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Studies on the Prionoceridae (Coleoptera, Cleroidea)
I. A new species of *Prionocerus* Perty, 1831 from Sumatra

by **Michael Geiser**

Abstract. A new species of *Prionocerus* Perty, 1831, *P. viridiflavus* sp.nov., is described from Sumatra, Indonesia. It is distinguished from two known species of the genus, *P. bicolor* Redtenbacher, 1868 and *P. coeruleipennis* Perty, 1831, by far more extensive pubescence on the pronotum, elytra slightly narrowed in their middle part, a different form of the aedeagus, and a completely different coloration, including a yellow humeral macula and a dark greenish pronotum.

Key words. Coleoptera – Prionoceridae – taxonomy – Indonesia – new species

Introduction

The family Prionoceridae is a very poorly known group within the Cleroidea. It has sometimes been included in the Melyridae at the rank of a subfamily. There are currently more than 150 described species, in the three genera *Lobonyx* Jacquelin du Val, 1859, *Prionocerus* Perty, 1831 and *Idgia* Castelnau, 1836. While *Lobonyx* is a genus of the southern Palaearctic region, the genera *Prionocerus* and *Idgia* are almost entirely Palaeotropical. The last revision of these two genera was carried out by CHAMPION (1919), but this included only species represented in the collections and museums of Great Britain and omitted most of the species described by Pic as well as those included by German and Austrian authors. In the genus *Prionocerus* (distinguished from *Idgia* only by serrate antennae in both sexes), only two species are known: *P. coeruleipennis* Perty, 1831 and *P. bicolor* Redtenbacher, 1868. Both species are very common and widespread in the Oriental region. *P. coeruleipennis* also occurs in eastern Africa.

Material and methods

Three specimen were examined, all part of the Naturhistorisches Museum Basel (NHMB) collection. Two of the specimens (the holotype and the male paratype) were formerly part of the private collection of Karel Majer, Brno, Czech Republic, later acquired by the Basel Museum. Specimens of the two other species of *Prionocerus* described were also examined, as well as the two "variations" described by Pic. A photograph of the types of these "variations", which are deposited in the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, was used to identify further specimens in the NHMB collection.

The total body length is measured from the apex of the elytra to the apex of labrum.

Prionocerus viridiflavus sp.nov.

Type material. Holotype male: "W Sumatra, V.1995, Pagakum tuh env. 1000–2000 m, S. Jakl lgt.". Paratypes: 1♀: "Nord Sumatra, Sitahoan/ Tobasee 1450 m, 1.1.1982, Dr. Diehl leg." 1♂: "W Sumatra, Bukittingi, VI.–VII.1995, S. Jakl lgt.".

All types are deposited in NHMB. The holotype is lacking segments 4–5 of the left fore-tarsus, while one of the lateral lobes of the aedeagus in the male paratype is broken but present.

Description. Body elongate, distinctly narrower than in other known species of the genus, dark green, lustrous, with the shoulder of the elytra and the last 3 antennal segments yellow to orange. Legs, maxillary and labial palpi, most of the antennae, and under surface of the body lustrous, greenish-black. Segments 9–11 of the antennae, as well as the outer margins of segment 8 and the outer edge of segment 7, yellowish to orange; segments 2 and 3 brownish on their ventral surface. Head, pronotum and scutellum dark metallic green, lustrous. Elytra mostly lustrous metallic dark green, except for an almost triangular humeral macula of the same colour as the apical antennomeres; this starts at the scutellum and includes the humeral portion of the elytra, almost reaching, but not including, the outer margin. Tarsal claws reddish-brown.

Head similar in shape to that of other species of *Prionocerus*, but eyes slightly less protruding and slightly more broadly separated, but of the same shape. Clypeus distinctly convex. Labrum almost rectangular, its ratio (width : length) about 1 : 0.7–0.8 (about 1 : 0.9 in *P. coeruleipennis* and *P. bicolor*).

Pronotum slightly longer than broad, loosely covered with long, greyish pubescence. Finely and sparsely punctate; narrowly marginate at base. With a large but very shallow depression on both sides, and with another concavity, but much smaller and weakly visible, at the middle of the basal part, before the scutellum. Scutellum almost semicircular, as in the other species of *Prionocerus*. Finely and rather sparsely punctate.

Elytra (Fig. 1) very elongate, widest in basal part, then slightly narrowed, dilated again in the apical quarter. Apex rounded. Outer margins very distinctly crenulate, much stronger than in the other species of *Prionocerus*. Dorsal surface finely and densely granulate, sparsely pubescent with rather long, golden-brownish hairs. Sutural area slightly elevated in the middle part.

Femora with some sparse pilosity. Tibiae with brownish setae. Tarsi covered with dark brownish setae. Fore-tarsomeres 1–3 of males with a long ventral projection, including the black "comb" typical of Prionoceridae males. Claws simple, dilated only at base, distinctly divergent.

Abdomen much more slender than in *P. coeruleipennis* and *P. bicolor*. Shagreened. Sparsely pubescent at sides, with rather short, greyish hairs. Outer edge of sixth segment concave, rounded, with brownish setae.

♂. Aedeagus (Fig. 2): Parameres similar to *P. coeruleipennis* and *P. bicolor*, but more elongate. Rather straight in lateral view, the apical part with several long, hair-like setae on its ventral margin, as well as some short, thick setae near the apex. Median lobe also longer than in the other species, very slightly sinuate.

