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A contribution to knowledge of the genus *Colasposoma* Laporte, 1833 (Chrysomelidae, Eumolpinae)

by Lev N. Medvedev

Abstract. A revision of the Oriental species of *Colasposoma* Laporte, 1833 with keys to species from continental Asia and the Philippines based on new characters is provided. The following new synonyms are established: *C. ornatum* Jacoby, 1881 (= *C. cyaneovittatum* Pic, 1943 syn.nov.); *C. robustum* Jacoby, 1881 (= *C. bicoloratum* Jacoby, 1908, *C. coromandeliana* Jacoby, 1908, *C. arcuateimpressum* Pic, 1943, *C. coimbatorense* Pic, 1943, *C. cyaneicollis* Pic, 1943, *C. nathani* Pic, 1943, *C. sparsepunctatum* Pic, 1943 synn.nov.); *C. pretiosum* Baly, 1860 (= *C. bonnevili* Pic, 1943, *C. rufipenne* Pic, 1943 synn.nov.); *C. viridicoeruleum* Motschulsky, 1860 (= *C. auripenne* Motschulsky, 1860 syn.nov.); *C. villosulum* Lefevre, 1885 (= *C. albopilosum* Pic, 1943 syn.nov.); *C. versicolor* Lefevre, 1887 (= *C. viridicinctum* Pic, 1943 synn.nov.); *C. lividipes* Jacoby, 1903 (= *C. ruficorne* Pic, 1943, *C. rufofemorale* Pic, 1943, *C. viridigeniculatum* Pic, 1943 synn.nov.); *C. downesi asperatum* Lefevre, 1885 (= *C. serratulum* Lefevre, 1885, *C. prosternale* Jacoby, 1908, *C. andrewesi* Jacoby, 1895 synn.nov.); *C. distinctum* Baly, 1867 (= *C. nitidum* Baly, 1867, *C. rugiceps* Lefevre, 1885 synn.nov.); *C. viridifasciatum* Motschulsky, 1860 (= *C. cumingi* Baly, 1867, *C. gregarium* Lefevre, 1886 synn.nov.); *C. viridifasciatum* Motschulsky, 1860 (= *C. cumingi* Baly, 1867, *C. gregarium* Lefevre, 1886 synn.nov.). The new name *Colasposoma mauricei* nom.nov. is established for *C. madoni* Pic, 1943, India (nec *C. madoni* Pic, 1942, Senegal).

Key words. Chrysomelidae – Eumolpinae – Colasposoma Laporte, 1833 – keys – synonymy

Introduction

The Paleotropical genus *Colasposoma* Laporte, 1833 is possibly the most difficult of all the *Eumolpinae* from the taxonomic point of view. A very rich genus, it includes about 230 species, among them 156 in Africa, 72 in the Oriental region, 1 in the Australian region; 1 species is also known from the eastern Palaearctic. The Oriental species are especially numerous in continental Asia (59), while 7 species have been described from the Philippines and 7 are also known from the islands of Malaysia and Indonesia.

As far as is known, all species feed on Convolvulaceae, especially on *Ipomoea* and *Argyreia*, and some of them are dangerous pests of cultivated sweet potatoes. The beetles feed on the leaves, the larvae inhabit the soil on the roots, and pupation is also in soil.

Keys for the genus are practically non-existent, apart from preliminary work for China and Indochina (Gressitt & Kimoto 1961, Kimoto & Gressitt 1982). A revision by Burgeon (1941) for Zaire proposed only descriptions, without a key. Almost all the characters used in descriptions to date are unsatisfactory (except for the structure of the antennae) and based on the colour and sculpture of the upper side (Jacoby 1908). It is now quite clear that these characters are far too variable to be used for taxonomical purposes. It appears, therefore, that a large number of species described to date are, at best, only colour variations and that the real number of species will have to be drastically reduced.

