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METAPOCYRTUS (ARTAPOCYRTUS) CABRASAE SP. N., A NEW SPECIES OF THE FLIGHTLESS JEWEL WEEVIL (COLEOPTERA: CURCULIONIDAE, ENTIMINAE) FROM MINDANAO, PHILIPPINES

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Summary. *Metapocyrtus (Artapocyrtus) cabrasae* Obrial, Agbas et Medina, **sp. n.** is described from Mindanao Island. It is named after Dr. Analyn A. Cabras,

the “Queen of Philippine weevils”. Detailed taxonomic descriptions, photographs, and ecological notes of the new species are also provided.

Key words: beetles, taxonomy, new species, Oriental region.

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Резюме. С острова Минданао описан *Metapocyrtus (Artapocyrtus) cabrasae* Obrial, Agbas et Medina, sp. n. Вид назван в честь доктора Аналин А. Кабрас, «королевы филиппинских долгоносиков». Также приводятся подробные таксономические описания, фотографии и экологические заметки о новом виде.

INTRODUCTION

Beetles are known to be the primary contributor for the worlds known biodiversity comprising 25% of all described animals and plants combined (McHugh & Liebherr, 2003). The intensive study of Coleoptera diversity in the Philippines was started by Dr. Analyn Cabras and Dr. Milton Norman Medina together with their students and some foreign collaborators (Cabras *et al.*, 2023, 2024, 2025a, b; Agbas *et al.*, 2024; Medina *et al.*, 2024 a-c; Obrial *et al.*, 2024; Villegas *et al.*, 2025a, b).

The genus *Metapocyrtus* (Curculionidae: Entiminae, Pachyrhynchini) is among the highly diverse group of beetles prominent for its flightless nature (fused elytra) and iridescent coloration. It was first established by Heller in 1912 and is now represented by approximately 280 described species, with ongoing discoveries (Agbas *et al.*, 2024; Obrial *et al.*, 2024; Rukmane-Bārbale, 2024; Bollino & Ersoy 2025). Currently, the genus is divided into several subgenera, including the *Metapocyrtus* s. str., *Artapocyrtus*, *Orthocyrtus*, *Trachycyrtus*, *Sclerocyrtus*, *Sphenomorphaidea*, and *Dolicocephalocyrtus*. However, recent taxonomic findings suggest that there is a need to review and revise the entire group (Cabras *et al.*, 2024). Though the genus is known to be endemic to the Philippine archipelago, there are a few recorded accidental introductions to Malaysia, Japan and Taiwan, primarily as a consequence of plant products importation, especially for some species under the subgenus *Trachycyrtus* (Yoshitake, Kojima & Ghani, 2016; Genka & Yoshitake, 2018). In the past decade, extensive taxonomic works on *Metapocyrtus* weevils and the whole Pachyrhynchini tribe were undertaken by Dr. Analyn A. Cabras, especially in Mindanao Island (Villegas *et al.*, 2025a; Agbas & Obrial, 2025). She has led the exploration of many uncharted forest habitats and the subsequent discovery of over a hundred new species, furthering the importance of the Philippines as a megadiverse country. To add, the genus *Metapocyrtus* has only been studied extensively for its taxonomic aspect (i.e., species descriptions) but is largely understudied for its interaction with their environment, life history, and the ecological role that the species under the genus might play, especially for the forest specialists' who rely heavily on the plants that they are associated with, and are not able to rapidly adapt to changing environments (i.e.,

rapid deforestation). As such, amid forest loss, wildlife poaching, and other anthropogenic threats for the species in the country, there is an ever-increasing need to document these beetles before they undergo dark extinctions.

The Municipality of Tarragona on the other hand, is in the province of Davao Oriental, Mindanao, Philippines, and is home to high-elevation intact forest ecosystems, part of the fragmented Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor (EMBC). Although it harbors few of the remaining biological frontiers in the country, the area is still largely underexplored for its biodiversity, particularly for all aspects of taxonomy pertaining to its invertebrate fauna. The recent discovery of a cavernicolous beetle, *Metabacetus desideratus* Anichtchenko et Medina, 2024, in Limot Cave in the municipality calls for more scientific and conservation attention in Tarragona, Davao Oriental (Medina *et al.*, 2024b).

