, tergite IX elongated on the right side, sternite VIII apically deeply emarginate, sternite IX asymmetrical, obliquely bent on the right side (Fig. 4). Aedeagus with an inflated, drum-shaped tegmen bearing two apical expansions: large setigerous process on the right side and a minute process on the left side (Fig. 3). Dorsal face of tegmen with two asymmetrical parameres at the base of the median lobe (Fig. 2).

Dimensions (holotype): total length (TL) = 7.8 mm; antennal length (AL) = 5.9 mm; head width (HW) = 1.23 mm; interocular width (IOW) = 0.65 mm; eye length (OL) = 0.55 mm; pronotum length (PL) = 1.04 mm; pronotum width (PW) = 10.2 mm; elytra length from humerus to apex (EL) = 2.07 mm; elytrae width together at the base (EW) = 1.33 mm; metathoracic wing length, folded (MWL) = 5.9 mm.

Other male paratypes: Length = 7.2–8.6 mm, mean 8 mm.

Paratype females: Differ from the male in body black, shorter antennae, less prominent eyes with wider frons, abdomen with tergite VIII simple, feebly emarginate (Fig. 5), sternite VIII emarginate-sinuate (Fig. 6). Coxites and stylus long with elongate basal struts (Fig. 7).

Dimensions, first female paratype: TL = 8.6 mm; AL = 5.8 mm; HW = 1.27 mm; IOW = 0.74 mm; OL = 0.49 mm; PL = 1.14 mm; PW = 1.06 mm; EL = 2.19 mm; EW = 1.53 mm; MWL = 6.8 mm. Other female paratypes: Length = 8.3–9.3 mm, mean 8.8 mm.

Differential diagnosis. See Discussion.

Notes on the habitat of adults. The present material was collected by beating the forest edge alongside the road from Quito to Baeza, 3 to 7 km east of Papallacta village. The vegetation consists of secondary forest of mixed trees, on the border of a clearing felled for the laying of an oil pipeline. Lycidae and Cantharidae were common on the edges near the moistest places.

Discussion

Membership of *Maronius* is given (BRANCUCCI, 1981) by the depressed head, the square-shaped pronotum, the shortened and straightened elytrae, and the setiferous process of the tegmen.

