

A new genus and species of Malvapiini (Coleoptera: Curculionoidea: Apionidae) from Papua New Guinea

Новый род и вид трибы Malvapiini (Coleoptera: Curculionoidea: Apionidae) из Папуа Новой Гвинеи

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Ключевые слова: Coleoptera, Curculionoidea, Apionidae, Malvapiini, таксономия, описание, новая комбинация, *Lopatinapion simsari*, *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*, Австралия.

Abstract. *Lopatinapion simsari* gen. et sp. n., a new genus and species of Malvapiini (Apionidae) associated with *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* (Malvaceae) is described from Papua New Guinea. “*Apion*” *niveodispersum* Lea from Australia and “*Apion*” *symbolum* Faust from New Guinea and Malay Archipelago are transferred to the new genus. A key to species of *Lopatinapion* gen. n. is provided.

Резюме. В трибе Malvapiini (Apionidae) описан *Lopatinapion simsari* gen. et sp. n., новый род и вид, развивающийся на *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* (Malvaceae) в Папуа – Новой Гвинеи. В новый род перенесены “*Apion*” *niveodispersum* Lea из Австралии и “*Apion*” *symbolum* Faust из Новой Гвинеи и с Малайского архипелага. Дан ключ к видам рода *Lopatinapion* gen. n.

resemblance to Malvapiini (e.g. *Rhopalapion*) and in being reared from *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* (Malvaceae). Further research uncovered two related species, both described under “*Apion*” sensu lato: “*Apion*” *symbolum* described by Faust [1897] from several islands near the Papuan coast and in the Malay Archipelago, of which only the description is available; and “*Apion*” *niveodispersum* described by Lea [1910] from Australia, of which a photograph of the holotype is in Zimmerman [1991] in addition to the original description. Both authors referred to the specimens which they studied as having abraded the disc of pronotum and elytra – which is actually the most important generic character: large white scales condensed on the lateral margins of the pronotum and elytra, while the rest surface is covered with minute scales, visible only under strong magnification. The host association of these species is not known, although morphologically they appear to be congeneric with the newly-described species.

Introduction

Alonso-Zarazaga [1990] erected the tribe Malvapiini for three Palaearctic genera: *Rhopalapion* Schilsky, 1906, *Malvapion* Hoffmann, 1958 and *Pseudapion* Schilsky, 1906 based both on the morphology and on the association of the aforementioned genera with the plant family Malvaceae (*Alcea*, *Althaea*, *Gossypium*, *Lavatera* and *Malva*). *Sterculiapion* Rheinheimer, 1997 associated with *Commersonia* and *Rulingia*, *Sterculiaceae* (belonging together with Malvaceae to the order Malvales) [Rheinheimer, 1997, 1999; Legalov, 2000], was assigned to Malvapiini by Alonso-Zarazaga and Lyal [1999], although this assignment was later disputed by Mazur [2011]. The West-African *Anacrapion* Mazur, 2011 associated with *Triplochiton* (Malvaceae), was recently assigned to Malvapiini. Several additional species are known to me, mostly from Tropical Africa, some described and others undescribed, which belong to Malvapiini, either in *Rhopalapion* or in a closely-related undescribed genus (Friedman, in prep.).

Three specimens belonging to an undescribed Apionid genus and species were noticed by me in the insect collection at the NARI Headquarters in Bubia, near Lae, Morobe Province, PNG, attracting my attention by their

Material and Methods

Three specimens were studied. The single male and one of the females were soaked in hot water and dissected. Genitalia were extracted and treated in a warm solution of 10% KOH, mounted in glycerin gel and drawn with the help of a Leica DM1000 stereomicroscope with a camera lucida. The habitus drawings were made using a Leica MZ125 stereomicroscope with a camera lucida. The photographs were taken and measurements were made using a Discovery V20 stereomicroscope and Canon PowerShot G9 camera, Zeiss AxioVision program, version 4.7.1. Pencil drawings were captured and processed in Adobe Illustrator 9. Finally, the genitalia were mounted on cardboard in a mixture of polyvinylpyrrolidone, sorbitol and glycerol [Lompe, 1989] and pinned under the specimen.

Terminology follows that in Alonso-Zarazaga (1989, 1990).

Acronyms:

BMNH – Natural History Museum, London, UK;

NAIC – The National Agricultural Insect Collection, NARI, Kila Kila, Port-Moresby, PNG.

