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Description of *Eucurtiopsis marysae* n. sp., a singular species of Chlamydopsinae from the Philippines (Coleoptera, Histeridae)

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Keywords:

Coleoptera; Histeridae; Chlamydopsinae; *Eucurtiopsis*; *marysae*; *brendelli*; *elongatus*; Philippines; Mindanao Island; Bukidnon; Lanao del Sur; taxonomy; new species.

Abstract. – *Eucurtiopsis marysae* **n**. **sp**. is described from the Philippines. This species with a singular morphology is compared with *E. brendelli* (Caterino, 2000) and *E. elongatus* (Caterino, 2000) with which it shares a developed propygidium exhibiting a sexual dimorphism. Its place within the genus *Eucurtiopsis* Silvestri is discussed.

Théry T., 2021. – Description of *Eucurtiopsis marysae* **n**. **sp**., a singular species of Chlamydopsinae from the Philippines (Coleoptera, Histeridae). *Faunitaxys*, 9(15): 1 – 5.

ZooBank: http://zoobank.org/25E6C32E-61FF-42E2-B0C5-E06E06428E25

Introduction

The subfamily Chlamydopsinae (Coleoptera, Histeridae) encompasses 178 species split into 13 genera (Mazur, 2011; Théry & Sokolov, 2020). Species of Chlamydopsinae occur from Southern (India), Eastern (Japan and Taiwan) and Southeastern Asia (Vietnam, Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei, Indonesia) to Australia and Melanesia (Fiji, Papua New Guinea, New Caledonia and Vanuatu) (Mazur, 2011). Chlamydopsinae are known or suspected to be inquilinous and most of them possess trichomes. Most of the species for which we have ecological data are myrmecophilous: several species of *Chlamydopsis* Westwood, 1869, *Ceratohister pheidoliphilus* Reichensperger, 1924, *Ectatommiphila glabra* (Lea, 1910) and *E. opaca* (Lea, 1912), *Eucurtiopsis ohtanii* (Sawada, 1994) and *Pheidoliphila granulata* (Lea, 1912). Only *Eucurtia comata* (Blackburn, 1901) is known to live with termites (Mjöberg, 1912; Caterino, 2003; Dégallier & Caterino, 2005b; Caterino & Dégallier, 2007). Most of the known species were discovered using the flight interception trap method, and their ecology remains unknown (Caterino, 2000; Caterino, 2003; Dégallier & Caterino, 2005 a, b; Caterino, 2006; Tishechkin, 2009; Tishechkin & Sokolov, 2009). The study of specimens collected in the Philippines (Mindanao Island) reveals a new species, morphologically peculiar, not presenting classical diagnostic characters of any known genus of Chlamydopsinae. However, it shares several characters with *Eucurtiopsis brendelli* (Caterino, 2000) and *E. elongatus* (Caterino, 2000) and is here considered a derived species of *Eucurtiopsis* Silvestri, 1926. This new species is herein described as *Eucurtiopsis marysae* **n**. **sp**. and its place within the genus is discussed.

Material and Methods

All specimens are from the provinces of Bukidnon and Lanao del Sur, Mindanao Island, Philippines. Method of collection is unknown. Terminology of characters used is that of Caterino (2006) and of Lackner (2010) for general morphology, and that of Lackner (2010) and Lackner & Tarasov (2019) for genitalia. Specimens are glued either on points or on cards. When extracted, the genital structures are embedded in a droplet of Euparal. All pictures were taken at the Colin Favret lab (Université de Montréal, Centre sur la Biodiversité, Montréal, QC, Canada). A Carl Zeiss Discovery.V20 stereoscope (AxioCam HRc camera and Zen 2018 Carl Zeiss Software, version 2.5, blue edition) was used to take pictures of specimens and for body details. A Carl Zeiss Imager.M2 microscope (AxioCam HRc camera and Zen 2018 Carl Zeiss Software, version 2.5 pro.) was used for pictures of genital structures.

Measurements are those of the male holotype and are abbreviated as follows:

– L: dorsal length along midline (entire length from the anterior margin of the pronotum to the posterior margin of the elytra);
– W: width at the widest point;
– E/Pn L: ratio – elytra length/pronotum length;
– E/Pn W: ratio – elytra width/pronotum width;
– Pn W/L: ratio – pronotum width/length;
– E L/W: ratio – elytra length/width;
– Pr/Py: ratio – propygidium length/pygidium length;
– Sterna – pro, meso, meta: lengths along midline;
– Tibiae – pro, meso, meta: straight line length from base to apex.

