

**A new species of *Psalidognathus* Gray, 1831
(Coleoptera, Cerambycidae, Prioninae) from Ecuador**

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Abstract: A new species of *Psalidognathus* (Gray, 1831) from Ecuador being described. Species is related to *P. onorei* (Quentin & Villiers, 1983) and *P. cerberus* (Santos-Silva & Komiya, 2012) from Ecuador but has range of differences in morphology.

Introduction

Genus *Psalidognathus* (Gray, 1831) contains 11 species distributed from Costa Rica in the North to Bolivia on the South (SSILVA). The group has a range of difficulties that makes them hard to study, mostly due to the absence of good series of many species of the genus in collections. A new specie from Ecuador is being described related to *P. onorei* and *P. cerberus*.

Material and methods

The authors have used traditional methods of morphological examination. Comparative analysis is made using stereo microscope Zeiss Stemi 2000-C.

The following abbreviations are used to locate the storage of paratype specimens:

AT - the private collection of Andrey Yu. Titarenko (Moscow, Russia)

BM - The Museum für Naturkunde - Leibniz Institute for Evolution and Biodiversity Science (Berlin, Germany)

Psalidognathus vershinini, sp. n.

Fig. 1-5

Description. Body length 60-65 mm. All body and parts colored from light brown to blackish brown. Antennae in males 1-3 segments blackish brown, 4-11 becoming from brown to pale brown to the last segment. In females only 1st segment is dark brown. Male's head and pronotum are almost black and mandibles are black, in female mandibles are brown-black and head is almost brown, pronotum lighter than head. Elytra in male are dark brown, in females are light brown. Legs of male and female are dark brown, lighter at the apex of protibia. Head and pronotum of male and female rugose. Base (1/3) of male's elytra rugose, the other 2/3 in dense punctuation, slightly rugose. Female's elytra strongly rugose. Humerus with small denticle. Elytra long, in females 1,5 times long as wide, in males ~1,75 times long as wide (in it's widest part). Mandibles long and curved, in female slightly longer than head; left mandible's inner edge almost straight, with small tooth closer to the mandible's base, right mandible's inner edge unevenly indented. In male mandibles are 1.3 times longer than head, slightly curved, left mandible with expansion at apical half with smooth sharp edge and a small tooth behind the middle; right mandible more straight, with bigger tooth near the base. Both male's and female's mandibles in deep and dense punctuation except inner edge (FIG TEBE). Maxillary palpi long, same length in males and females, in males slightly longer than mandibles, slightly axially enlarged at the apex. Antennae long, in female 4/5 of body length, in male almost reaching end of elytra. 1st antennal segment very short, twice long as wide, in very dense and deep punctuation. 3d segment very long, 3 times longer than 1st segment, 2 times longer than 4th segment. Head with two small narrow processes on the sides slightly curved backwards. Cephalic carinae divergent, ending with small spikes near the base of the head, the spikes bigger in male. Eyes long and narrow with deep cutout. Distance between eyes almost half of the heads width. Pronotum wide, in males almost 2,2 times wide as long. Sides of pronotum with 2 smaller and two bigger spikes. Females pronotum 2,3 times wide as long, with 3 long and wide and 1 small spikes, trapezoid shape frontal side wider; sides of female's pronotum slightly

flattened. Scutellum round. Prosternal process rather short Male's protibia with dense short hairs on the inner edge, protibial widened in the apical half. Protibia in deep small and rather rare punctuation. Front tarsi first 3 segments of both female and male short and narrow, the claw segment long, almost as long as first 3 segments. Other tarsi long, almost 2 times longer than front tarsi. In female pubescence absent, in male thorax and last 2 abdominal segments in long dense golden hairs.

Materials. Holotype, male (BM); Paratype, female (AT): Ecuador, 8 km N of Mera, VI.1991.

Comparative analysis and discussion. The new species is similar to *P. cerberus*, *P. onorei* and *P. reichei*. Both males and females have wide range of differences. From *P. reichei*, *P. pubescens* and *P. antonkozlovi* males of *P. vershinini*, **sp. n.** can be easily distinguished by absence of pubescence on pronotum.

Male's mandibles of *P. vershinini*, **sp. n.** long, shape close to *P. reichei* and major form of *P. onorei*, but shorter and more thick than in *P. reichei*.

Cephalic carinae of *P. vershinini*, **sp. n.** go further than lateral processes with bigger spikes unlikely in *P. reichei*. Distance between carinae less than in *P. reichei*, but notably wider than in *P. onorei* and *P. cerberus*. Side processes of *P. vershinini*, **sp. n.** have distinctive shape (male and female have same shape, a little bit bigger in male) wider and longer than in *P. reichei*, *P. onorei* and *P. cerberus* that have triangular and pointed shapes of processes.

1st antennal segment of *P. vershinini*, **sp. n.** is very short, notably shorter than in *P. onorei* and *P. cerberus*. 1st segment shape can be compared only with *P. pubescens* and *P. antonkozlovi*. Antennae of both male and female *P. vershinini*, **sp. n.** are thin, notably narrower than in *P. onorei* and *P. cerberus*. 3rd antennal segment of *P. vershinini*, **sp. n.** in very dense punctuation, in *P. onorei* and *P. cerberus* in rare punctuation, glabrous.

Spikes on the sides of pronotum are notably smaller than in *P. onorei* and *P. cerberus* (more similar to *P. pubescens* both male and female).

Protibia of male of *P. vershinini*, **sp. n.** (Fig. 3) are widened stronger and more evenly than of *P. onorei* and *P. cerberus*.