Davao Oriental (Medina *et al.*, 2024b).

This paper is in loving memory of the late Dr. Analyn A. Cabras, who served as the mentor and adviser of the first and last authors in their respective bachelor's theses. Her passing is a profound loss, but her legacy in Philippine coleopterology remains unparalleled. Her dedication, passion, and mentorship extended far beyond academia, instilling in us a deep commitment to the study and preservation of our rich biodiversity. Though she is no longer with us, the knowledge she imparted will continue to inspire and guide us. Her name, her contributions, and the wisdom she so generously shared will forever live on, in the discoveries yet to come, and in the hearts of those she has mentored. This work is dedicated to her memory.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Comparative materials and specimens used in the study are deposited in the following institutional collections: **DGC** – Private Collection of Daven Agbas & Graden Obrial, Mati City, Philippines; **PNM** – National Museum of Natural History under the National Museum of the Philippines (PNMNH); **SMTD** – Senckenberg Natural History Collections, Dresden, Germany.

Morphological characters were observed under Olympus SZ51 stereomicroscopes. The treatment of the genitals follows Yoshitake (2011). Female genitalia are not illustrated as very little of the chitinous structures are used to identify and characterize different species of Pachyrhynchini (Cabras *et al.*, 2012). Images of the habitus were taken using a Canon EOS 3000D digital camera equipped with an MP-E 65-mm macro lens. Images were stacked and processed using a licensed version of Helicon Focus 6.7.0, then contrast adjusted in Photoshop CS6 Portable software. Label data are indicated verbatim.

Abbreviations and symbols mentioned are abbreviated as follows: / different lines; // different labels; **LB** – body length, from the apical margin of pronotum to the apex of elytra; **LR** – length of rostrum; **LP** – pronotal length, from the base to apex along the midline; **LE** – elytral length, from the level of the basal margins to the apex of elytra; **WR** – maximum width across the rostrum; **WP** – maximum width across the pronotum; **WE** – maximum width across the elytra.

TAXONOMY

Genus *Metapocyrtus* Heller, 1912

Subgenus *Artapocyrtus* Heller, 1912

Metapocyrtus (Artapocyrtus) cabrasae Obrial, Agbas et Medina, sp. n.

<https://zoobank.org/NomenclaturalActs/9377CD15-170F-42B2-9652-F43DF45E4669>

Figs 1A–D, 2A–C

MATERIAL. Holotype: ♂, **the Philippines:** labeled “Philippines – Mindanao Island, Davao Oriental, Tarragona, Brgy. Limot / 12.ii.2025 / G. Obrial, D. Agbas leg. (typed on white card) // HOLOTYPE male / *Metapocyrtus (Artapocyrtus) cabrasae* / OBRIAL, AGBAS & MEDINA, 2026 (typed on red card)”, (PNM). Paratypes: 1 ♀, same data as the holotype; 1 ♀, Philippines – Mindanao Island, Davao Oriental / Caraga / i.2025 / leg. LC.; 1 ♂, Philippines – Mindanao Island, Davao de Oro, Maragusan / 10-14.vi.2025 / P. Camposo, J. Ytang, M.N. Medina leg. (All paratypes with additional yellow labels); *Metapocyrtus (Artapocyrtus) cabrasae* OBRIAL, AGBAS & MEDINA, 2026. Deposition (1 ♂, 1 ♀ – DGC; 1 ♀ – PNM; 1 ♀ – SMTD).

DESCRIPTION. Male (Fig. 1A, B). Measurements (in mm): LB: 8.0–8.2 (holotype: 8.0); LR: 1.5 (holotype: 1.5); WR: 1.5 (holotype: 1.5); LP: 3.0 (holotype: 3.0); WP: 3.0 (holotype: 3.0); LE: 5.0–5.2 (holotype: 5.0); WE: 4.0 (holotype: 4.0).

Integuments black. Head, rostrum, prothorax, elytra, legs, tarsi and ventral surface lustrous.