Systematics

Eucurtiopsis marysae n. sp.

(Fig. 1-13)

ZooBank: http://zoobank.org/87D1D7A1-1F67-4C77-B6B9-38A92D86635B

Type material

Holotype, ♂: glued on a point, genitalia extracted and embedded in a droplet of Euparal on transparent label, red labels with the following handwritten information: "PHILIPPINES: Mindanao, Bukidnon province", "HOLOTYPE *Eucurtiopsis marysae* **n**. **sp**. T. Théry des. 2021" (Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle (MNHN), Paris, France).

Allotype, ♀: same data as holotype (MNHN).

Paratypes: 34 ex., PHILIPPINES: Mindanao, Bukidnon province; 2 ex., PHILIPPINES: Mindanao, Lanao del Sur province.

Paratypes are deposited in the following collections:

– Private collections:
Nicolas Dégallier (Paris, France);
Michael Caterino (Clemson, SC, USA);
Thomas Théry (Montréal, QC, Canada);
Albert Allen (Star, ID, USA);

– Snow Entomological Museum Collection, Kansas University, Lawrence, KS, USA (SEMC);

– California State Collection of Arthropods, California Dept. of Food & Agriculture, Sacramento, CA, USA (CDFA);

– Collection of the Insectarium of Montréal, QC, Canada (IMQC).

Description

Measurements.

– L: about 2.0 mm;
– W: 1.27 mm;
– E/Pn L: 1.82;
– E/Pn W: 1.15;
– Pn W/L: 1.61;
– E L/W: 0.98;
– Pr/Py: 1.36;
– Sterna: 0.56 mm, 0.06 mm, 0.42 mm;
– Tibiae: 0.57 mm, 0.59 mm, 0.58 mm.

Color, punctuation and pubescence. – Body brown-reddish to brown-orange, appendices and anterior elytral elevations slightly lighter; with a poorly delimited, much lighter spot on each side of the lateral elytral carinae, from behind trichome anteriorly to the last posterior quarter of elytra posteriorly, sometimes to posterior margins of elytra, laterally reaching epipleuron, medially reaching the depression along base of elytral carina, sometimes extending to the elytral disc. Body surface mostly covered by branched blond setae. Punctuation simple and fine.

Head (Fig. 4). – *Frons* feebly convex, slightly longer than wide; lateral margins almost parallel in the posterior third of frons then progressively enlarging and becoming widest at the anterior third where they are slightly rounded then converging to labrum; marginal stria complete and costate, not indented at antennal insertions; frontal punctuation with small, thin and regularly spaced punctures; with conspicuous, erect, well-branched blond setae inserted in punctures; surface smooth and shiny with a thin alutaceous background. – *Labrum* short, arcuate anteriorly; with the same kind of punctuation and pubescence as frons, but punctures smaller and slightly denser and setae thinner and less branched. – *Mandibles* strongly bent; with tips long, narrow and smooth; with basal midpart microsculptured with same kind of punctuation and setae as labrum. – *Submentum* fused with head. – *Mentum* fused with *prementum* and bearing 2-segmented *labial palpi*. – *Maxillary palpi* 3-segmented. – *Antennal scape* large, triangular, slightly longer than wide (about x1.3), widest behind midpoint; inner lateral margin slightly concave, external lateral margin almost straight, posterior margin rounded, the angle with external lateral margin well rounded; dorsal surface convex anteriorly and along the external lateral margin, becoming concave posteriorly near antennal insertion area; with punctuation and pubescence similar to those of frons, with a conspicuous alutaceous background; longer than funicle and pedicel combined, shorter than funicle, pedicel and club combined. – *Antennal club* covered by pale, simple, thin setae. – *Eyes* large.

Pronotum (Fig. 1, 3-4). – Transverse, widest about at midpoint; its lateral margins progressively enlarging from base to anterior part, rounded in anterior midpart, and finally convergent; with each lateral margin expanded and elevated in carina; anterior margin slightly bisinuated behind head; posterior margin arcuate; posterior angles obtuse; from above, marginal stria posteriorly only visible along posterior margin, then disappearing below lateral carinae; dorsally without any process, convex at disk then concave along carinae and behind antennal cavities; surface shiny, conspicuously pubescent on disk and laterally, with a thin alutaceous background; punctuation simple, mainly located on disk and laterally, disappearing posteriorly, with punctures small and regularly spaced; bearing branched blond setae, the setae suberect, longer and less ramified than those of frons on disk, becoming more recumbant, shorter and more branched on carinae and on lateral sides; punctures and setae denser on carinae, postero-lateral areas unpunctuated and glabrous; antennal cavities not visible from above.

