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Notosacantha viridipennis, a new species from Madagascar
(Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Cassidinae)

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ABSTRACT. *Notosacantha viridipennis*, a new species from Madagascar is described. It is unique a species, the only Madagascan member with elytra lacking tubercles and costae.

Key words: entomology, taxonomy, new species, Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae, Cassidinae, *Notosacantha*, Madagascar.

The genus *Notosacantha* CHEVROLAT, 1837 (= *Hoplionota* HOPE, 1840), a member of the tribe Notosacanthini, comprises 252 species from all Paleotropics with the greatest diversity on Madagascar and Pacific Islands, especially Philippines (BOROWIEC 1999, BOROWIEC & ŚWIĘTOJAŃSKA 2002). Most species have small distribution areas and are known from a single or few specimens. Ninety six species have been recorded from Madagascar hitherto. They were mostly perfectly reviewed by SPAETH (1931, 1932). Few additional species were described by SPAETH (1934, 1940), HINCKS (1962), and recently by ŚWIĘTOJAŃSKA (2000). A new species from Madagascar is described below.

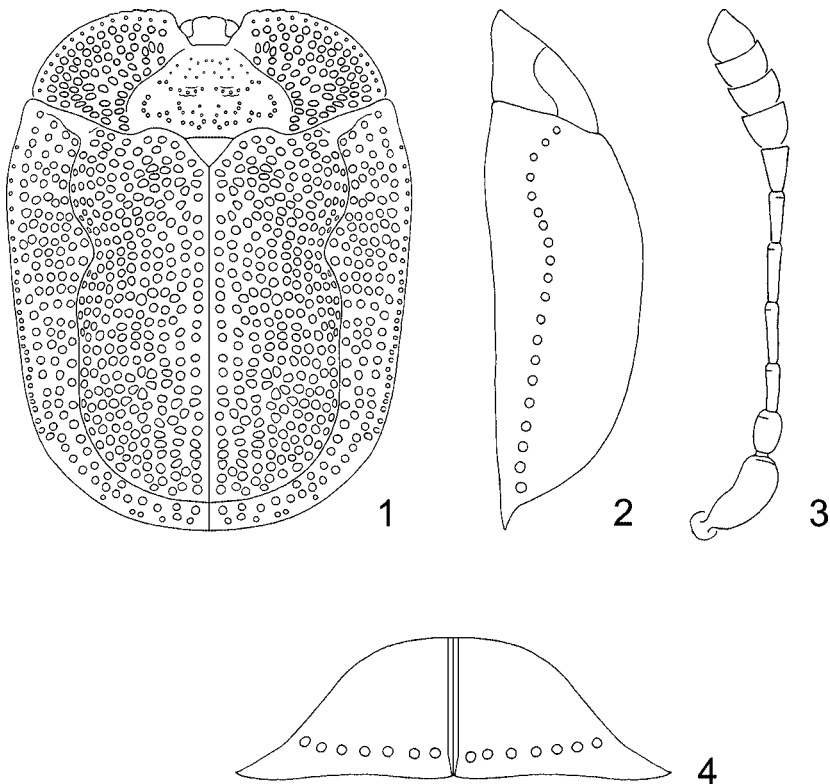
Notosacantha viridipennis n. sp.

ETYMOLOGY

Named after completely green elytral disc.

DIAGNOSIS

It is a unique species, the only one from Madagascar with elytral disc only punctate, without tubercles and costae. In the genus *Notosacantha* most species have elytral disc with a number of costae and/or tubercles, Madagascan species are especially distinctly tuberculate, species with only costate elytra occur mostly in Oriental and Australian Regions, but 17 species from Madagascar have elytral disc with only costae, without tubercles. In 6 species costae are mostly obsolete, except low dorsal costa or rudimentary costae in principal and apical area of sculpture (for terminology of elytral sculpture in *Notosacantha* see paper on *N. multicostata* by ŚWIĘTOJAŃSKA 2000, the species with complete set of tubercles and costae; the system was adopted with modification from SPAETH's (1931) paper on Madagascan *Notosacantha*). All hitherto known species with mostly reduced elytral sculpture differ from *N. viridipennis* in elytral disc not or only partly green. The most similar species is *N. pochoni* (SPAETH, 1940) which has elytral disc almost completely green but with yellow elevated cross in principal point. It



1-5. *Notosacantha viridipennis*: 1 – dorsal, 2 – lateral, 3 – antenna, 4 – hind view

differs also in black antennal club (yellowish brown in *N. viridipennis*) and dark brown pronotal disc (yellowish in *N. viridipennis*). *N. quadricolorata* HINCKS, 1962 has elytral sculpture reduced to a very low dorsal costa but differs in green pattern occupying only anterior part of disc, marginal intervals and sometimes two small spots on slope (for colour photos of *N. viridipennis* and both discussed species see BOROWIEC & ŚWIĘTOJAŃSKA 2002).

DESCRIPTION

Length: 4.9 mm, width: 3.8 mm, length of pronotum: 1.2 mm, width of pronotum: 3.3 mm, length/width ratio: 1.28, width/length ratio of pronotum: 2.75. Body short-oval, the widest in anterior third (fig. 1).

Head on sides and vertex black, frontal plate, clypeus, and labrum yellowish-brown. Antennal segments 1-2 yellow, remainder yellowish-brown. Pronotum, scutellum and explanate margin of elytra yellow. Disc of elytra uniformly green, only marginal row and lateral fold of marginal row yellow. Ventrites yellowish-brown with blackish-brown lateral plates of pro-, meso-, and metanotum. Legs yellowish-brown except for femora which are gradually brownish-black at basal half.

Head with very short, broadly rounded frontal plate, with shallow apical cleft. Impression of clypeus triangular with low carina in the middle.

Pronotum broad, with maximum width in 1/3 basal length. Disc with moderately coarse punctures, finer and sparser in anterior part of disc but coarser and denser in its posterior part. In the middle of basal part of disc punctures are very dense, almost touching each other and surface of disc appears irregular. Explanate margin with regularly distributed, medium-sized pores which are as coarse as pores on explanate margin of elytra and punctures on elytral disc. Pores close to border of disc slightly elongate.

Base of elytra slightly wider than base of pronotum. Elytral disc without costae or tubercles (figs 1, 2, 4). Puncturation of elytral disc regularly disposed, moderately coarse, very dense, distance between punctures as long as half of puncture diameter. Puncturation in marginal row only slightly coarser than on disc, gradually coarser posterad, in apical part of marginal row punctures distinctly transverse. Puncturation of explanate margin as coarse and dense as on elytral disc.

Antennae slim with distinct 5-segmented club. Pedicle, c. 1.8 times longer than club. Second antennal segment broad and elongate, c. 1.6 times longer than wide. Segment 8 as wide as long, segments 9 and 10 wider than long (fig. 3).

TYPE MATERIAL

Holotype: "E Madagascar, 25.3-3.4.2001, Mt. Ambondrombe env., camp 6, 1500-1600 m, P. Bulirsch lgt." (preserved at the Department of Biodiversity and Evolutionary Taxonomy [former Department of Systematic Zoology and Zoogeography], Wrocław University, Wrocław, Poland).

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