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In quest of good features, I found that the sculpture and pubescence of the metasternum appear very useful in the taxonomy of the genus. The terminology I have used for different parts of the metasternum is given in Fig. 1. Another acceptable character is the form of the antennal segments, especially the preapical ones. The form of the aedeagus is sometimes useful (T'AN 1983) but in general its structure is very homogenous.

This study is based on extensive material held in the Natural History Museum in Basel (about 5,000 specimens, mostly from continental Asia) and the author's collection, including much material from Vietnam.

Taxonomy

1. Key to the species of continental Asia

- 1(10) Pleural triangle not pubescent, microsculptured, sometimes with occasional punctation, sharply divided from pleural stripe by a distinct suture. Metasternum bare or sparsely pubescent (Fig. 1). Antennal segments 6–11 distinctly widened. Labrum black or metallic, legs metallic. Male: apex of fore-tibia widened on the interiorly. Upperside not pubescent.
- 3(2) Metasternum much more sparsely punctate (e.g. Figs 1, 3). Suture between pleural stripe and pleural triangle distinct and sharp throughout. Oriental species.
- 4(7) Antennal segments 6–11 moderately widened, segment 10 about 2.1–2.2 times as long as wide. Metasternum with small and very sparse punctures (Fig. 3). Elytra behind humerus usually feebly rugose. Southern Indian species.
- 5(6) Upperside cupreous or greenish, elytra with longitudinal blue or violaceous stripe curved before base; sides of prothorax and elytra usually margined in the same colour. Anterior tibiae of male moderately widened on the inner side (Fig. 11). Aedeagus, Fig. 30. Underside, especially abdomen, blackish. Length 5–8 mm.

- 6(5) Elytra unicolourous or with postbasal band, but without longitudinal stripe. Upperside green, blue, cupreous; sometimes prothorax blue and elytra cupreous (described as *C. bicoloratum*), or elytra with margins and postbasal band purplish. Anterior tibiae of male strongly widened on the inner side. Aedeagus, Fig. 31. Underside usually bright metallic. Length 5.5–10 mm; small specimens have been described as *C. coromandeliana*, large specimens as *C. robustum*.
 - Southern India: Nilgiris, Pondicherry, Travancore, Bombay, Malabar coast; Sri Lanka. [C. bicoloratum Jacoby, 1908 syn.nov., C. coromandeliana Jacoby, 1908 syn.nov., C. arcuateimpressum Pic, 1943 syn.nov., C. coimbatorense Pic, 1943 syn.nov., C. cyaneicollis Pic, 1943 syn.nov., C. sparsepunctatum Pic, 1943 syn.nov., C. nathani Pic, 1943 syn.nov.]

 C. robustum Jacoby, 1881
- 7(4) Antennal segments 6–11 rather strongly widened, segment 10 about 1.1–1.6 times as long as wide. Metasternum with stronger and denser punctures (Fig. 1).
- 8(9) Body large, 6.5–10.2 mm. Preapical segments about 1.1–1.4 times as long as wide. Anterior angles of prothorax produced outwards. Mid-tibia of male strongly expanded at apex, anterior tibiae distinctly curved in apical part (Fig. 12). Lateral portion of elytron feebly rugose in female. Upperside blue, dark blue, violaceous, or elytra reddish-cupreous. Aedeagus (Fig. 27) parallel-sided in centre part. India, Nepal, Myanmar (Burma), Indochina, China. [syn. *C. coeruleatum* Baly, 1879, *C. litter* (Burma), Indochina, China. [syn. *C. coeruleatum* Baly, 1879, *C. litter* (Burma), Indochina, China.
- 9(8) Body smaller, 4.5–6.5 mm. Preapical segments about 1.4–1.6 times as long as wide. Anterior angles of prothorax not produced outwards. Midtibia of male feebly expanded at apex, anterior tibia not curved, with practically straight outer margin (Fig. 13). Lateral portion of elytron distinctly rugose in female. Upperside blue, dark blue, violaceous, green, cupreous or blackish, elytra sometimes cupreous with suture, side and triangular sub-basal marking blue. Aedeagus (Fig. 26) conical.
- 10(1) Pleural triangle and metasternum densely pubescent. Male: apex of foretibia widened on the outside or not widened. Apical antennal segments not widened or only very slightly so.
- 11(14) Elytra transversely strigose on outer part (as in the genus *Abirus* Chapuis, 1874), basal rugosities almost reach suture. Pleural stripe indistinct.
- 12(13) Sides of prothorax and apex of elytra pubescent. Apical antennal segments feebly thickened, segment 10 about 2.5 times as long as wide. Dark blue