Elytra (Fig. 1, 3). – *Scutellum* not visible. Each *elytron* with a small trichome; with lateral margin elevated in carina in posterior midpart, after trichome. – Each *trichome* posteriorly removed from humeri, in a circular small aperture, located along lateral margin, before midpoint; open dorsally, laterally, and medially, with two very close fringes of golden setae, barely distinguishable from each other from above; anterior elevation dorsally convex as its external side, its internal side concave, with a conspicuous and short dorsal groove connected with aperture; posterior elevation with no groove, not distinguishable from the carina. – *Elytra* with a mediobasal depression between trichomes; convex before and very convex after the mediobasal depression, on disk and along suture until elytral apex; with a longitudinal depression from mediobasal depression, along lateral carinae to apex, interrupted by elytral convexity near the posterior third part, then more concave and expanding along posterior margins. – *Elytral surface* with a thin and simple punctuation, punctures regularly spaced on disk, denser on anterior elevation of trichomes and on lateral sides; with blond setae, suberect, thin and almost not branched on the convex area before mediobasal depression and near scutellar area, becoming not branched, shorter and appressed elsewhere on elytra, setae much denser and shorter on anterior elevation of trichomes and lateral sides, sometimes with some rare well-ramified setae near humeri; shiny, smooth, with alutaceus background. – *Elytral marginal stria* complete, conspicuously visible. – *Epipleuron* with some rare short, appressed setae, located along marginal stria, its surface glossy with conspicuous background microsculpture.

Sterna (Fig. 2). – *Prosternum* long, with anterior margin almost straight in middle and posterior margin rounded; anterior midpart more or less flattened; prosternal keel strongly concave with its lateral sides carinate and subparallel; punctuation with thin punctures, regularly placed; pubescence similar to that of lateral sides of pronotum, the well-ramified setae becoming less dense and more erect on keel; surface background with conspicuous alutaceous microsculpture. – *Mesoventrite* concave, transverse, about five times wider than median length; anterior margin evenly emarginated; posterior margin emarginated in middle; with similar punctuation and pubescence to prosternum, but punctures smaller, setae erect and shorter. – *Mesepimeron* slightly concave, its edges not prominent; surface similar to this of epipleuron with setae rare, short, simple and appressed, mainly located on its anterior edge. – *Metaventrite* more or less flat; medially with a complete and deep *median metaventral suture*, deeper in posterior midpart; *mesometaventral suture* straight, connected with lateral *metaventral stria*; metaventral surface with regularly spaced punctuation, with thin punctures; setae short, simple and appressed, with some rare to numerous suberect and well-ramified blond setae in the anterior midpart according the specimens; posterolateral parts of metaventrite very narrow, squeezed between the marginal stria of the mesosternal leg depressions anteriorly and the posterior marginal stria of metaventrite posteriorly; posterior marginal stria sinuated and in a higher level in comparison with metatrochanters. – *Pro-*, *meso-* and *metasternal leg depressions* very wide and rounded; with complete and carinate marginal striae.

Abdomen (Fig. 2, 5-9). – *First abdominal ventrite* feebly convex; with punctuation and pubescence similar to that of metaventrite, pubescence sometimes with some branched setae as those of metaventrite. – *Propygidium* (Fig. 5) large, longer and wider than pygidium; not carinate; anteriorly concave with a horizontal crease in the first anterior quarter; posteriorly convex, prominent, with two conspicuous bulges, placed next to each other, located in the posterior midpart and closer than middle than sides; punctuation and background close to those of elyral disk, punctures slightly denser; setae short, simple and appressed before bulges, erect and well ramified on and below bulges. – *Pygidium* (Fig. 5) convex; its punctuation and background similar to those of propygidium; most of the setae well ramified and erect.

