

A NEW EROTYLID-BEETLE FROM MALAYA¹

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Abstract: *Triplax macclurei* n. sp. (Erotylidae; Coleoptera), collected from the nest of a bird (Brown Babbler) at Rantau Panjang near Klang, Selangor, Malaya is illustrated and described.

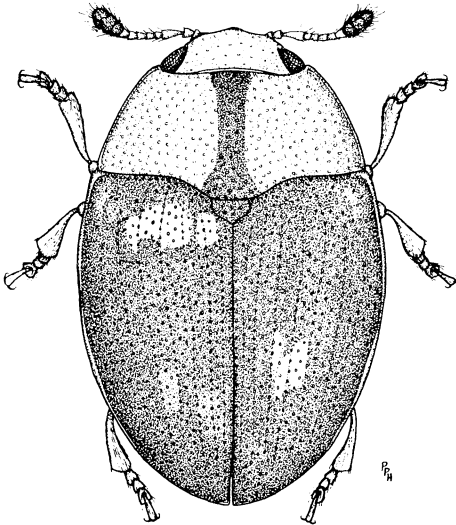
***Triplax macclurei* Chûjô, n. sp.**

Body broad oval in outline, dorsum glabrous and moderately convex, ventral surfaces finely and rather closely pubescent-punctate. General color yellow-brown, lustrous; pronotum with a central longitudinal stripe which extends from base to front border and is somewhat widened at basal and anterior ends; scutellum and elytra entirely black, lustrous; antennae with 3 terminal segments blackish, but apex of last segment brownish; mesosternum somewhat infuscated; mesopleura, metepisterna and metasternum (except medio-anterior part slightly infuscated) blackish brown to black.

Head lightly and evenly convex, rather sparsely punctured, distinctly ridged at each side; clypeus short, limited from frons at each side by an oblique suture, but not limited at median part, narrowly but distinctly ridged at each side and also at front border, the latter distinctly notched at middle and rounded at each side. *Mouth-parts:* lateral areas of oral cavity forming a sharp-edged plate in each with surface somewhat concave; ultimate segment of maxillary palpi very strongly transverse, rather more than 3× as broad as long; ultimate segment of labial palpi triangular. *Antennae:* segment 1 elongate-subquadrate and somewhat compressed; 2 subovate and much smaller than 1; 3 thinner than 2 but rather more than 1.5× as long as the latter, and distinctly longer than the 2 following segments combined, but slightly shorter than the 3 followings together; 4-8 narrow and slightly widened terminally as a whole, but 8 (widest one in these 5 segments) not wider than apical part of 3; 9-11 forming a loosely articulated club, 9 subtriangular, 10 rather transverse and deeply notched at apical border, and 11 subovate. *Pronotum* a little more than 2× as broad as long, rather markedly narrowed anteriorly, especially distinctly convergent in front, narrowly (especially at middle of front border) but distinctly marginated all around borders, but margin distinctly enlarged at the 4 corners respectively and furnished with a seta-bearing pore in the center of each of these enlarged parts; dorsum gently and evenly convex from side to side, rather closely punctured, these punctures rather smaller than those on head; front border strongly emarginated as a whole, but median part of it nearly straight; basal border markedly arched and produced posteriorly at median part. *Scutellum* rather large, slightly broader than long, gently emarginated at basal border,

1. Studies on the Erotylid-beetles (15).

nearly parallel-sided at basal part, but strongly narrowed posteriorly and subacuminated at apex, flattish on surface with some punctures in median area of it. *Elytra* gently rounded at each side of basal 1/2, but strongly rounded at posterior part, rather strongly convex on dorsum, distinctly margined at base, and posterior edge of this margin irregularly crenated; each elytron with 8 regular files of distinct punctures (except external marginal file), but these files not so evidently recognized at first glance because interstices of these files of punctures are also rather strongly and closely punctured; humeri somewhat raised, with few fine punctures. *Ventral surfaces*: prosternum coarsely punctured, with medio-anterior area somewhat raised and sharply angulated at middle of front border; procoxal



lines very short and rather faintly impressed, convergent forwardly and bent inwardly at apical part of each one, but widely separated from one another even at apical end; prosternal process very strongly widened posteriorly, rounded at posterior corners, gently curved at median part of posterior border but gently convex at each side of median part; mesosternum much broader than long, narrowed posteriorly, rather coarsely and closely punctured on surface with exception of anterior marginal area which is smooth; mesocoxal lines well-developed, very strongly divergent posteriorly; metacoxal lines better developed than the preceding, very strongly divergent posteriorly, extending to near posterior border of 1st visible abdominal sternite and then lengthening a little closely along present border. *Legs* robust; femora strongly dilated medially and also markedly thickened, with ventral surface of each one broadly sulcated for reception of tibia when in repose; tibiae very strongly dilated terminally and markedly thickened, distinctly hollowed at dorso-apical part and markedly ciliated at anterior border of this hollowed part; tarsi with 3 basal segments gently widened terminally as a whole, segment 4 minute and forming a basal part of the corresponding claw (segment 5).

Male: Profemora more strongly dilated and thickened, with far broader under-sulcus, than meso- and metafemora; protibiae more strongly dilated and thickened terminally than in meso- and metatibiae. Length: 3.5 mm.

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Holotype ♂ (BISHOP 3133), collected on 13. I. 1960 by H. Elliott McClure & Lim Boonliat in a nest of Brown Babbler (*Malacoucoua rostratum*) laid among Mangrove at Rantau Panjang, 5 mi. N of Klang, Selangor, Malaya.

DISTRIBUTION: Malaya.

The present new species is somewhat allied to a form (which has a black stripe on the middle of pronotum) of *Triplax nigripennis* (Motschulsky) from India (United Provinces and Assam) and Burma, but is separated from it by the following points: Body smaller (Motschulsky's species is measured as 4.5 mm in body-length), antennae with 3 terminal

segments blackish, meso- and metathorax blackish, pronotum more finely punctured than on head, scutellum punctate, elytra more strongly and closely punctured on interstices of the regular files of distinct punctures, etc.

The name of this new species is dedicated to Dr. H. E. McClure who is the collector of this very interesting example.

In conclusion, I wish to express my obligation to Dr. C. M. Yoshimoto (B. P. Bishop Museum) who kindly gave me a good chance to study this interesting example and also to Mrs. Habeck (B. P. Bishop Museum) who so kindly drew the fine figure.

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