- with black underside, labrum and base of antennae dark fulvous, legs piceous. Length 5 mm.
- 13(12) Upperside possibly not pubescent. Greenish-cupreous, antennae, legs and abdomen fulvous, breast metallic green. Length 7 mm.
- 14(11) Elytra without long transverse strigosity, but often with irregular rugosity laterally, especially in female.
- 15(20) Upperside or at least prothorax pubescent. Antennal segment 9 about 2.5 times as long as wide. Metasternum and pleural triangle very densely pubescent.
- 16(19) Upperside entirely pubescent. Pleural stripe absent or strongly reduced, very narrow and not delimited from pleural triangle. Prothorax 1.8–1.9 times as wide as long. Anterior angles not acute.
- 18(17) Anterior tibiae virtually unwidened on outer side before apex (Fig. 16). Antennal segment 2 shorter and distinctly thicker than 3. Male: elytra uniformly punctate, not rugose on sides; aedeagus with short orifice, distinctly concave on basal part of underside (Fig. 28). Female: elytra slightly rugose on sides, with distinct obtuse lateral ridge beyond centre. Upperside bronze or green, sometimes elytra with red-purple longitudinal stripe and narrow lateral margin. Length 4.3–6 mm.
- 19(16) Elytra not pubescent. Pleural stripe developed and delimited from pleural triangle towards the front with a feeble ridge, towards the rear mostly with punctures. Prothorax about 2. 2 times as wide as long, female with acute anterior angles. Upperside dark purple, narrowly margined with green. Elytra of female with feeble lateral ridge beyond centre. Underside dark bronze, legs reddish bronze. Aedeagus as in *C. villosulum* Lefevre. Length 6. 3–7 mm.
 - Southern India: Nilgiri Hills. Colasposoma sp. (unidentified specimen)

- 20(15) Upperside not pubescent, sometimes with hairs on apical slope of elytra.
- 21(24) Species from Yunnan. Apices of elytra finely and densely pubescent. Aedeagus with distinct apical tip. Body metallic green, cupreous or blue, elytra sometimes purplish with sides metallic green.
- 23(22) Labrum metallic. Wrinkles of elytra more fine and dense. Aedeagus with short apical tip (Fig. 38). Length 4–6.4 mm. *C. vicinale* T'an, 1983
- 24(21) Upperside glabrous; if apices of elytra pubescent, species not from China. Aedeagus without distinct apical tip.
- 25(28) Pleural stripe not divided from pleural triangle by distinct groove (Fig. 6). Underside of aedeagus with deep triangle impression near base, more or less ridged on sides (nearly the same as in *C. villosulum*). Antennae as in *C. villosulum*. Species of southern India.

- 28(25) Pleural stripe divided from pleural triangle with straight or undulate suture-like groove, more distinct towards the front. Underside of aedeagus without sub-basal impression. Apical antennal segments thin, segment 9 about 3–4 times as long as wide. Apex of elytra and sometimes sides of prothorax more or less pubescent. Species from India, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar (Burma), Indochina, but absent in southern India and Sri Lanka.
- 29(30) Metallic green, thorax with transverse red-cupreous band, elytra with broad red-cupreous longitudinal stripe near suture and another near margins, head with central spot of the same colour. First antennal segment and legs metallic (tarsi nearly black). Elytra of female with feeble ridge and transverse rugosities laterally. Fore-tibia of male, Fig. 20; aedeagus, Fig. 36; metasternum, Fig. 7. Elytra rather short and rounded on sides in both sexes, proportions about 1.13 in male (1.06–1.2) and 1.07 in female (1.05–1.1). Length 5–6 mm.