Head between eyes rugopunctate, covered with patch of appressed, contiguous, round, elliptical, yellowish scales with tinge of orange, intersperse with sub-appressed minute light-colored setae; lateral side near eye with weak rugae, below eyes with appressed, contiguous, yellowish, blue piliform scales, denser towards latero-ventral side near antennal scrobe; forehead between eyes flattish with an indistinct median furrow reaching hind margin of eyes; eyes medium-sized and weakly convex not protruding to outline of head.

Rostrum squares, as long as wide (LR: 1.5 mm; WR: 1.5 mm); separated from head by distinct transverse groove almost reaching lateral margin; dorsal surface of rostrum punctate, each punctures with minute and medium sized light-colored suberect setae facing at middle and anteriorly, moderately swollen from basal third up to two third of rostrum, with distinct median furrow reaching beyond the middle; lateral sides after antennal scrobe with appressed and subappressed yellowish, blue piliform scales, along with light colored sub-erect setae, that gets longer towards anterior margin; dorsal contour in lateral view strongly convex, raised at basal third and highest at two third of rostrum then gradually declined towards apex, lateral contour in dorsal view subparallel, slightly wider before middle, with angled, rounded dorsolateral margin. Antennal scape and funicle subequal in length. Scape covered with appressed and subappressed, thin, light-colored, brown setae, denser and longer