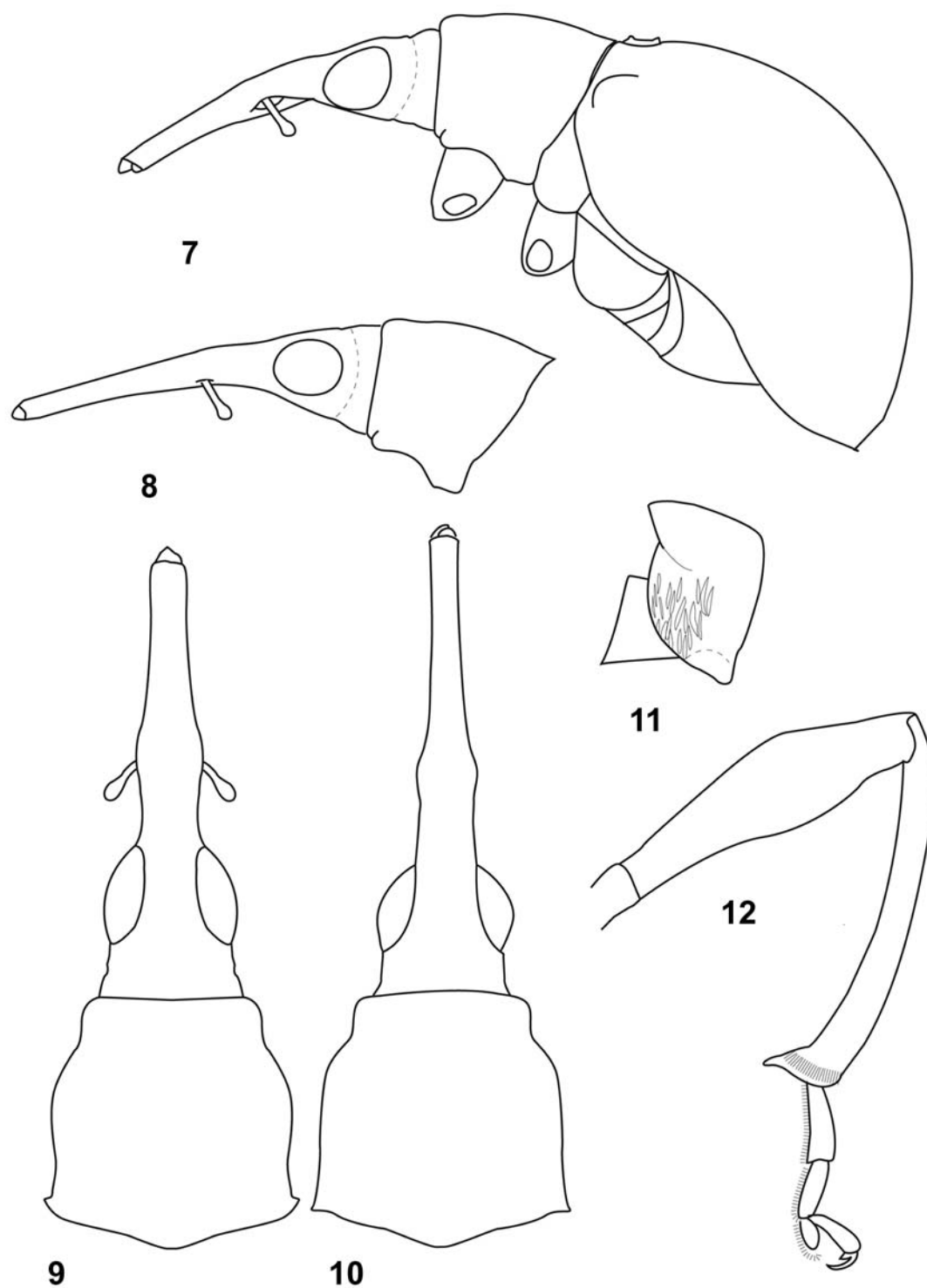


Fig. 7–12. *Lopatinapion simsari* sp. n., details of structure.
 7 – male, lateral view; 8 – female, head and pronotum, lateral view; 9 – male, head and pronotum, dorsal view; 10 – female, head and pronotum, dorsal view; 11 – male procoxa; 12 – male fore leg.

Рис. 7–12. *Lopatinapion simsari* sp. n., детали строения.

7 – самец, вид сбоку; 8 – самка, голова и переднеспинка, вид сбоку; 9 – самец, голова и переднеспинка, вид сверху; 10 – самка, голова и переднеспинка, вид сверху; 11 – самец, передний тазик; 12 – самец, передняя нога.

Lopatinapion Friedman, **gen. n.**

Type species: *Lopatinapion simsari* **sp. n.**, by present designation.

Diagnosis. *Lopatinapion* **gen. n.** fits well the Malvapiini in external and internal characters and in its host association. It mostly resembles the Afro-Mediterranean *Rhopalapion* in the long straight rostrum in female and mucronate tibia in male, and the Australian *Sterculiapion* in the form of body and rostrum, and in the incassate femora. The main character to distinguish *Lopatinapion* **gen. n.** from other genera of Malvapiini is the unique pubescence pattern comprised of two types of scales: larger, white, clearly visible, condensed on margins of elytra, beneath eye, on lateroventral parts of pronotum, mesepisternum, mesepimeron and metepisternum, and smaller, minute, translucent scales visible only under strong magnification (at least $\times 30$), spread evenly over integument. This scale pattern provides *Lopatinapion* **gen. n.** with nude appearance, which led Faust [1897] and Lea [1910] to consider their specimens abraded. Other distinguishing characters are the presence of the basal flange of pronotum (found among Malvapiini only in the West African *Anacrapion*), tegmen with prostegium with long lobes, tibia and antenna partly or entirely red, and legs long, with slender tibia, slightly bent in males.