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- 30(29) Colour of upperside variable, elytra sometimes bi- or tricolourous, but without two longitudinal stripes on each, more elongate, parallel-sided (male) or slightly rounded on sides. Legs and first antennal segment mostly fulvous.
- 31(32) Antennae entirely fulvous. Legs fulvous, including tarsi, with slightly darkened knees. Abdomen dark fulvous. Aedeagus cuneiform, asymmetrical, feebly curved in lateral view. Body small, male 3.7 mm. Specimen studied not fully mature, corresponds in main characters with *C. downesi*.

- 32(31) Antennae with dark apical segments. Legs at least with dark tarsi, abdomen dark. Body larger.
- 33(34) Anterior tibiae of male prolonged at apex in a narrow lobe, partly covering first tarsal segment (Fig. 17). Elytra of male strongly punctate, but without transverse wrinkles on sides. Elytra of female with short, sharp ridge on humerus and often with lateral ridge beyond midpoint. Apical antennal segments long, segment 9 about 4.3 times (4.0–4.6) as long as wide in male and about 3.5 times (3.4–3.7) in female. Elytra long, mostly parallel-sided, about 1.35 times (1.25–1.40 as long as wide in both sexes. Colour of upperside variable, but mostly green or blue and usually unicolourous. Metasternum, Fig. 8; aedeagus narrowly cuneiform, slightly asymmetrical (Fig. 33). Length 3.8–6.5 mm.

- 34(33) Anterior tibiae of male angularly widened at apex, but not prolonged in narrow lobe; tibiae virtually not covering first tarsal segment (Figs 18, 19). Elytra of male with transverse wrinkles on sides. Elytra of female without humeral ridge. Apical antennal segments a little shorter, segment 9 about 3–3.5 times as long as wide. Colour very variable.
- 35(36) Legs mostly fulvous, often with metallic knees, but also entirely dark or metallic. Elytra of female with lateral ridge, but without isolated tubercles. Aedeagus cuneiform, mostly asymmetrical (Fig. 34). Metasternum, Fig. 9. Length 4.5–7 mm.

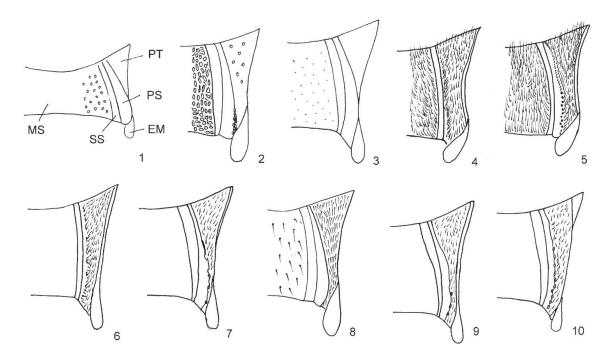
36(35) Legs dark or metallic. Elytra of female with row of isolated tubercles on lateral ridge, sometimes with additional tubercles towards the front. Aedeagus cuneiform, nearly symmetrical (Fig. 35). Metasternum, Fig. 10. Length 4–6.5 mm.

2. Key to the species of the Philippines

Species characterised by antennal segments about twice as long as wide, with apical segments moderately widened. Metasternum of the same type as in *C. viridicoeruleum* Motschulsky, 1860 (Fig. 1), with pleural triangle and metasternum not pubescent.

