

**New synonymy in *Pseudhyperantha* Saunders, 1869
(Coleoptera: Buprestidae)**

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Abstract. *Pseudhyperantha itoi* Endo, 1992 is proposed as a new junior subjective synonym of *P. jucunda* Saunders, 1869.

Key Words. Coleoptera, Buprestidae, *Pseudhyperantha*, Malaysia, Borneo, Sabah, synonymy.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Pseudhyperantha* Saunders (1869) was erected for the single species *P. jucunda* Saunders from Penang island, off the western coast of peninsular Malaysia. Four additional species of the genus have been added as follows: *P. bloetei* Théry (1935), from Sumatra; *P. itoi* Endo (1992), from Sabah; *P. pinratanai* Hattori (1997), from south-west Thailand; and *P. trifasciata* Tôyama (1989), from Mindanao island, Philippines. Outside of various catalogue and checklist entries for *P. jucunda* (e.g., Gemminger & Harold 1869: 1372; Saunders 1871: 19; Kerremans 1892: 49, 1903: 126; Obenberger 1930: 310), nothing more has been written about these species.

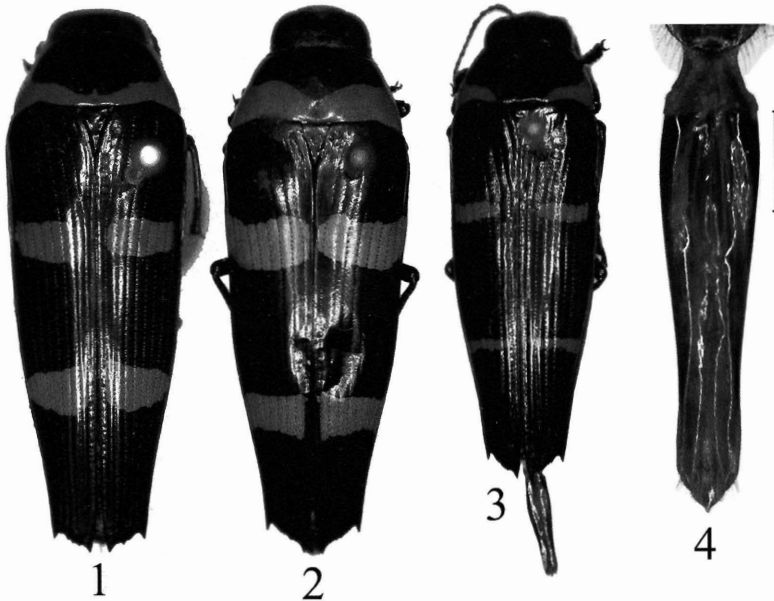
Over the last couple of years, a series of specimens of *Pseudhyperantha* has become available via a commercial collector in Sabah. This series exhibits a range of size and development of the dorsal color pattern and originates from several different localities. Since the description of *P. itoi* was published, I have suspected the possibility that it might be only a variant of *P. jucunda* but since the latter is based on a unique type, I wanted to study the types in comparison with the series I have acquired. I borrowed the type of *P. jucunda* from BMNH, but the types of *P. itoi* are unavailable from the private collection of the author. I have been unable to contact S. Endo and none of the Japanese colleagues I have contact with could advise me about how to communicate with him. I'll take the opportunity to express my continuing concern about primary types being held in private collections, especially in situations like this. Many private workers hold primary types in their research collections, although some have already made arrangements for the transfer of these types to large, public institutional collections. However, the original description of *P. itoi* contains good dorsal and ventral color photographs of the holotype and allotype. It should be mentioned that Endo (1992), following Tôyama (1989), misspelled the genus name as *Pseudohyperantha*.

Abbreviations. BMNH = The Natural History Museum (formerly British Museum of Natural History), London; CLBC = my research collection. Geographic coordinates and place names have been located/confirmed via the GEOnet Names Server (GNS), National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (<http://earth-info.nga.mil/gns/html/index.html>).

***Pseudhyperantha jucunda* Saunders, 1869**

(Figs. 1–6)

Pseudhyperantha jucunda Saunders 1869:6; Gemminger & Harold 1869:1372; Saunders 1871:19; Kerremans 1892:49; 1903:126; Obenberger 1930:310; Tôyama 1989:193; Endo 1992:7.