Description. Body length (without rostrum) 2.3–2.5 mm, elytra widest slightly behind middle, oblong, slightly rounded laterally, 2.1–2.4 \times as long as wide. Coloration: body and elytra black, antenna, femora, tibiae and tarsi at least partly red, testaceous, reddish brown or dark red. Integument more or less rugose. Vestiture white, comprised of two types of scales: larger, fusiform scales and smaller, whitish or translucent, piliform scales. Larger scales appear in clusters, while smaller scales evenly spread. Larger scales condensed at apex, on 9th and 10th interstriae and base of elytra, particularly on base of 1st–3rd interstriae, on sides of meso- and metasternum, on lower side of pronotum and beneath eye.

Rostrum slender, tapering, in *L. symbolum* more robust, at least slightly longer than pronotum in male and longer than head and pronotum together in female, slightly bent in male, nearly straight in female, smooth in apical part and more or less coarsely sculptured in basal part; mesorostrum slightly to moderately dilated, producing obtuse rounded tooth at antennal insertion, more pronounced in males. Scrobes sulciform, shallow, subocular keel not surpassing fore margin of eye. Antenna inserted at basal third of rostrum; antennal club with distinct sutures.

Head subconical, as long as wide at temples. Eye rounded or obovate, moderately convex, surrounded by rim of scales, condensed beneath eye into distinct subocular patch, more noticeable in males (particularly strong in male of *L. niveodispersum*). Frons slightly convex, as wide as or slightly wider than eye in dorsal view, covered with indistinct rounded and oblong punctures and weak longitudinal sulci and sparse white fusiform scales.

Pronotum campaniform, widest at middle, with sides moderately rounded at mid-length in dorsal view, as long as wide; base weakly bisinuate, medially protruding toward scutellum, prescutellar fovea obsolete to absent. Basal flange present, but weak. Vestiture minute to obsolete on most of pronotum, comprised of tiny piliform scales, disc of pronotum appearing bare, larger scales condensed lateroventrally. Scutellum oblong, 1.5–2 \times as long as wide, triangular, pointed or rounded at apex.

Elytra obovate, elongate, in dorsal view slightly to moderately rounded, widest behind middle; in lateral view moderately convex. Humeral calli small, rounded, distinctly prominent. Elytra mostly appearing bare, with clusters of large white scales apically, at base

of 1st–3rd interstriae and on apical third of interstriae 1st, 2nd, 9th and 10th. Rest of elytra covered with minute piliform scales. Strial formula 1+2+9, 3+4, 5+6, 7+8, 1st stria shortened at base. Striae, deep, more strongly impressed at apex of elytra; 1st stria reaching at most apex of scutellum, 2nd reaching mid-length of scutellum, rest striae reaching base of elytra. One specialized seta present at apex of 9th interstria.

Mesepisternum, mesepimeron and metepisternum densely covered with overlapping large white scales. Metasternum covered with sparse white pubescence only anteriorly. Mesocoxae separated by 0.25–0.3 their diameter, mesoventral apophysis covered with dense white pubescence, more protruding than metaventral apophysis; metaventral apophysis bare, separated from metaventrite by transverse depression.

Legs at least partly red, testaceous or brown (in *L. niveodispersum* only tarsi and distal part of tibia, in *L. symbolum* and *L. simsari* **sp. n.** tarsi and entire tibiae). Protibia straight in *L. symbolum* and slightly bent in *L. niveodispersum*, in both species all tibiae not mucronate, in *L. simsari* **sp. n.** protibia bent and all tibiae mucronate. Tarsi not sexually dimorphic. Claws with wide strong denticle at base.

Terminalia. Microsculpture on first two abdominal segments similar to that on three last segments, 5th abdominal segment rounded in both sexes. Male pygidium of mixed type: with deep transverse sulcus and raised sclerotized apical flange, sculptured and pubescent, like in apionine type, though concealed by 5th abdominal segment and not visible externally, like in aspidapionine type, this situation characteristic for part of Malvapiini [Alonso-Zarazaga, 1990]. Aedeagus oblong, slender, cylindrical, parallel-sided, slightly arched. Tegmen with fenestrae short, transverse, closed internally and externally; parameral lobes bearing tuft of long macrochaetae and long membranous microtrichose lobes; prostegium bilobed, lobes as long as 1/2 tegminal plate articulated with free ring. Sternite 9 (spiculum gastrale) Y-shaped, arms membranous, shorter than manubrium.