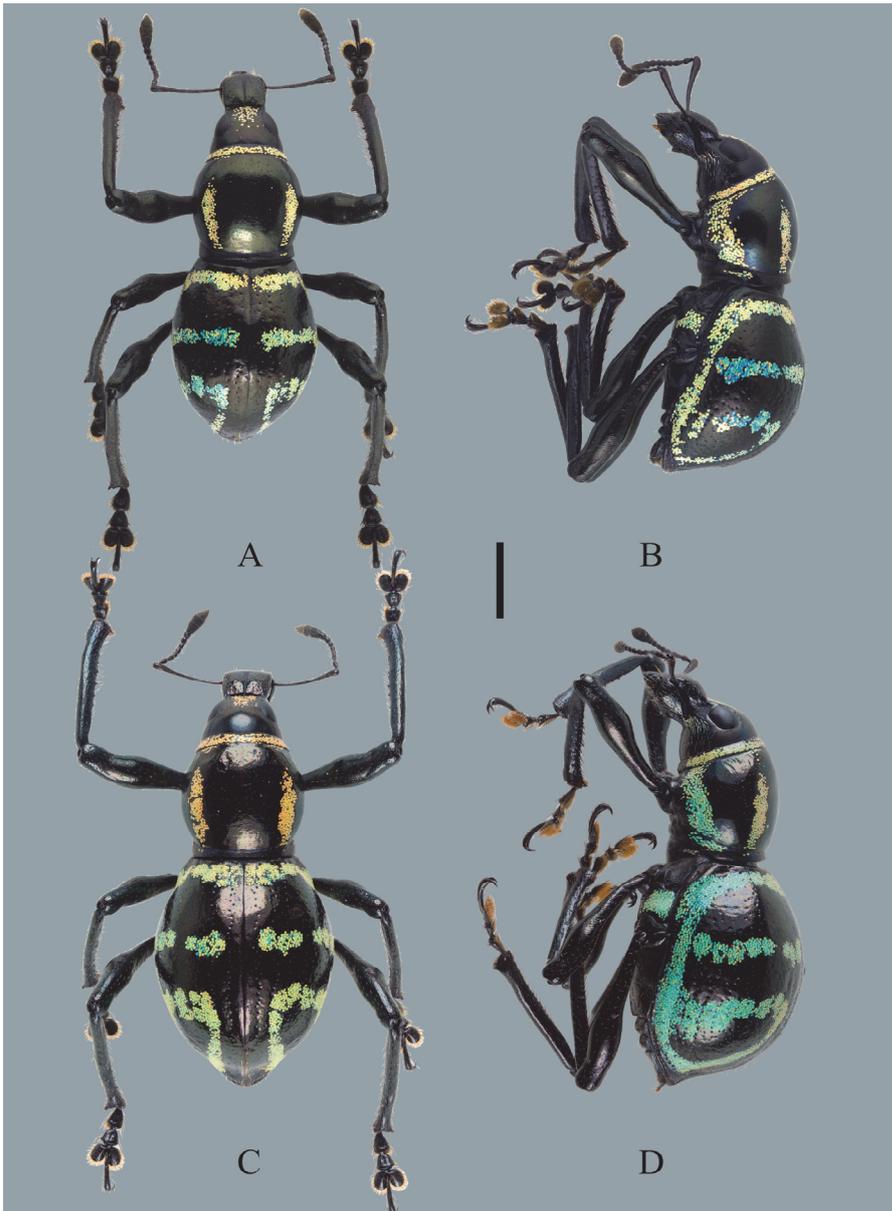


Fig. 1. Habitus of *Metapocyrtus (Artapocyrtus) cabrasae* sp. n. A, B – holotype male: A – dorsal view; B – lateral view; C, D – paratype female: C – dorsal view, D – lateral view. Scale bar: 2 mm.

towards apices; funicles covered with suberect, long brown setae. Funicular segments, segment I and II subequal in length, three times longer than wide; segments III nearly a third shorter than segment II but slightly longer than segment IV; segments IV to VI nearly as long as wide; segment VII slightly longer and wider than IV to VI; club subelliptical, nearly three times longer than wide.

Prothorax globular, truncated at base and apex, as long as wide (LP: 3.0 mm; WP: 3.0 mm), minutely punctured, each puncture with minute appressed light-colored setae. Prothorax with the following scaly markings composed of appressed and contiguous, iridescent yellow and turquoise scales with tinge of orange: a) pronotum with two longitudinal scaly band on each side of disc from base up to two-thirds of pronotum; b) one scaly band at anterior margin confluent towards; c) thick patch on lateral margin before coxa. Lateral contour in dorsal view uniformly arcuate widest at middle, dorsal contour in lateral view weakly arcuate.



Fig. 2. Male genitalia and sternite IX of *Metapocyrtus (Artapocyrtus) cabrasae* sp. n. A – aedeagus, dorsal view; B – same, lateral view, C – sternite XI. Scale bar: 1 mm.

Elytra ovate, longer than wide (LE: 5.0 mm; WE: 4.0 mm), wider and longer than prothorax (WE: 4.0 mm; WP: 3.0 mm; LE: 5.0 mm; LP: 3.0 mm). Elytra striate punctate; each elytron with the following scaly markings composed of appressed, contiguous, iridescent yellow, turquoise, bluish teal, round and elliptical scales: a) one scaly band basally extending from suture towards lateral side; b) thin scaly band pre-medially extending from stria I towards lateral side; c) one post-median irregular scaly band extending from stria II towards lateral side, and from stria II confluent to; d) a longitudinal band towards apicad, that also connects with;

e) scaly band on lateral side confluent to a, b, and c scaly bands. Dorsal contour in lateral view uniformly convex, widest at middle; lateral contour in dorsal view uniformly convex, widest at middle; apical declivity near suture towards apicad with erect to suberect light-colored setae.

Legs with moderately clavate femorae, weakly punctate with weak rugae, each puncture with appressed and sub-appressed minute white setae. Tibiae punctate with weak rugae on outer margin of apical half covered with sub-appressed brown setae on outer margin, and erect, and suberect longer brown setae on inner margin. Protibiae and mesotibiae with irregular denticules along inner margin, mucronate at apex. Tarsi with erect to suberect brown and dark-brown setae, longer and denser laterally. Tarsomere I subtriangular, longer than tarsomere II; tarsomere II short, triangular, and simple without sharp projections at apical corners; tarsomere III bilobed, slightly shorter than tarsomere II; tarsomere IV and V slightly subequal in length; tarsal claws free.