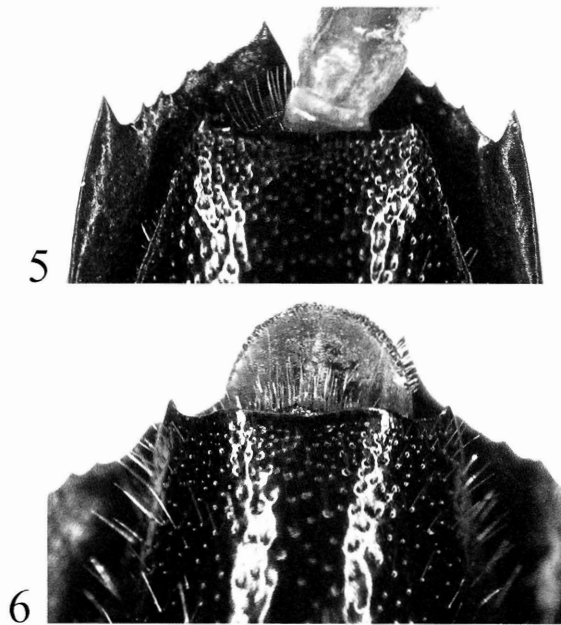
Figures 1–4. *Pseudhyperantha jucunda* Saunders. Fig. 1, Holotype, male; Fig. 2, female, Sabah, Crocker Range, Mt. Trus Madi, 1000 m, 5.v.2005; Fig. 3, male, Crocker Range, 900 m, 2.v.2004; Fig. 4, aedeagus, dorsal view (scale bar = 1.0 mm).

Pseudhyperantha itoi Endo 1992:6. **syn. nov.**

Specimens Examined. Holotype ♂ (BMNH) (Fig. 1): Penang; 1 ♂ (CLBC): N. Boreno, Mt. Trus Madi, Keningau [05°15'00" N 116°15'00" E], iii-1992; 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (CLBC): Malaysia, Sabah, Crocker Range, vic. of Mt. Trus-Madi, iii/iv-2001; 2 ♂♂, 1 ♀ (CLBC): same data except 2002; 1 ♂ (CLBC): same data except Ranau, 05°58'00" N 116°41'00" E, 24.iii.2003; 3 ♂♂, 1 ♀ (CLBC): Crocker Range, 900 m, 22.iii.2004 (1 ♀), 2, 8, 22.v.2004 (3 ♂♂); 3 ♀♀ (CLBC): Crocker Range, Mt. Trus-Madi, 05°33'00" N 116°31'00" E, 23.iii.2004, 2, 3.v.2004; 1 ♂ (CLBC): Ranau, 2.viii.2005; 1 ♂, 3 ♀♀ (CLBC): Mt. Trus Madi, 1000 m, 21.iii.2005 (1 ♂), 2.iv.2005, 5, 15.v.2005. Specimens from these localities are also deposited in the collections of Jerry Davidson, Glendale, Arizona; Mike Niemala, Davis, California; Ulf Nylander, Valbo, Sweden and George Walters, La Puente, California.

Biology. Nothing is recorded about this species, nor any of its congeners. The collector in Sabah has told me (S. Chew, in litt.) that he has collected *P. jucunda* during the heat of a sunny day, ca. 11 AM to 2 PM, at the white flowers of an unidentified tree that ranges from 5 to 8 meters in height.

Comments. The type locality for *P. itoi* is recorded as "Keningau, Sabah, N. Borneo, iii-1992." In comparing the holotype of *P. jucunda*, the photographs of the holotype and allotype of *P. itoi* and the series of specimens recorded above, I conclude that these two names refer to a single, subtly sexually dimorphic and dichromatic species. The specimens that I have examined from these localities in Sabah contain the entire range of what might be termed 'two color forms', which vary mostly in size and the extent of the development of the dorsal fasciae; there is no discrete relationship between a specific locality and a single size or color pattern. The males (Fig. 3) are smaller (ca. 16.0–19.0 mm in length), slightly more slender (length 3.01–3.09× width) with the



Figures 5–6. *Pseudhypantha jucunda* Saunders. Fig. 5, male, distal portion of elytra and last visible ventrite, ventral aspect; Fig. 6, female, distal portion of elytra and last visible ventrite, ventral aspect.

color pattern reduced, i.e., the yellow transverse fasciae are at least half the length or less the size of these markings on the females. In several specimens, the fascia on the posterior margin of the pronotum and distal elytral fascia are separated into a pair of lateral short, elongate spots. The last visible ventrite of the male (Fig. 5) has the distal margin straight between the single lateral spine on either side; the male genitalia have never been illustrated (Fig. 4). The females (Fig. 2) are larger (ca. 22.0–26.0 mm in length), more robust (length 2.93–2.95× width) with the color pattern expanded, a single wide yellow fascia along the posterior margin of the pronotum and two elytral fasciae. The last visible ventrite of the female (Fig. 6) has the distal margin slightly produced, bilobed, convex between the lateral spines. One final difference between the genders is the ratio between the lengths of the elytra and the abdomen; the male elytra are longer in proportion to the abdomen (Fig. 5) than those of the female (Fig. 6); these data were not quantified. Interestingly, the male holotype of *P. jucunda* is more typical of females, with larger dorsal markings, while the photograph of the allotype of *P. itoi* is more typical of males, with the elytral markings very short and slender. Since the holotype of *P. jucunda* is unique and old, I chose not to dissect genitalia; however as in all aspects of the examined external morphology between *P. jucunda* and *P. itoi* are the same or very close, I do not imagine that the genitalia of the holotype of *P. jucunda* differs from that shown in Fig. 4.

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