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SHORT COMMUNICATION

## ***Petroniptus zahradniki* new genus and new species (Coleoptera, Ptinidae) from Thailand**

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### **ABSTRACT**

New genus and species of a beetle belonging to the family Ptinidae are described. *Petroniptus zahradniki* n. gen., n. sp. has been found in northeastern Thailand. It is wingless and reminds of – also wingless – representatives of southern African genera *Cryptopeniculus* Philips and *Pocapharaptinus* Philips & Akotsen.

**Keywords:** spider beetle, Ptinidae, new genus, *Petroniptus*, new species, *Petroniptus zahradniki*, Thailand

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urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:B76E8259-F872-4E4E-A12B-961B572CA5EA

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Hitherto no monographic elaboration of Thailand's spider beetles has been published: only few species belonging to the typically Oriental genera like *Myrmecoptinus* Wasmann or *Maheoptinus* Bellés are known from this biologically so diversified country.

Below we present the description of a new genus and species discovered in northeastern part of Thailand. In general outlook it somewhat reminds the species belonging to south African genera *Cryptopeniculus* Philips and *Pocapharaptinus* Akotsen & Philips (Philips & Foster 2004; Akotsen-Mensah & Philips 2009) all of them are wingless and morphologically most similar to the representatives of the "group *Niptus*" sensu Bellés 1982, 1985, which however needs redefinition and should be considered a tribe.

## 2. MATERIALS

Holotype: „Thailand NE., Loei prov., Phu Rya NP., 1100 m, 13.30N, 101.21E, D. Hauck lgt., 6-9.4.1999” (J. Borowski coll.); Paratype: „Thailand NE., Loei prov., Phu Kradung NP., 1000 m, 16.52N, 101.49E, 16-17.5.1999, D. Hauck lgt.” (P. Zahradník coll.).

*Petroniptus* Borowski n. gen. (Figs 1-4)

Type species – *Petroniptus zahradniki* n. sp.

### Etymology

The new generic name is a combination of the first name of my friend Dr. Petr Zahradník from the Forestry and Game Management Research Institute (Prague, Czech Republic) and the well known name of spider beetles - *Niptus*.

### Description

Small beetles of characteristically arched pronotum covered with hirsute toment, and strongly convex elytra markedly narrowed towards apices (Fig. 1). Antennae 11-jointed, antennomeres elongated and widest at distal ends, basal ones more densely setulose than distals. Eyes small, slightly convex, but slightly protruding above the surface of head. Space between antennae narrow, slit-like. Head covered with recumbent golden setulae. Pronotum very characteristically shaped, with strongly arched tomentose tuberi additionally adorned with peculiar combs of long golden setae. Scutellum invisible. Elytra ovate, most convex at middle behind scutellum; anterior margin oblique in relation to suture (Fig. 3), with particularly acute sides; deep punctures arranged into longitudinal rows, some of them vanishing behind midlength. Elytral pubescence double: long erect setae on intervals, very short and fine, hardly discernible in punctures of rows; additional pale hairlike scales form various smaller or larger spots. Ventral side flattened, densely covered with recumbent setulae. Procoxae separated by wide, almost rectangular prosternal process, whose rounded apex is inserted in deeply arcuately emarginated anterior margin of mesosternum (Fig. 4). Hind margin of metasternum slightly elevated, making a characteristic transverse slit to enclose basal abdominal segment. Metacoxae widely separated, small, distinctly smaller than pro- or mesocoxae. Legs densely covered with recumbent setae, these somewhat denser in apical part of tibiae, whose middle

portion is markedly arcuately curved. Tarsi 5-jointed, claws very small, distinctly shorter than thickness of glabrous claw-joint.