- 1(2) Metasternum without punctures, with long, transverse and oblique wrinkles. Propleurae rugose. Elytra with irregular geminate rows among strong punctures. Pleural triangle grooved on inner part. Upperside green, bluish green or cupreous, underside black (legs with metallic sheen), base of antennae, including first segment fulvous. Length 6–7 mm. Male unknown.
 - Luzon. C. geminatum Weise, 1922
- 2(1) Metasternum with punctures, without wrinkles. Propleurae deeply punctate, but not rugose. Elytra without geminate rows of punctures. Pleural triangle not grooved, sharply delimited. First antennal segment metallic.
- 3(4) Metasternum laterally with dense large punctures, interspaces smaller than diameter of punctures. Head very densely and rugosely punctate, interspaces very narrow, often strigose. Upperside densely punctate, especially on sides of prothorax; interspaces usually much smaller than diameter of punctures. Anterior margin of pleural triangle bordered in inner half. Aedeagus narrowed towards the front from base, underside without sculpture (Fig. 39). Colour mostly bronze, sometimes green. Length 4.4–6.3 mm.
 - Luzon, Leyte, Bataan. [C. nitidum Baly, 1867 syn.nov., C. rugiceps Lefevre, 1885 syn.nov.]

 C. distinctum Baly, 1867
- 4(3) Metasternum with small, sparse punctures. Head strongly punctate, but interspaces usually much larger than diameter of punctures. Upperside with moderately strong, but not dense, punctures; interspaces larger than punctures. Anterior margin of pleural triangle entirely bordered. Frons with small, but rather distinct tubercle in centre. Aedeagus less cuneiform, more or less parallel-sided in the centre part.
- 5(6) Underside of aedeagus with feeble central ridge before apex (Fig. 43). Body larger, 5.3–6.6 mm. Colour of upper side very variable: green, blue, cupreous, purple; elytra sometimes with margins and postbasal impression differently coloured or prothorax and elytra differ in colour.

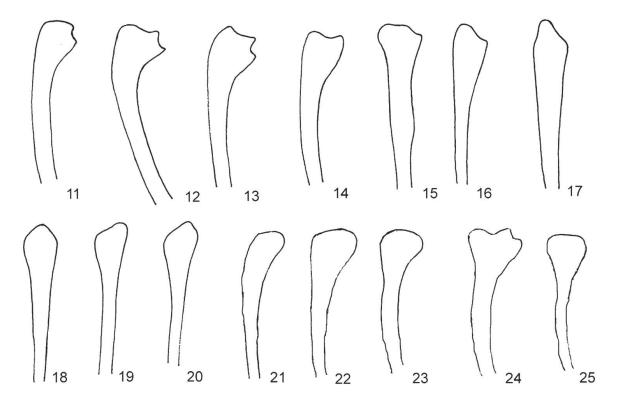


Figs 1–10. Right half of metasternum of *Colasposoma*: 1, *viridicoeruleum* Motschulsky; 2, *dauricum* Mannerheim; 3, *robustum* Jacoby; 4, *villosulum* Lefevre; 5, *albovillosum* Duvivier; 6, *lividipes* Jacoby; 7, *aureovittatum* Baly; 8, *semicostatum* Jacoby; 9, *downesi* Baly; 10, *downesi asperatum* Lefevre. (Abbreviations: MS – metasternum, SS – sternal stripe, PT – pleural triangle, PS – pleural stripe, EM – epimeron.)

- 6(5) Underside of aedeagus without preapical ridge. Body smaller, 4.6–5.2 mm. Colour as in preceding species, often red-cupreous. Possibly only local form or subspecies of *C. viridifasciatum*.

3. List of the species from the islands of Indonesia and Malaysia

All species from this area have metasternum practically same as in *C. viridicoeruleum* (Fig. 1) and at least some of them seem to be identical with this species. However, the material studied is comparatively sparse and the type specimens are unknown to me. Because of this I prefer to give only a list of species with short comments.



Figs 11–25. Male tibiae of *Colasposoma*. Anterior tibiae: 11, ornatum Jacoby; 12, pretiosum Baly; 13, viridicoeruleum Motschulsky; 14, dauricum Mannerheim; 15, albovillosum Duvivier; 16, villosulum Lefevre; 17, semicostatum Jacoby; 18, downesi Baly; 19, downesi asperatum Lefevre; 20, aureovittatum Baly; 21, nigriventre; 22, inconstans Baly; 23, propinquum Baly; 24, sellatum Baly. Mid tibia: 25, sellatum Baly.