Etymology. I am delighted to name this genus after the late Igor Konstantinovich Lopatin, zoologist, entomologist, a world-class specialist in Chrysomelidae, and a gentleman. I am proud to consider him my teacher: his handbook of zoogeography was the first book I purchased with my first salary and an important source of zoological knowledge in my early years; my first scientific article was published in co-authorship with Igor Konstantinovich. I was fortunate to accompany him on several collecting trips during his visit to Israel in 1999 and to collaborate with him on several studies.

Lopatinapion simsari Friedman, **sp. n.**

(Color plate: 18, fig. 1–19)

Material. Holotype: ♂, "WHP Kuk A.R.S., 1600 m, J. A. Sutherland 9.xi.82, // ex shoots Hibiscus rosa-sinensis // Bu/55 1420" [= Papua New Guinea: Western Highlands Province, Kuk Agricultural Research Station, Mt. Hagen, NARI Bubia Collection]. Holotype pinned directly with minute pin via right elytron, dissected, genitalia and abdominal segments glued on cardboard and pinned under specimen. Deposited in BNHM. Paratypes: 1♀, same as holotype (BNHM); 1♀, "WHP Kuk A.R.S., J. A. Sutherland // ex shoots Hibiscus rosa-sinensis // Bu/55 1420" (date and altitude lacking, but I assume it belongs to the same series) (NAIC).

Diagnosis. Differs from *L. symbolum* in longer and more slender rostrum, antennae and leg parts, entirely red antenna, punctures on pronotum smaller and sparser, scales thicker, smaller patches of large white scales on elytra and lack of white scales in elytral striae, and from *L. niveodispersum* in entirely red tibiae, pronotum more rounded laterally and more narrow body. Only males of *L. simsari* **sp. n.** have protibia mucronate.