Coxae sparsely covered with white appressed setae. Mesoventrite covered with white appressed setae; metaventrite sparsely covered with white appressed setae, with thick scaly patch at distal margin of iridescent yellow and turquoise round scales. Ventrite I with depression in the middle, with sparse minute punctures and minute setae. Ventrite I and II are indistinctly separated, with only a short groove at distal ends. Ventrite II-V minutely punctured with few appressed white setae. Male genitalia and sternite XI is shown in Fig. 2 A–C.

Female (Fig. 1C, D). Measurements (in mm): LB: 9.0–11.0; LR: 1.5–1.9; WR: 1.5–1.8; LP: 3.3–3.9; WP: 3.3–3.9; LE: 6.0–7.5; WE: 4.8–5.8.

Female only differ from male in size, stouter morphology, with wider prothorax and more convex elytra; ventrites I–V slightly more convex, ventrite I with only faint depression at middle. Otherwise, female is similar to male.

VARIABILITY. New species exhibits variation in scale coloration, ranging from turquoise, bluish-teal, and yellowish with an orange tinge, to entirely golden-yellow with a purplish sheen. The pronotal scaly markings, consisting of two longitudinal bands, also vary: they may be discontinuous, extending from the base to only about two-thirds of the pronotum, or confluent, running continuously from the base to a thin band at the anterior margin. Finally, the elytral scaly markings vary from thinner, discontinuous or intermittent bands to broader, thicker, and continuous bands.

DIAGNOSIS. *Metapocyrtus (A.) cabrasae* **sp. n.** is distinguished from all known species under the subgenus *Artapocyrtus* due to its unique scaly ornamentations, specifically by its elytral patterns which superficially resemble the common elytral patterns observed within the species belonging to the subgenus *Sphenomorpha* Heller, 1912, particularly *M. (S.) transversarius* Shultze, 1925. However, *M. (A.) cabrasae* **sp. n.** does not belong nor is it related to the species under the latter subgenus, as *M. (A.) cabrasae* bears characters consistent with its subgeneric placement, including rostrum that is relatively short, as long as broad, squarish and notably convex. Additionally, the overall aedeagus morphology of *M. (A.) cabrasae* **sp. n.** is comparable to aedeagus of species under the subgenus *Artapocyrtus*.



Fig. 3. Habitat of *Metapocyrtus (Artapocyrtus) cabrasae* **sp. n.** A – Tarragona, Davao Oriental (photo R. Añuber). B – Maragusan, Davao de Oro.

ECOLOGY. New species was collected from a montane forest ecosystem at an elevation of about 1,400 meters above sea level from two localities (Fig. 3). The first pair of specimens was collected from an intact forest in the municipality of Tarragona,

Davao Oriental during the expedition conducted by the first and last authors using a long hand net in the thick forest vegetation (Fig. 3A). The second location where additional specimen was collected was from a montane forest in the municipality of Maragusan, Davao de Oro, under the dense forest canopy using beating sheet method (Fig. 3B). This ecological consistency, coupled with the very limited number of specimens despite extensive sampling efforts, suggests that *M. (A.) cabrasae* **sp. n.** is a rare and canopy-dwelling species. Its plant associations remain unknown, as the collection methods employed – long-hand netting and beating sheet – prevented direct observation of host plant interactions. The provinces of Davao Oriental and Davao de Oro, where the species was discovered, still harbor some of the last remaining pristine forests of Eastern Mindanao. However, despite their recognized biodiversity importance within the Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor (EMBC), most of these mountain ranges lack formal protection, with the notable exception of Mt. Hamiguitan in Davao Oriental. Instead, they face mounting anthropogenic threats – from the expansion of settlements and agricultural land, road development, deforestation, and irresponsible tourism, to large-scale mining operations that, as of this writing, have been ongoing for decades (Cabras *et al.*, 2025; Medina *et al.*, 2024a; Obrial *et al.*, 2024; Agbas *et al.*, 2024).

DISTRIBUTION. Philippines (Mindanao Island, Davao Oriental, Tarragona, Brgy. Limot, to Davao de Oro, Maragusan).

ETYMOLOGY. The species is named after Dr. Analyn A. Cabras, the ‘Queen of Philippine Weevils’, in memory of her passing and in honor of her remarkable contributions to the advancement of beetle research and conservation in the country.

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