### **Diagnosis**

The new genus resembles African *Cryptopeniculus* or – especially – *Pocapharaptinus*, showing shape and pubescence of elytra, as well as pattern of scaly spots on them, similar to the latter. However they differ radically in pronotal structure: distinct lateral tubercles (lacking in *Pocapharaptinus*) in the new genus remind rather neotropical *Trigonogenius* Solier; moreover in *Petroniptus* n. gen. anterior margin of elytra makes small but distinct acute denticle pointing forwards, at angle to lateral margin, resembling rather *Cryptopeniculus* than *Pocapharaptinus* (whose basal margin of elytra is laterally rounded, not angular).

*Petroniptus zahradniki* Borowski n. sp.

### **Etymology**

The new species is named in honour of my friend Dr. Petr Zahradník from the Forestry and Game Management Research Institute (Prague, Czech Republic) - the specialist of death-watch beetles.

### **Description**

Length 1.8 – 2.7 mm. Colouration brownish-red or brown, pronotum paler, yellowish-golden, covered with hirsute toment. Antennal joints elongated, last one distinctly longer than last-but-one and more than 3× longer than wide; pubescence on 5 or 6 basal antennomeres much denser than on others. Eyes small, slightly convex, somewhat angular in outline. Anterior margin of pronotum with long, widely separated, erect golden setae; tomentose tubercles on middle part adorned with peculiar combs of long golden setae, two similar but somewhat smaller tubercles are seen at base and two on sides; pair of deep foveae separating lateral and basal tubercles from middle of pronotum not tomented, leaving glabrous chitin visible at bottoms. Elytra ovate, strongly narrowed backwards, most convex behind scutellum at *ca.* anterior fourth (Fig. 2); here deep punctures form 11 rows, some of them however disappear behind midlength and only few reach to apices. Surface near base with small, sharply elevated grains; intervals with long, erect, sparsely distributed golden setae, setulae within punctures very small, barely discernible; pale yellow hairlike recumbent scales make various spots along (especially anterior part of) suture, on basal portions of elytral sides, all along lateral margins, and behind midlength. Legs, except claw-joints, densely covered with golden setulae; metacoxae small, placed close to lateral elytral margins; femora elongated, club-like; metatibiae arcuately curved. Dense setulae of ventral side almost totally conceal surface of chitin; between them on abdomen some longer, semierect, backward directed setae are visible. Basal sternite narrow, partly inserted under somewhat elevated hind margin of metasternum.

**Biology** unknown.

## **References**

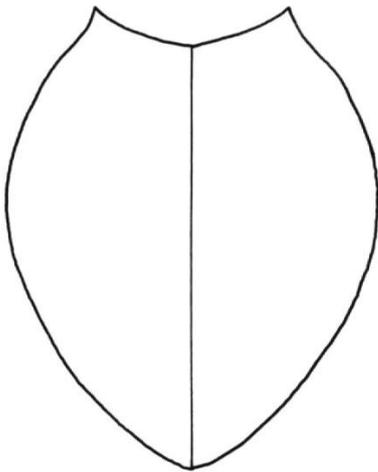
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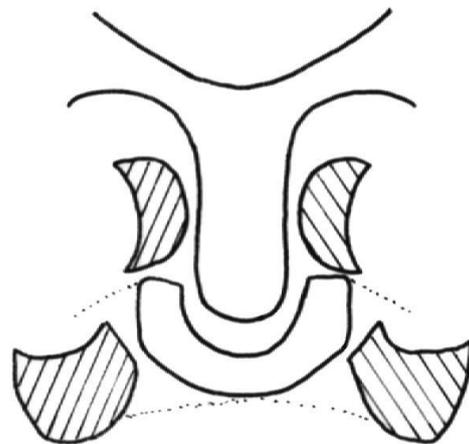
**Fig. 1.** *Petroniptus zahradniki* n gen., n. sp., dorsal view.



**Fig. 2.** *Petroniptus zahradniki* n gen., n. sp., lateral view.



**Fig. 3.** *Petroniptus zahradniki* n gen., n. sp., outline of elytra.



**Fig. 4.** *Petroniptus zahradniki* n gen., n. sp., prosternal process and anterior margin of mesosternum.