

The *Xixuthrus* species of Fiji (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae: Prioninae)

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Abstract

There have been four species of the cerambycid genus *Xixuthrus* described from the Fijian archipelago; *X. heros* (Heer), *X. terribilis* Thomson, *X. ganglbaueri* Lameere, and *X. heyrovskyi* Tippmann. Over time, *X. terribilis* had been reduced to synonymy, and it had been suggested that *X. ganglbaueri* was probably from New Guinea rather than Fiji. We here re-establish the validity of *X. terribilis*, place *X. heyrovskyi* in synonymy with it, and designate a neotype for *X. ganglbaueri* to resolve both the species identity and its geographic provenance. Diagnoses of the three confirmed Fijian species are presented, including digital images of type specimens, and notes on temporal and spatial distribution.

Key words: Coleoptera, Cerambycidae, Prioninae, *Xixuthrus*, Fiji, Australasia, conservation

Introduction

Recent interest in developing conservation protocols for rare and endangered wildlife endemic to the Fijian archipelago has, among other things, renewed interest in those members of the cerambycid beetle genus *Xixuthrus* Thomson that occur there. These were, up until recently, believed to comprise only the Giant Fijian Longhorn Beetle, *X. heros* (Heer, 1868), and the Taveuni Beetle, *X. heyrovskyi* Tippmann, 1945 (Dillon & Dillon, 1952). The former is often regarded as the world's second largest beetle species, with specimens sometimes reaching 14 to 15 cm in body length; their size and apparent rarity has made them quite sought-after among beetle collectors, with specimens commanding very high prices, and some websites have even put forth the possibility that the species is extinct. Recent reports (e.g. Ryan et al., 1989) that *X. costatus* Montrouzier, a species from the Solomon Islands, also occurred in Fiji were, upon closer investigation, based on misidenti-