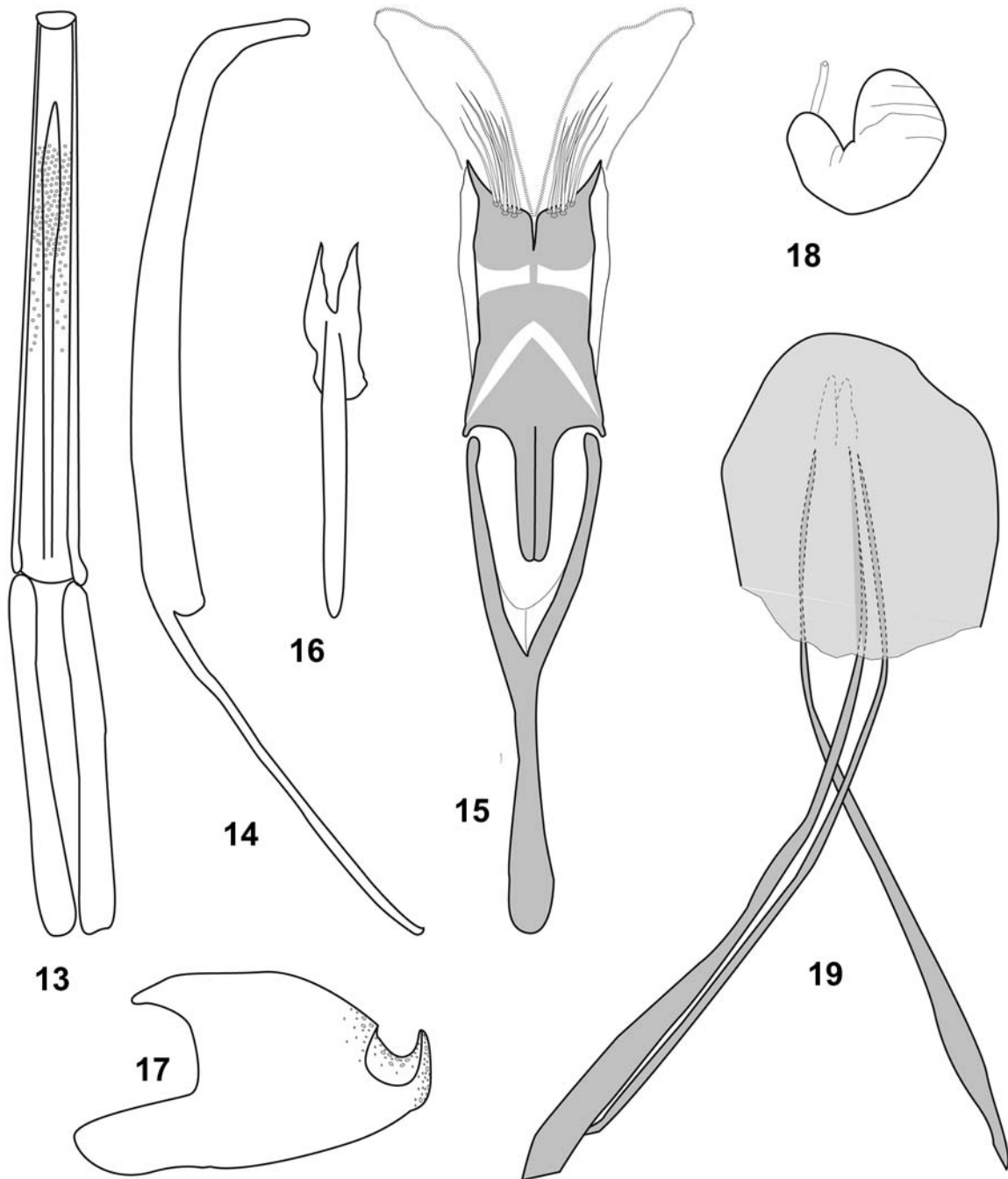


Fig. 13–19. *Lopatinapion simsari* sp. n., details of structure.

13 – aedeagus, dorsal view; 14 – aedeagus, lateral view; 15 – tegmen, dorsal view; 16 – sternite 9 (spiculum gastrale); 17 – male pygidium, lateral view; 18 – spermatheca; 19 – female terminalia.

Рис. 13–19. *Lopatinapion simsari* sp. n., детали строения.

13 – эдеагус, вид сверху; 14 – эдеагус, вид сбоку; 15 – тегмен, вид сверху; 16 – 9-й стернит (гастральная спикула); 17 – самец, пигидий, вид сбоку; 18 – сперматека; 19 – терминалии самки.

Description. Male (fig. 1–3, 5, 7, 9, 11–17): body length (without rostrum) 2.47 mm, body widest slightly behind middle, body width 1.08 mm. Coloration (fig. 1–3): body, head, elytra, coxa and trochanters black, moderately shiny, elytra slightly more shiny, antennae, tibiae and tarsi brown or dark red.

Vestiture (fig. 1–3, 5) comprised of two types of scales: larger, white fusiform, straight, adpressed, length 0.04–0.07 mm, width 0.01–0.02 mm, and smaller, translucent, piliform, bent, slightly raised, length 0.02–0.03 mm, width ~0.005 mm. Larger scales arranged in clusters, while smaller scales spread evenly.

Measurements. Rostrum length 0.86 mm, rostrum width at apex 0.08 mm, rostrum width at antennal insertion (middle of mesorostrum) 0.18 mm, rostrum width at base 0.14 mm, frons width 0.14 mm, eye length, 0.23 mm, eye height (in lateral view) 0.17 mm, eye width (in dorsal view) 0.11 mm, head length 0.45 mm, pronotum length 0.64 mm, pronotum width at anterior margin 0.46 mm, pronotum maximal width 0.65 mm, pronotum width at basal margin 0.67 mm, scutellum length 0.15 mm, scutellum width 0.07 mm, elytra length 1.8 mm, elytra width at humeri 0.9 mm, profemur length 0.87 mm, profemur width 0.22 mm, mesofemur length 0.66 mm, mesofemur width 0.22 mm, metafemur length 0.66 mm, metafemur width 0.22 mm, protibia length 0.87 mm, mesotibia length 0.66 mm, metatibia length 0.66 mm, width of all tibiae 0.1 mm, protarsus length 0.46 mm, mesotarsus length 0.43 mm, metatarsus length 0.43 mm.

Rostrum (fig. 1, 2, 7, 9) slightly bent, 1.1× as long as pronotum; at apical half of prorostrum shiny, not sculptured, bare; from apical half of prorostrum to base of metarostrum finely shagreened, punctate and striolate with irregular punctures and striolae of varying shape; at basal half with three weak longitudinal carinae, covered with minute white scales; prorostrum tapering, mesorostrum dilated, produced in obtuse teeth at antennal insertion, metarostrum cylindrical. Scrobes sulciform, shallow, subocular keel nearly reaching anterior margin of eye. Antenna red, inserted at basal third of rostrum, covered with sparse short whitish pubescence; scape 0.2× as long as rostrum, elongate, 3.5× as long as wide, apically clavate; 1st and 2nd funicular segments elongate, slightly clavate apically, 3rd segment obovate, 4–6th segments nearly rounded; 1st segment 2.5× as long as wide, 2nd 3.5× as long as wide, 3rd 3× as long as wide, 4–6th segments 1.3× as long as wide; club obovate, pointed, 1.2× as long as scape.

Head (fig. 1–3, 7, 9) subconical, as long as wide at temples. Eye ovate, 1.4× as long as high (in lateral view), moderately convex, 0.8× as wide as frons (in dorsal view), 0.5× as long as head, surrounded by fusiform scales, condensed beneath eye into distinct subocular patch. Frons slightly convex, covered with indistinct rounded and oblong punctures, weak longitudinal sulci, and sparse white fusiform scales. Surface rugosely microsculptured. Head ventrally behind eye with weak transverse keel, separating shagreened underneath of head from finely transversely striolated gular region.