Legs (Fig. 1-3). – Shiny. – *Femora* stout; pro- and mesofemora more or less rectangular, metafemora broader and slightly more flattened; ventrally with the same pubescence and setae as prosternum. – *Tibiae* rounded at apex; *protibiae* with inner margin slightly and

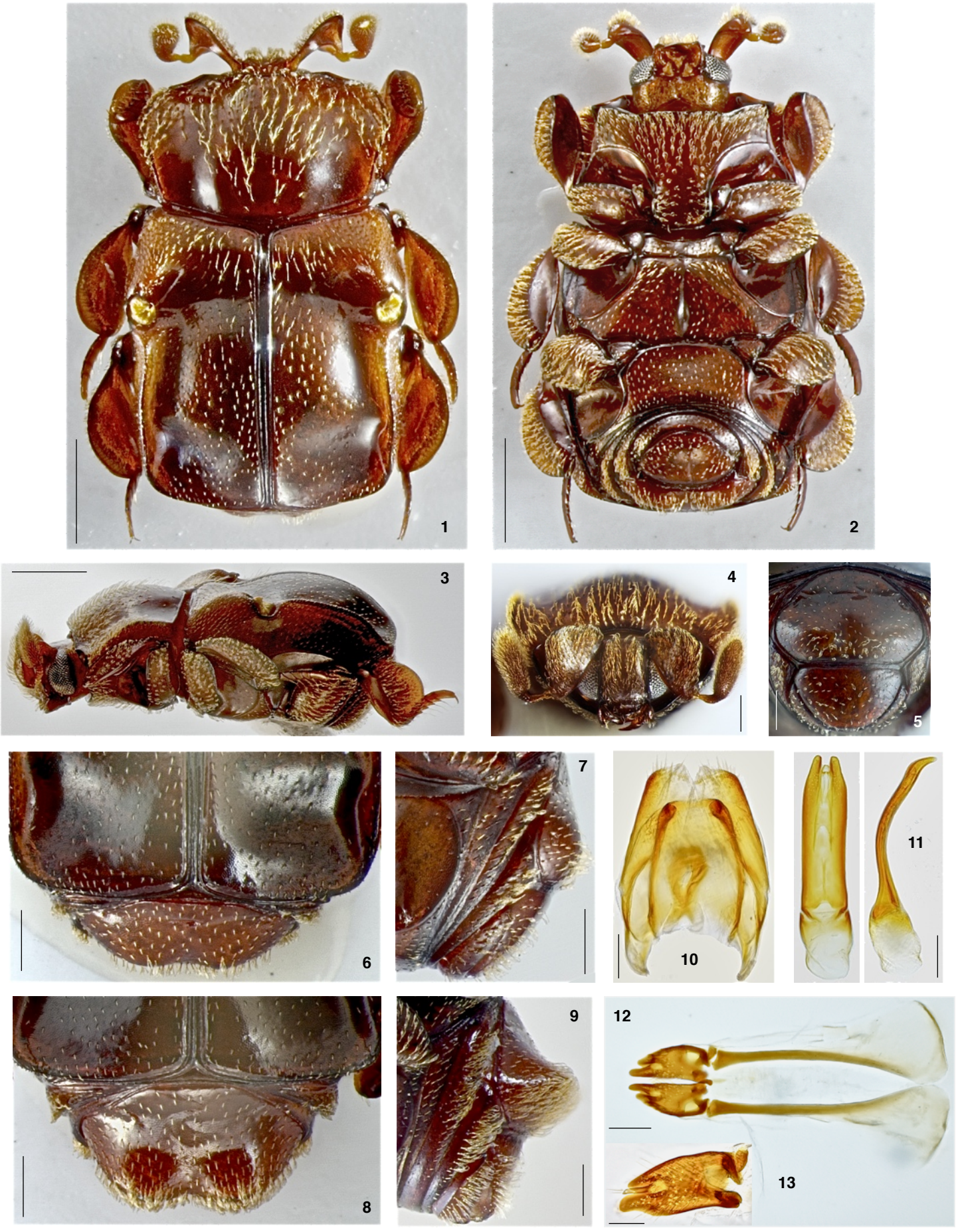

Fig. **1-13**. *Eucurtiopsis marysae* **n**. **sp**.

1-3) Habitus: **1**) Dorsal view; **2**) Ventral view; **3**) Lateral view (scale 0.5 mm).
4-5) Body details: **4**) Head and antennae (male); **5**) Propygidium and pygidium (scale 200 µm).
6-9) Hind parts showing propygium and sexual dimorphism: **6**) Male propygidium, dorsal view; **7**) Male propygidium, lateral view; **8**) Female propygidium, dorsal view; **9**) Female propygidium, lateral view (scale 200 µm).
10-11) Male genitalia: **10**) 8th tergite, 8th, 9th and 10th ventrites of male articulated, ventral view; **11**) Aedeagus in dorsal and lateral views (scale 100 µm).
12-13) Female genitalia, dorsal view: **12**) Gonocoxites and valvifers (scale 100 µm); **13**) Detail of right gonocoxite with gonostylus (scale 50 µm).

