

## Second record of subfamily Polyaoninae (Coleoptera: Bostrichidae) from Cretaceous Burmese amber

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**Taxonomy, new species, Coleoptera, Bostrichidae, Polyaoninae, *Melalgus*, Mid-Cretaceous Burmese amber, Myanmar**

**Abstract.** *Melalgus cretaceus* sp. nov. from Mid-Cretaceous Burmese amber is described, illustrated and compared with similar species.

### INTRODUCTION

The family Bostrichidae currently contains about 600 species including fossil species known from the Burmese amber (Legalov 2018, Legalov & Háva 2020, 2022, Háva & Legalov 2023a,b, Peng et al. 2022). In the present article is described further a new species.

The amber piece with the described specimen was obtained from mines in the Hukawng Valley of the state of Kachin (Myanmar). It is likely from the Cenomanian radiometric age, and was mined from sedimentary beds, indicating that it had been re-deposited. An araucarian tree, possibly *Agathis*, was the source of the amber.

### MATERIAL AND METHODS

The material mentioned is deposited in (JHAC) - Jiří Háva, Private Entomological Laboratory & Collection, Únětice u Prahy, Prague-West, Czech Republic.

The specimen described here is provided with a red, printed label with text as follows: „HOLOTYPE *Melalgus cretaceus* sp. nov. Jiří Háva det. 2024”.

### TAXONOMY

#### Subfamily Polyaoninae Lesne, 1896

Keys of genera and species worldwide were published by Borowski & Węgrzynowicz (2012) and a new genus from Burmese amber was published by Legalov & Háva (2020).

Genus *Polycaon* Castelnau 1836 - flattened body, antennae 10- or 11 segmented, protibiae long and slender, not or but shallowly emarginated in basal part, pronotal sides convex, posterior part of elytra without declivity or costae and tubercles.

Genus *Melalgus* Dejean, 1833 - cylindrical body, antennae 9- or 10- or 11 segmented,

anterior tibiae short and thick, deeply emarginated basally, sides of pronotum flattened or somewhat concave, posterior part of elytra with declivity or costae and tubercles.

Genus *Cretoligus* Legalov & Háva, 2020 - subcylindrical body, antennae 11 segmented, striate elytra, procoxal cavities contiguous, tarsi four-segmented, and small body sizes. *Cretoligus minimus* Legalov & Háva, 2020 (Burmese amber).

***Melalgus cretaceus* sp. nov.**

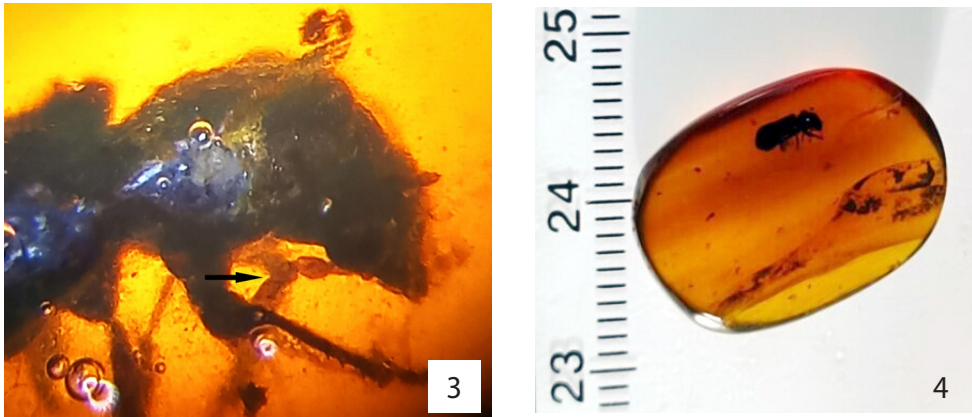
(Figs. 1-4)

**Type material.** Holotype (♀): Hukawng Valley southwest of Maingkhwan in Kachin State, Myanmar, No. BOSTR\_2024/1Mel., (JHAC). A complete beetle is included in a transparent amber piece. Syninclusions consist of numerous small to minute organic particles.

**Description.** Body dark brown, cylindrical, length 4 mm (Figs. 1-2). Integument covered with semierect, short setae. Head as wide as the apical pronotal width, prognathic. Frons convex, sparsely punctate, covered with few semierect setae. Vertex weakly convex. Antennae 10 segmented, antennal club 3 segmented (Fig. 3).

Pronotum long as wide at apex, in middle, and at base, with short semierect setae. Elytra subcylindrical, with semierect, short setae, finely granulated, posterior part of elytra with very small costae and very small tubercles. Metaventrite long as metacoxal cavity length. Anterior tibiae short and thick, deeply emarginated basally as in all known females of other species.





Figs. 1-4. *Melalgus cretaceus* sp. nov.: 1- habitus; 2- habitus; 3- antennal club; 4- holotype in amber piece.

**Differential diagnosis.** The genus *Melalgus* currently contains 23 species worldwide, from the recent species *M. feanus* (Lesne, 1899) (body length 11-18 mm), known from Oriental Region including Myanmar, the new species differs by the small of body and structure of 10 segmented antennae.

**Etymology.** Named according to the Cretaceous Age.

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