Etymology. The new species is named after Vershinin Lev

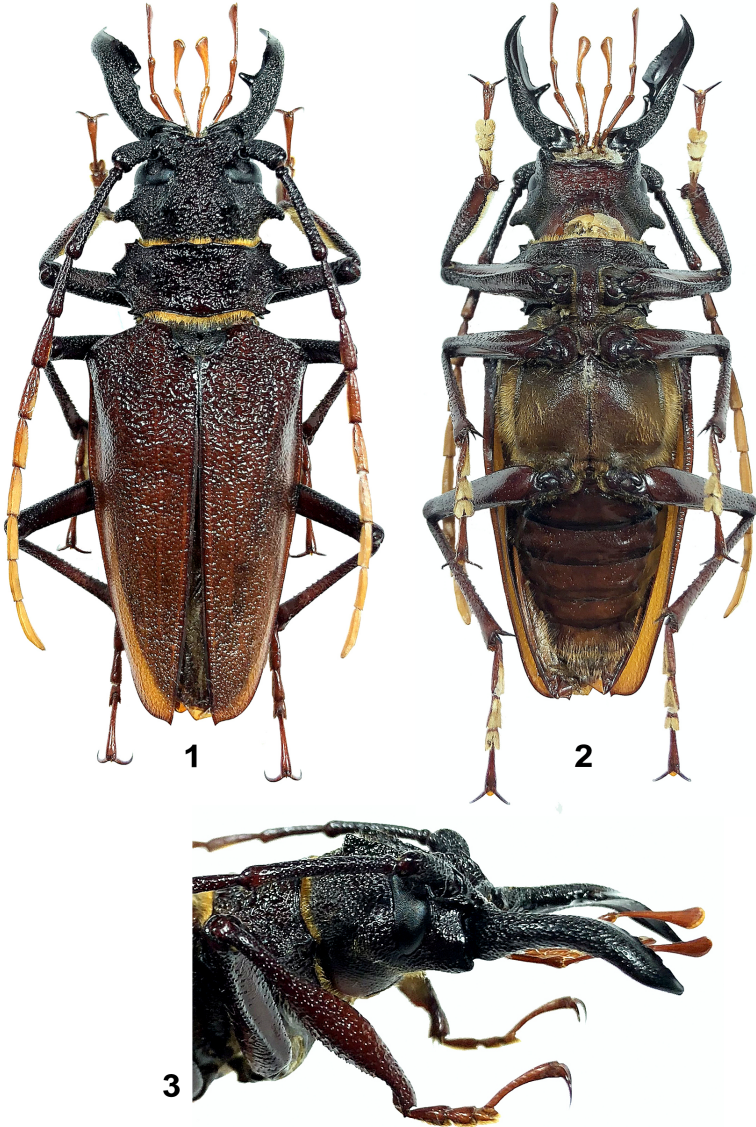
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Removich (Odessa, Ukraine, 14.08.1957), historian, writer and political scientist.

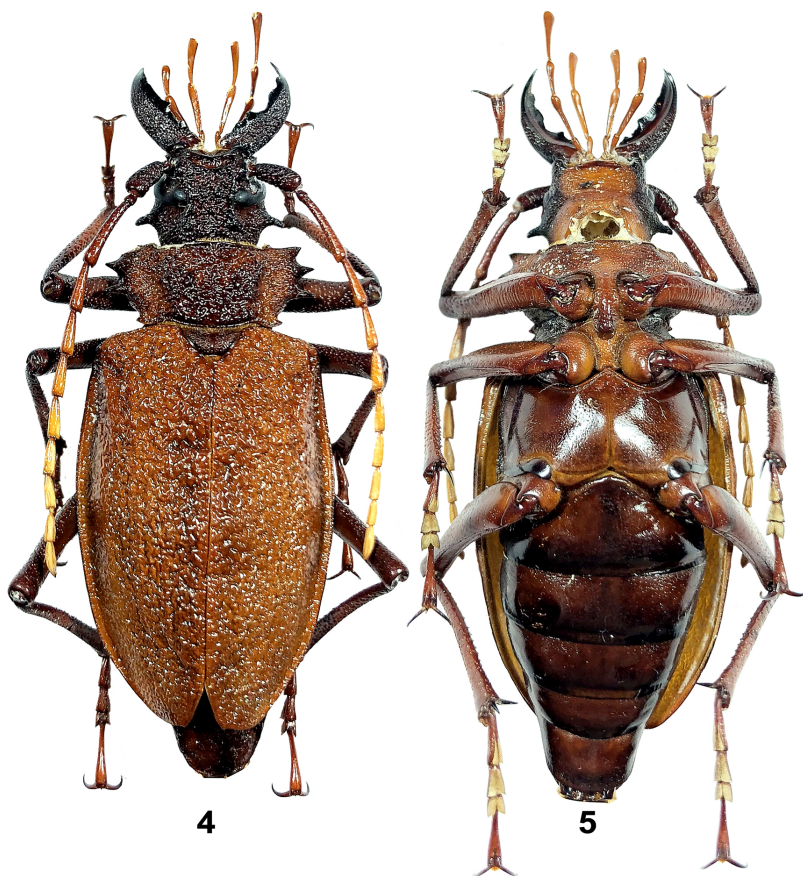
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Figs 1-3. *Psalidognathus vershinini*, **sp. n.** Holotype, male, Ecuador, 8 km N of Mera, VI.1991: 1 - dorsal; 2 - ventral; 3 - front protibia, lateral.



Figs 4-5. *Psalidognathus vershinini*, **sp. n.** Paratype, female, Ecuador, 8 km N of Mera, VI.1991: 4 - dorsal; 5 - ventral.

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