evenly curved from distal part to the articulation area; with outer margin well rounded from apical part to the third proximal part, then strongly converging and sinuated to the articulation area, widest near midpoint; *mesotibiae* with inner margin feebly curved, with outer margin very rounded in a complete semicircle, without any tightening at proximal part, widest near midpoint; *metatibiae* similar to mesotibiae but slightly wider, with inner margin slightly curved, with outer margin more rounded, widest near midpoint; ventral surface of tibiae with a conspicuous microsculptured background, the part fitting with corresponding femora glabrous and unpunctuated, the other portion with thin regularly placed punctures, with pubescence and setae similar to those of prosternum; dorsal surface of tibiae unpunctuated and glabrous, except along tarsal groove with thin punctures and short simple setae, surface with microsculptured background; tarsal groove complete and curved. – *Tarsi* exceeding half of tibiae in length; laterally compressed. – *Tarsal claws* simple, divergent and slightly curved, about 1/3 length of apical tarsomere.

Genitalia ♂ (Fig. 10-11). – *Aedeagus* with phallobase measuring less than 1/3 of the total length; lateral sides of tegmen subparallel then parameres converging. – *8th ventrite* and *8th tergite* combined about 1.4 times longer than wide; vela of 8th ventrite bearing thin and acute setae; spiculum gastrale short, X-shaped, about 2 times longer than wide.

Genitalia ♀ (Fig. 12-13). – *Female ovipositor* (valvifers and gonocoxites) with gonocoxites bilobate, lobes asymmetric, the biggest with its outer margin emarginated.

Sexual dimorphism. – Antennal club more than ¾ length of scape in male and less than 3/4 in female, elongated and cylindrical in male, slightly more ovoid in female. Propygidium with bulges much more prominent in female than in male (Fig. 6-9).

Differential diagnosis. – The species is morphologically very different from all currently known species of *Eucurtiopsis*. It can be easily distinguished from them by the following characters:

- pronotum transverse, almost as wide as elytra, wider anteriorly than posteriorly, without any dorsal process or horn (most species of *Eucurtiopsis* have subquadrate pronotum bearing processes or horns);
- pronotum margined and elevated at sides in carinae (no *Eucurtiopsis* species possess pronotal carinae except *E. brendelli* (Caterino, 2000));
- each elytron margined and elevated at side as a carina (no elytral carinae in other known species of *Eucurtiopsis*);
- trichome position posteriorly from humeri, along lateral margin;
- each trichome formed by two fringes of setae, localised in a small rounded aperture with a visible anterior elevation, posterior elevation not distinguishable from carina;
- propygidium convex and bigger than pygidium, modified and more developed in female (this character is currently also known in *Eucurtiopsis brendelli* and *E. elongatus* (Caterino, 2000));
- all tibiae strongly flattened and explanate.

Etymology. – This species is dedicated to Maryse Théry, mother of the author.

Distribution. – *Eucurtiopsis marysae* **n**. **sp**. is known from the provinces of Bukidnon and Lanao del Sur, Mindanao Island, Philippines archipelago.