Pronotum (fig. 1–3, 7, 9) campaniform, moderately rounded at mid-length in dorsal view, as long as wide; anterior margin slightly rounded; base weakly bisinuate, protruding medially toward scutellum; prescutellar fovea obsolete, in form of weak oblong impression; basal flange weak. Surface less rugose than head and elytra, more shiny, although fine granulate microsculpture visible under strong magnification. Pronotal punctures rounded, minute, more distinct and dense laterally; interpunctural spaces 1–1.5× as long as punctures. Disc evenly covered with thin small piliform scales corresponding to punctures; lateroventral area close to coxae with larger fusiform scales.

Scutellum (fig. 2, 3) triangular, twice as long as wide, slight longitudinal concavity in middle part, slightly produced into pointed denticle at apex and produced into two obtuse denticles at base; denticles clearly visible in lateral view (fig. 7).

Elytra (fig. 1, 3, 5, 7) oblong, 3.6× as long as wide; in dorsal view slightly rounded, widest behind middle; dorsal outline in

lateral view moderately convex. Humeral calli small, rounded, distinctly prominent. Elytra appearing mostly bare, with clusters of large white scales at elytral apex, at base of interstriae 1st–3rd and on apical third of interstriae 1st, 2nd and 9th. Interstriae slightly to moderately transversely rugose, evenly covered with smaller scales. All interstriae with 1–2 rows of large white scales at apex; 1st interstria with row of 2–5 large scales at base, before scutellum; 2nd interstria with 1–2 rows of large scales, and 3rd interstria with triangular patch of dense large scales. 3rd and 9th striae covered with scales on apical third, producing U-shaped pattern on subapical area of elytron. 1st interstria with small oblong preapical patch of scales. One specialized seta present at apex of 9th interstria. Striae deep, strongly impressed at apex of elytra (1st stria more strongly so), narrow at base, wider throughout elytra, with distinct punctures inside, devoid of scales. 1st stria shortened at apex of scutellum, 2nd stria shortened at level of mid scutellum, other striae reaching base of elytra.

Mesepisternum, mesepimeron and metepisternum covered densely with overlapping large white scales. Metasternum covered with sparse white pubescence only anteriorly.

Legs (fig. 1–3, 11, 12) covered by white setae, bicolor, coxa, trochanter and femur black, tibia and tarsi dark testaceous to brown, tarsi slightly brighter. All tibiae with thick short slightly curved mucro. Femora (fig. 1–3) incrassate at mid-length, profemur slightly longer and slightly more strongly incrassate than rest femora. Procoxa (fig. 11) slightly pointed apically, subapically with distinct glabrous area, not covered with scales. Protibia (fig. 12) 1.2× as long as mid and hind tibiae, arched, mid and hind tibiae straight. Protarsus (fig. 12) slightly longer than meso- and metatarsi. 1st protarsomere conical, slightly arched, 3× as long as wide, 2nd protarsomere cylindrical, 3× as long as wide, 1st meso- and metatarsomeres conical, not arched, 2.5× as long as wide, 2nd meso- and metatarsomeres cylindrical, 2.5× as long as wide. 3rd tarsomeres 2× as long as wide, deeply bilobed, lobes apically rounded. Onychium claviform, slightly curved. Claws (fig. 12) with wide strong triangular denticle at base.

Terminalia (fig. 13–17). Abdominal segments weakly microsculptured and sparsely pubescent; 5th abdominal segment rounded, moderately convex. Pygidium (fig. 17) not visible externally, with deep transverse sulcus and raised sclerotized apical flange, sculptured and pubescent. Aedeagus (figs. 13, 14) with tube oblong and slender, 11× as long as wide at base, cylindrical, parallel-sided, slightly arched, slightly narrowing apically, subapically bent at nearly 90°, apex rounded; apodemes 0.6× as long as tube; endophallus with minute denticles. Tegmen (fig. 15): tegminal plate oblong, strongly enveloping aedeagus, linea arquata distinct, fenestrae short, transverse, closed internally and externally; parameral lobes divided by short narrow notch, apically acutely projecting, bearing tuft of long macrochaetae and long membranous microtrichose lobes; prostegium articulated with free ring, bilobed, with deep notch separating oblong, apically rounded lobes; tegminal apodeme thick, nearly as long as tegminal plate. Sternite 9 (spiculum gastrale) (fig. 16) apically narrowly furcate, manubrium sclerotized, 2.5× as long as the less sclerotized, pointed arms.

Female (fig. 4, 6, 8, 10, 18, 19). Body length (without rostrum) 2.32–2.5 mm, width 0.96–1.02 mm, widest slightly behind middle.