C. nigriventre Baly, 1867

Notes on morphology. Tenth antennal segment 1.6 times as long as wide. Anterior tibiae of male widened at apex (Fig. 21). Elytra not costate along lateral margin and without distinct postbasal impression. Aedeagus conical (Fig. 41). Length 4.7–6.3 mm.

Distribution. Malacca, Sumatra. It has also been recorded for India, Sri Lanka and Myanmar (Burma) (incorrect determination?).

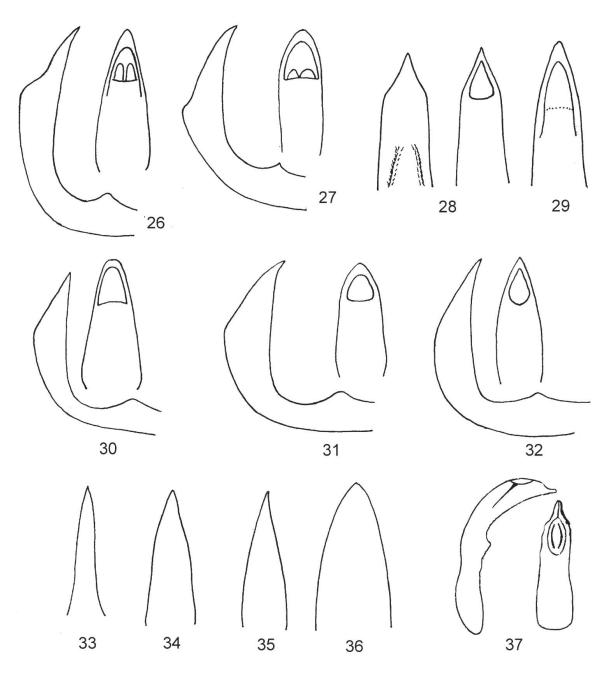
Remarks. Very possibly this species is identical with *C. viridicoeruleum*.

C. keyense Pic, 1943

Notes on morphology. Tenth antennal segment 1.8 times as long as wide. Elytra costate along lateral margin in female, with postbasal impression. Length 7–7.2 mm.

Distribution. Key Islands.

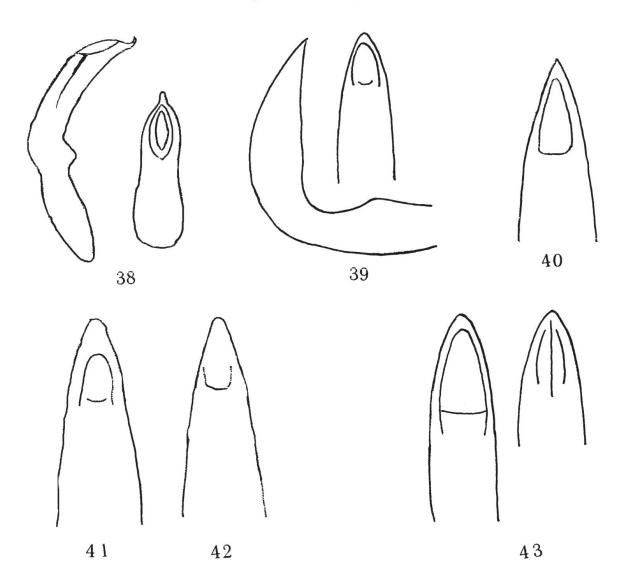
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Figs 26–37. Aedeagus of *Colasposoma*: 26, *viridicoeruleum* Motschulsky d, l; 27, *pretiosum* Baly d, l; 28, *villosulum* Lefevre v, d; 29, *albovillosum* Duvivier d; 30, *ornatum* Jacoby d, l; 31, *robustum* Jacoby d, l; 32, *dauricum* Mannerheim d, l; 33, *semicostatum* Jacoby v; 34, *downesi* Baly v; 35, *downesi asperatum* Lefevre v; 36, *aureovittatum* Baly v; 37, *apicipenne* T'an d, l. (Abbreviations: d – dorsally, l – laterally, v – ventrally.)