Discussion

Because of its peculiar morphology, it was difficult to place this new species into a known genus. Indeed, it exhibits a mix of traits that are observed in different genera, rather than all the characteristics currently considered diagnostic for a single one. Because it possesses a hidden scutellum, *Eucurtiopsis marysae* **n**. **sp**. was compared with species of genera which also have this characteristic (*Kanakopsis* Caterino, 2006, *Papuopsis* Caterino & Dégallier, 2007, *Quasimodopsis* Caterino & Dégallier, 2007, *Teretriopsis* Caterino & Dégallier, 2007 and those of the "*Orectoscelis* lineage" group: *Ceratohister* Reichensperger, 1924, *Eucurtiopsis* Silvestri, 1926, *Gomyopsis* Dégallier, 1984, *Orectoscelis* Lewis, 1903 and *Pheidoliphila* Lea, 1914) (Caterino & Dégallier, 2007)). *Eucurtiopsis marysae* **n**. **sp**. has lateral pronotal carinae as observed in *Gomyopsis* and *Papuopsis*, and lateral elytral carinae as in *Papuopsis*. However, it does not have pronotal trichomes as in *Gomyopsis* and differs from *Papuopsis* by its prosternal conformation (prosternal keel with lateral sides parallel in *Eucurtiopsis marysae* **n**. **sp**., broadly rounded in *Papuopsis* (Caterino & Dégallier, 2007)). The presence of elytral trichomes and their conformation (small, composed of two fringes of setae, localised along elytral margin, posteriorly from humeri) distinguishes this species from those of *Teretriopsis*, *Ceratohister* (both without any trichome), *Orectoscelis* (circular trichomes composed by one fringe of setae), *Pheidoliphila* (trichomes absent or small and limited to humeri) and *Quasimodopsis* (trichomes large and elevated) (*ibid*.). It also has no dorsal pronotal processes or horns which is a diagnostic character of *Ceratohister*, *Pheidoliphila,* and a common character in most species of *Eucurtiopsis* (*ibid*.). However, it has branched setae, considered a common character in species of this latter genus. Finally, with its 2-segmented labial palpi, *Eucurtiopsis marysae* **n**. **sp**. can not be related with the genus *Kanakopsis* which possesses 3-segmented labial palpi. *Eucurtiopsis marysae* **n**. **sp**. has a developed propygidium exhibiting sexual dimorphism, a trait rarely observed in Chlamydopsinae, currently known only in two *Eucurtiopsis* species: *E. brendelli* (Caterino, 2000) and *E. elongatus* (Caterino, 2000), both from Sulawesi (Caterino, 2000; Caterino & Dégallier, 2007). *Eucurtiopsis marysae* **n**. **sp**. also shares lateral pronotal carinae and the absence of dorsal pronotal processes with *E. brendelli*. On the contrary, *E. elongatus* does not have any lateral pronotal carinae but does possess dorsal pronotal processes (Caterino, 2000). The genus *Eucurtiopsis* currently encompasses 27 species (Mazur, 2011; Théry & Sokolov, 2020) and, as cited above, its species are mainly recognizable by their branched setae, their dorsal pronotal processes, but also by a pronotum narrower than the elytra, and elytral trichomes transversely incised (Caterino & Dégallier, 2007). By the absence of pronotal processes, the shape of their pronotum (transverse and oval whereas most of the species have a squarred and narrow pronotum) and the presence of lateral carinae, *Eucurtiopsis marysae* **n**. **sp**. and *E. brendelli* do not correspond to two "typical" *Eucurtiopsis* species, contrary to *E. elongatus*. However, the fact that they share such a propygidium with *E. elongatus* makes possible the link between these two species and this genus. In consequence, and because of lack of further information, it was decided to describe this new species as an *Eucurtiopsis*.

Relationships between genera and between species within genera are difficult to appreciate in Chlamydopsinae. A first phylogenetic study was attempted and published using morphological data (Caterino & Dégallier, 2007). However, some characters remain problematic. Some are difficult to observe and comprehend such as the mouthpart conformation (*ibid*.). It is also difficult to appreciate and code some others and to know if they are homologous or not: e.g. the hidden scutellum, the presence or absence of trichome and their conformation (*ibid*.). This new species is described as an *Eucurtiopsis*, even though it does not possess all the characters currently considered diagnostic for this genus. Thus, a complete revision of the genus *Eucurtiopsis* seems to be required in order to delimit the taxon and redefine the diagnostic characteristics of this group. The use of molecular characters in addition to morphological data would certainly provide valuable information.

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Résumé

Théry T., 2021. – Description d'*Eucurtiopsis marysae* **n**. **sp**., une singulière espèce de Chlamydopsinae des Philippines (Coleoptera, Histeridae). *Faunitaxys*, 9(15) : 1 – 5.

Eucurtiopsis marysae **n**. **sp**., est décrite des Philippines. Cette espèce à la morphologie singulière est comparée à *E. brendelli* (Caterino, 2000) et *E. elongatus* (Caterino, 2000) avec lesquelles elle partage un propygidium développé montrant un dimorphisme sexuel. Sa place au sein du genre *Eucurtiopsis* Silvestri est discutée.

Mots-clés. – Coleoptera, Histeridae, Chlamydopsinae, *Eucurtiopsis*, *marysae*, *brendelli*, *elongatus*, Philippines, Île de Mindanao, Bukidnon, Lanao del Sur, taxonomie, nouvelle espèce.

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Illustration de la couverture : Alalum Falls, between the municipalities of Impasug-ong and Sumilao in Bukidnon, Mindanao (Author: Kleo Marlo Sialongo, https://www.flickr.com/photos/68932108@N00).

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