

REVIEW

A Review of New Species Records from Leyte Island, Philippines

Ma. Juliet C. Ceniza

Department of Plant Protection
ViSCA, Baybay, Leyte 6521-A, Philippines

The island of Leyte is located on the southern part of the Visayan-island group which lies between 124° 17' and 124° 18' east longitude and between 9° 55' and 11° 48' latitude. From among the Visayan island group, Leyte is rather obscure biologically (Raros 1985). The insect fauna, for example, remains highly insufficiently known as yet (Medvedev 1995). But some records have indicated evidence of unquestionable biological species diversity in the island. Many foreign and local experts have discovered new species and added new records in the island. This section aims to review and put together records of new species which have been published in scattered journals and publications worldwide.

Herpetofauna

A result of a study conducted by Ross and Lazell (1990) indicated 33 species of herpetofauna reported from Dinagat island for the first time, out of the 58 species known in the island. The list of these species was given in the said publication. Dinagat island lies east-southeast of the southern end of Leyte island and directly north of the Surigao Peninsula of northern Mindanao.

In mainland Leyte, *Tropidophorus grayi* (Guenther) 1861, was observed by Klemmer and Gaulke (1993) in the natural habitat, spe-

cifically in Kalbigaa creek of the Dipterocarp forest of Mt. Pangasugan, Baybay at 200 meters above sea level. Reproduction was observed in captivity for this species for the first time. The skink is light brown dorsally with 6 to 7 irregular, light vertical bands between the fore the hindlegs.

Fishes

A freshwater survey in Leyte by Kottelat in 1993 indicated two new described species and a redescribed *Stiphodon atropurpureus* species with neotype designated. The new species were

Stiphodon olivaceous sp.n. and *Stiphodon surrufus* sp. n. which have numerous distinct features but are easily separated by pectoral ray counts of 16 and 14, respectively. *Stiphodon atropurpureus* have 15 pectoral ray counts. The detailed descriptions were given by Watson and Kottelat 1995.

Arthropod Fauna

Coleoptera. A total of 105 species and 66 genera of Chrysomelidae were known from Leyte island, of which 14 species and 2 genera were described by Medvedev 1995 as new to science. The holotypes of the 11 species were collected in the vicinity of the Visayas State College of Agriculture (ViSCA), north of Baybay, Leyte. These new species were as follows: *Pagellia schawalleri*, *Rhyparida katrinae*, *Rhyparida diversicornis*, *Rhyparida wiseana*, *Phytorus leyteanus*, *Mimastra leyteana*, *Litroetiella englerae*, *Mindella* (n.gen.) *leyteana*, *Philastra* (n. gen.) *carinata*, *Cassena leyteana* and *Prionispa fulva*.

The type specimens of the first 2 species were collected southeast of Abuyog, Leyte, while that of the last species was collected in Lake Danao forest, Ormoc, Leyte. The other 3 new species were *Ortholema philippina*, *Mindana substriata* and *Rhyparida margrafi*.

An Aspidomorphini larva *Sindia schawalleri*, feeding also on *Ipomoea* was described by Medvedev and Zaitsev (1993) as new to science. The distinguishing characteristics, especially for the genus *Aspidomorpha* were given in the key by the named authors.

Baehr (1995) described a new *Bembidion* (s.l.) (*Desarmatocillenus*) *leytensis* n. sp. (Carabidae) which was collected in ViSCA, Baybay Leyte. The species is distinguished from the closely related *B.D. hoogstraali* (Darlington) by its smaller size, shorter metaprochanter, laterally slightly projecting posterior angles of pronotum

and slightly different aedeagus with regards to the presence of a V-shaped fold near apex of the internal sac (Martin & Baehr 1995).

Another species of Carabidae, *Thopeutica milanea* n.sp. collected from Leyte was found new to science by Wiesner 1992. The species is distinguished from all other members of the genus by its small size, elytral maculation, by its naked pronotum and by their absence of any female elytral mirror.

A Staphylinidae preying on *Hospitalitermes luzonensis* (Oshima) (Termitidae) was described new to science by Kistner 1993. The new species was *Drusilla schawalleri* which differs from the other related species by the size, coloration of antennae and legs and punctuation of the pronotum.

Four new species of Tenebrionidae from Leyte were described by Schawaller 1994. *Micropeneta leytica* sp.n. is very closely related to *M. tarandus*, but can be separated from each other by the different forms and length of the horns on the head in males and the different aedeagus and punctations of the elytra.

Uloma visayana was recently described by Kato 1993. It is distinguished within the genus by the wing-like broadened anterior covers of the pronotum in males, aside from other variable characters of the species.

Sphingocorse philippina sp.n. was collected from Lake Danao, Ormoc Leyte, and was described in detail by Schawaller 1994. The genus was unknown from the Philippines. The species is distinguished from its clearly related *S. keralensis* Kaszab 1979 by the color of elytra and the different aedeagus, and from *S. madrasensis* Kaszab 1979 by the shape of pronotum.

Another new species collected from Lake Danao, Ormoc, Leyte was *Spinolyprops trautneri* sp.n. This genus was another new record to the Philippines. This species can be easily separated from two congeners by the different color

pattern on the elytra, by the rougher dorsal punctation, by the unpunctured medial line on the pronotum and by the shape of the aedeagus (Schawaller 1994).

Stebnicka (1993) recorded eleven species and one subspecies of Aphodiinae (Scarabaeoidea) from Leyte. This included one new genus and two species described as new to science, *Saprovisca* (n.gen.) *leytensis* n.sp. and *Aphodius* (*Pleurephodius*) *viscaenis* n.sp. The latter species is distinguished from other oriental species of *Pleurephodius* group, by its unusually large eyes and relatively long pronotum. The detailed description of the new species was found in Stebnicka 1993.

Lepidoptera

Small moths, attacking the stem of tikog, *Fimbristylis* spp., a fiber plant of economic importance in Leyte, Philippines was described as new to science by Mey and Ceniza 1993. The species was *Chedra fimbristylis* n.sp. (Batrachedridae), in which the family and the genus itself was not yet known from the Philippines (Diakonoff 1967). It is distinguished from the two closely related species from Hawaii, *Ch. mimica* Zimmermann and *Ch. microstigma* (Walsingham) by the characteristic inner shape of the genital valves, broader uncus and the arrangement of setae in the first abdominal tergite.

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