Measurements. Rostrum length 0.8–0.98 mm, rostrum width at apex 0.05 mm, rostrum width at antennal insertion (middle of mesorostrum) 0.13 mm, rostrum width at base 0.17 mm, head length 0.4 mm, pronotum length 0.57–0.62 mm, pronotum width at anterior margin 0.45 mm, pronotum maximal width 0.65 mm, pronotum width at basal margin 0.67 mm, elytra length 1.6 mm, elytra width at humeri 0.86 mm, profemur length 0.8 mm, profemur width 0.19 mm, mesofemur length 0.68–0.72 mm, mesofemur width 0.18 mm, metafemur length 0.68–0.72 mm, metafemur width 0.18 mm, protibia length 0.8–0.84 mm, mesotibia length 0.68–0.71 mm, metatibia length 0.68–0.71 mm, width of all tibiae

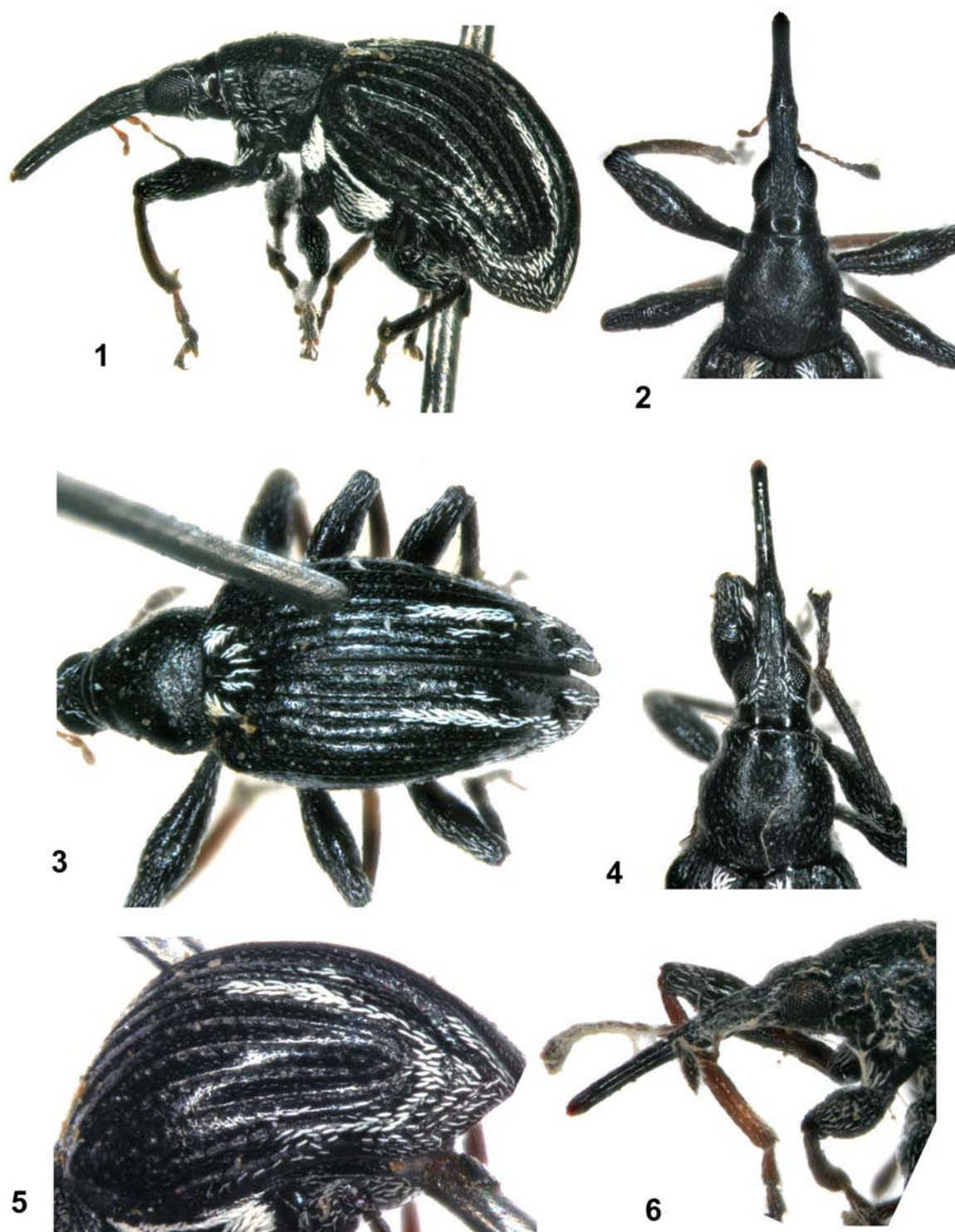


Fig. 1–6. *Lopatinapion simsari* sp. n., photographs of male holotype and female paratype.

1 – male, lateral view; 2 – male, head and pronotum, dorsal view; 3 – male, pronotum and elytra, dorsal view; 4 – female, head and pronotum, dorsal view; 5 – male, elytra, lateral view; 6 – female, head, lateral view.

Рис. 1–6. *Lopatinapion simsari* sp. n., голотип, самец и паратип, самка.