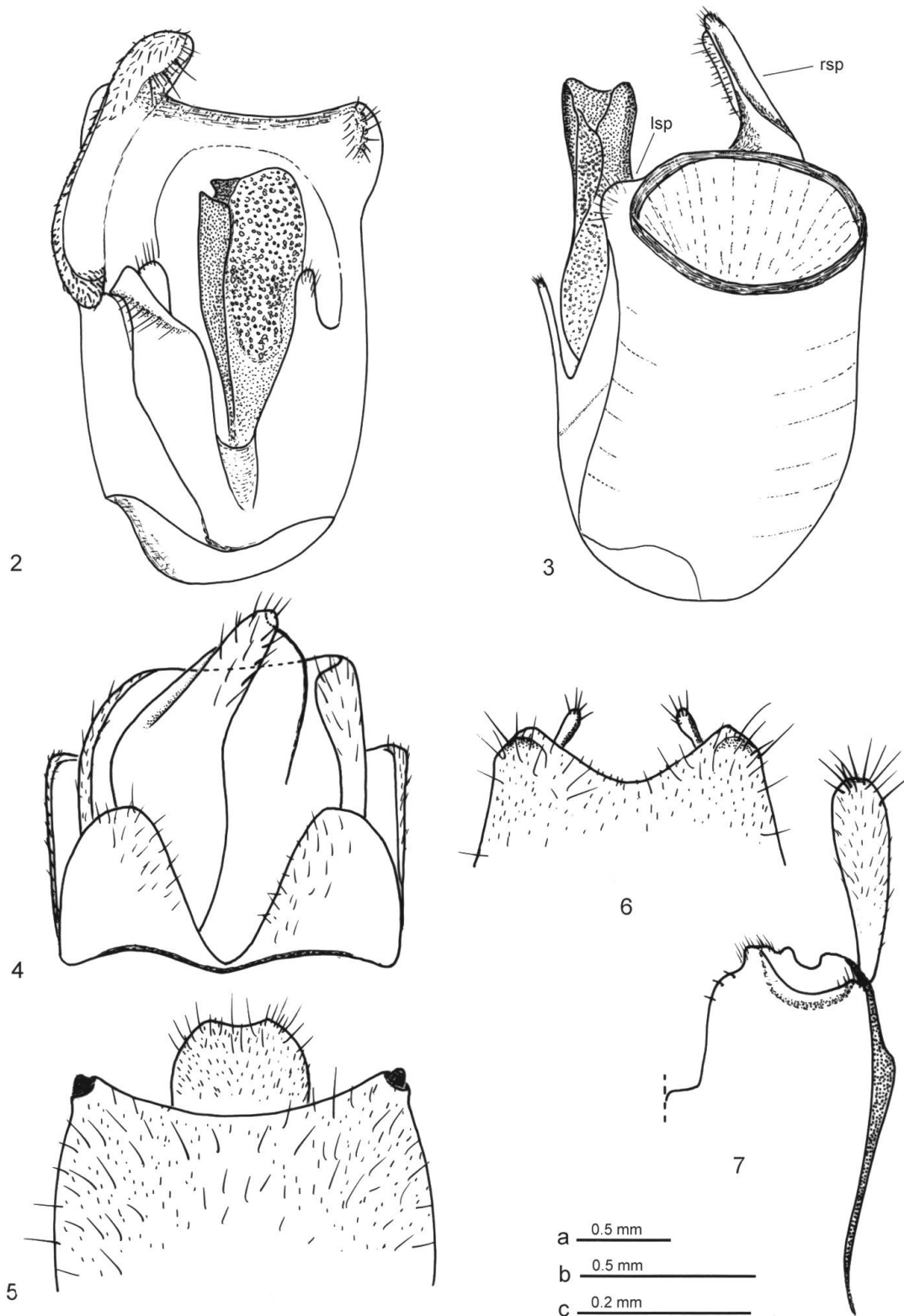
A unique member of *Maronius* in Ecuador is *Maronius atricollis* Pic, 1955, collected in 1894 by Marc Hue de Mathan between Baños and Canelos (Tungurahua province), a species easily recognized by the more transverse pronotum, a red spot on the elytral apex, and a different tegmen, with long parameres. The type was available in the collection of Maurice Pic, MNHN.

The only species with a black pattern and elongate pronotum is *Maronius nigerrimus* Brancucci, 1981, described from a unique male from an undefined Peruvian locality, a species with a different genitalia and tegmen with a developed right apical process. The holotype was available in the general collection of the NHMB.

Some affinities are given by the peculiar female coxite, near that of *Maronius longicollis* Champion, 1915, a species with yellow elytrae, described from the Chiriqui volcano in Panama.

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Figs 2–7. *Maronius papallactae* sp.nov.: 2 – aedeagus, dorsal view; 3 – aedeagus, ventral view; 4 – tergites VIII–IX, sternites VIII–IX, male, ventral view; 5 – tergites VIII–IX, female, dorsal view; 6 – sternite VIII, female, ventral view; 7 – right gonocoxite and stylus, ventral view. (rsp: right setigerous process, lsp: left setigerous process; scale a: Figs 2–3, scale b: Figs 4–6, scale c: Fig.7.)

Resumen

Se describe *Maronius papallactae* sp.nov. a partir de ejemplares procedentes de Papallacta (provincia de Napo), se ilustra con la fotografía del adulto, los dibujos de los últimos segmentos abdominales, de la genitalia masculina y femina. Se separa con el próximo *Maronius nigerrimus* Brancucci, 1981, procedente de Perú.

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