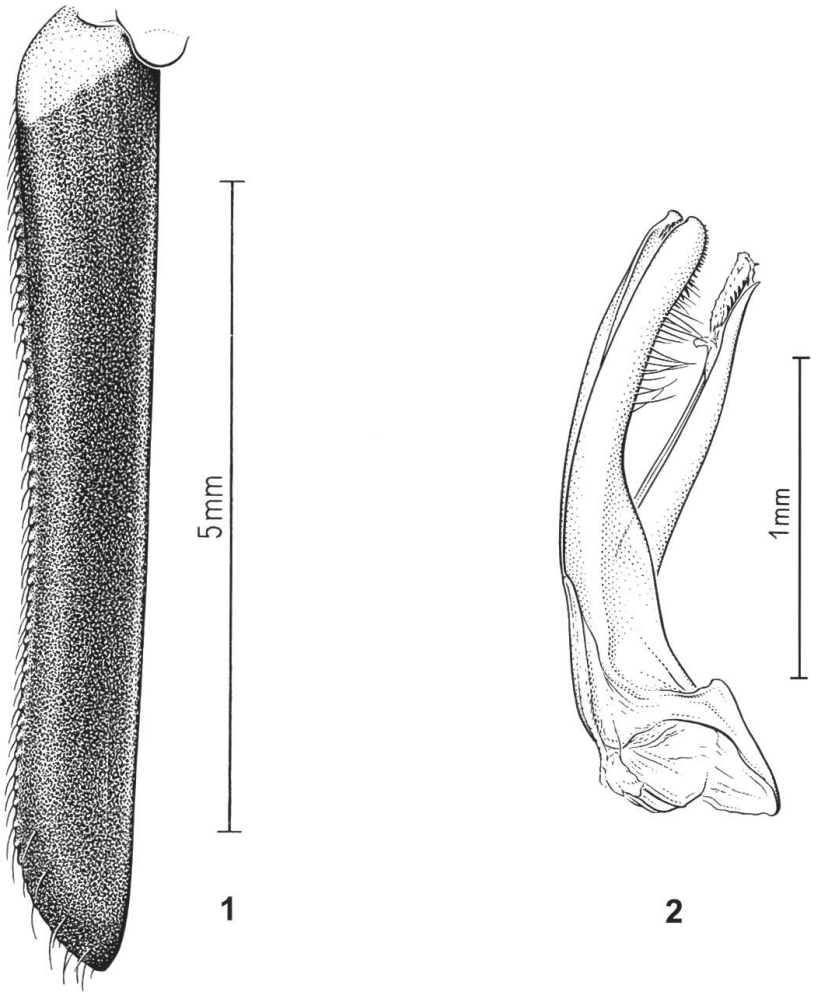
♀. The female specimen has slightly smaller and more widely separated eyes than the male specimens, quite a common feature of sexual dimorphism among *Prionoceridae*. Moreover, the yellow coloration of antennomere 8 is slightly more extensive, including almost half of the segment, but this is probably due to individual variation.

Body length: 9.6–10.8 mm; width at shoulders: 2.1–2.3 mm.

Distribution. So far known from only three localities in western Sumatra (from Lake Toba to Bukittinggi), at altitudes above 1000 m. Probably endemic to Sumatra.

Derivatio nominis. Named "*viridiflavus*" (Latin *viridis* = green, Latin *flavus* = yellow) for its unusual colour: green with yellow humeral macula of the elytra and apical segments of the antennae.

Differential diagnosis. The colour easily separates this species from the other species of *Prionocerus* (including some as yet undescribed). It is the only species in the genus with a uniformly green pronotum and bicolored elytra. Moreover, the elytra are more elongate than in *P. bicolor* and *P. coeruleipennis*, slightly narrowed towards the middle and slightly dilated in the apical quarter, not unlike some species of *Oedemera* Olivier, 1789 (Coleoptera: Oedemeridae). The pronotum is much more strongly pubescent. The shape of the aedeagus is more elongate, with a differently shaped median lobe.



Figs 1–2. *Prionocerus viridiflavus* sp.nov.: 1 – left elytron, 2 – aedeagus in lateral view (medium lobe slightly moved ventrally).

Checklist of the known *Prionocerus* species

Prionocerus coeruleipennis Perty, 1831 (type species)
Major part of Oriental region, E Africa, Oceania in part (Micronesia), south-eastern Palaearctic region (China, Himalayas, Japan?) (incl. var. *diversicollis* Pic, 1920, from Malaysia and Sumatra)

Prionocerus bicolor Redtenbacher, 1868
Major part of Oriental region, New Guinea (incl. var. *notaticollis* Pic, 1910, from Sumatra)

Prionocerus viridiflavus sp.nov.
Sumatra

Discussion

This species appears quite isolated within the genus *Prionocerus*, with its unusual *Oedemera*-like habitus and its pubescent pronotum. Only a revision of the whole genus *Idgia* will reveal whether the new species is more closely related to some species of that genus or not. The taxonomy of both the genera should then be revised.

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Reference

CHAMPION G. C. (1919): *The Malacoderm genera Prionocerus and Idgia and their sexual characters (Coleoptera).* Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. **Ser. 9, Vol. III:** 325–372, Pls XI–XII.

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