1 – самец, вид сбоку; 2 – самец, голова и переднеспинка, вид сверху; 3 – самец, переднеспинка и надкрылья, вид сверху; 4 – самка, голова и переднеспинка, вид сверху; 5 – самец, надкрылья, вид сбоку; 6 – самка, голова, вид сбоку.

0.1 mm, protarsus length 0.45 mm, mesotarsus length 0.41 mm, metatarsus length 0.41 mm.

Rostrum nearly straight, 1.3–1.7× as long as pronotum, apical 0.7 of rostrum smooth, shiny, basal 0.3 rugose. Mesorostrum narrower and mesorostral denticle more obtuse than in male. Tibiae not mucronated.

Terminalia (figs. 18, 19). Tergite 8 rounded; coxite with median reinforcement, styli oblong; spiculum ventrale slender, oblong, sclerotized, basal plate membranous (fig. 19). Spermatheca with globular tail (cornu) (fig. 18).

Biology. Reared from shoots of *Hibiscus rosasinensis* L. (Malvaceae).

Distribution. Papua New Guinea (Western Highlands Province).

Etymology. The species is named in honor of Dr. Sim A. Sar, Programme Director of Agricultural Systems Improvement, National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI), Bubia, Lae, Papua New Guinea, in recognition of his immense hospitality and his kind and generous help on my trip to Papua New Guinea in January – February 2013.

Lopatinapion niveodispersum (Lea, 1910), **comb. n.**

Apion niveodispersum Lea, 1910: 30.

Apion niveodispersum: Lea in Zimmerman, 1991: 172–173 (Plate 85: fig. 5–6).

"*Apion*" *niveodispersum*: Lea in Zimmerman, 1994: 287, 305.

Distribution. Australia, Queensland (type locality – Chillagoe).

Comments. Lea [1910] emphasized the "uneven distribution of its clothing", or in other words the specific pattern – lack of pubescence on disc of pronotum and elytra, but he suggested that it "appears to be readily abraded, especially on the upper surface". Zimmerman [1994] referred to the pubescence of "bare" parts of *L. niveodispersum* as being "reduced to inconspicuous, minute, fleck-like setae" on the disc of pronotum and elytra, and therefore appearing nude.

Neither Lea [1910] nor Zimmerman [1991, 1994] recorded the deposition of the type.

Lopatinapion symbolum (Faust, 1897), **comb. n.**

Apion symbolum Faust, 1897: 178–179.

Distribution. Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands.

Comments. The pubescence pattern was described by Faust as follows: "In well-preserved specimens thin hairs covering the base of the 2nd elytral interstria, denser in this place, if you look from the certain angle in the highest place of the back it seems to be erased. Probably occurred occasionally, wiped away. In some specimens thinner hairs on the rest of elytra can be seen".

L. symbolum was originally described from Papua New Guinea (Mailu Island, Fergusson Island) and Indonesia (Nias, Sumatra, Tanimbar). According to the author, he studied several specimens from Mailu Island and Fergusson Island, which came from the Tring Museum (now Natural History Museum at Tring), the rest were deposited in his private collection. It is not clear whether the holotype was designated. The collections of the Tring Museum were shared between the Natural History

Museum in London (BNHM) and the Paris Natural History Museum. Specimens deposited in BNHM, determined by H. Wagner and L. Dieckmann, are from Indonesia (Java, ? Sulawesi, Ternate, Misool, Aru), PNG and Solomon Islands (M. Barclay, Ch. Lyal and R. Angus, pers. comm.), none of them from the localities recorded by Faust. The type material is probably in Paris (M. Barclay, pers. comm.).

The wide distribution of this species is quite astonishing, and may refer to a group of closely-related species.

Key to the species of *Lopatinapion* gen. n.

1. Protibia red in distal half; pronotum scarcely rounded laterally; elytra more rounded laterally, 1.2× as long as wide in dorsal view; Australia *niveodispersum* Lea
– All tibiae red; pronotum distinctly rounded laterally; elytra less rounded laterally, 1.3–1.4× as long as wide in dorsal view; Papua New Guinea and Malay Archipelago 2
2. Antenna red only at base; rostrum 1.1–1.2× as long as pronotum, rostrum, antennae and leg parts robust; punctures on pronotal disc large and dense, interpunctural spaces 0.4–0.9× as long as punctures; all elytral interstriae at least in apical third with rows of white scales; elytral striae with white scales; in male protibia straight, all tibiae not mucronate *symbolum* Faust
– Antenna red entirely; rostrum 1.3–1.5× as long as pronotum; rostrum, antennae and leg parts more slender; punctures on pronotal disc minute and sparse, interpunctural spaces 1–1.5× as long as punctures; only 3rd and 9th elytral interstriae with 1 or 2 rows of white scales in apical third and with a small patch of white scales on base of apical third; elytral striae without white scales; in male protibia bent, all tibiae mucronate *simsari* sp. n.

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