C. timorense Pic, 1943

Notes on morphology. This species is unknown to me. The original description is very short (4 lines), but the author indicates that the species is near *C. keyense* but differs in colour.



Figs 38–43. Aedeagus of *Colasposoma*: 38, *vicinale* T'an d, l; 39, *distinctum* Baly d, l; 40, *sellatum* Baly d; 41, *nigriventre* Baly d; 42, *inconstans* Baly d; 43, *viridifasciatum* d, v. (Abbreviations: d – dorsally, l – laterally, v – ventrally.)

Distribution. Timor.

Remarks. Very possibly this species is identical with *C. viridicoeruleum* which has also been recorded for Timor.

C. splendidum Fabricius, 1792

C. metallicum Fabricius, 1801

Notes on morphology. Tenth antennal segment 1.5 times as long as wide. Elytra costate along lateral margin in female, with postbasal impression. Length 7.4 mm.

Distribution. Java, Celebes, Tringanee. Indicated also for "East India".

Remarks. Very possibly this species is identical with *C. viridicoeruleum*.

C. purpuratum Motschulsky, 1860

Note on morphology. All characters as in *C. splendidum*.

Distribution. Java.

Remarks. Very possibly this species is identical with *C. viridicoeruleum* Motschulsky, 1860.

C. inconstans Baly, 1864

Notes on morphology. Tenth antennal segment 1.9–2 times as long as wide. Anterior tibiae of male widened at apex (Fig. 22). Elytra costate along lateral margin in female, without distinct postbasal impression. Aedeagus conical (Fig. 42). Length 4.7–6.3 mm. **Distribution.** Celebes.

C. propinguum Baly, 1867

Notes on morphology. Tenth antennal segment 1.7 times as long as wide. Anterior tibiae of male widened at apex (Fig. 23). Elytra not costate along lateral margin and with feeble postbasal impression. Aedeagus conical. Length 6–8.5 mm.

Distribution. Kalimantan.

Remarks. Very possibly this species is identical with *C. viridicoeruleum*.

C. viridicoeruleum Motschulsky, 1860

C. mutabile Baly, 1867

Distribution. India, Nepal, Myanmar (Burma), Indochina, South China, Malaysia, Indonesia.

Remarks. Synonym mentioned here (*C. mutabile*) has been described from Malacca, Java, Kalimantan and Timor. For further synonymy see above.

4. List of the species from New Guinea and Australia

C. sellatum Baly, 1878

C. barbatum Harold, 1879

C. regulare Jacoby, 1885

Notes on morphology. Tenth antennal segment 1.9 times as long as wide. Anterior and mid-tibiae of male strongly widened at apex (Figs 24, 25). Elytra costate along lateral

margin in female and with postbasal impression, very feeble in male. Aedeagus conical (Fig. 40). Length 6–8.8 mm.

Distribution. New Guinea, Australia.

Remarks. Very near to the species from the Indonesian islands, especially to *C. inconstans*. It seems to be a distinct species, differing from other species in the form of the mid-tibiae of the male.

Dubious species

- C. dentipes Fabricius, 1801: India. (Possibly belongs to Colaspoides Laporte, 1833.)
- C. coerulescens Motschulsky, 1860: Myanmar (Burma).
- C. nigroaeneum Motschulsky, 1860: Myanmar (Burma).
- C. rugipenne Motschulsky, 1860: Myanmar (Burma).
- C. rugulosum Baly, 1867: Malacca. (Possibly identical with C. viridicoeruleum.)
- C. yunnanum Fairmaire, 1988: China.
- C. pilosum Pic, 1943: India. (It seems to be identical with C. villosulum or C. albovillosum.)
- C. mauricei nom.nov. for madoni Pic, 1943 (nec madoni Pic, 1942 from Senegal): India.
- C. tenenbaumi Pic, 1943: Himalayas. (Possibly belongs to Colaspoides Laporte, 1833.)

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