

A new species of the genus *Pheropsophus* Solier, 1833 from Seram Island (Coleoptera: Carabidae: Brachinini)

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Taxonomy, new species, Coleoptera, Carabidae, Brachinini, *Pheropsophus*, Australian Region, Indonesia

Abstract. A new species *Pheropsophus attenboroughi* sp. nov. from Indonesia: Seram is described and illustrated, including the illustration of the male genitalia of the holotype and female genitalia of the paratype.

INTRODUCTION

The last complete revision of the tribe Brachinini was published by Chaudoir (1876). The checklist with the distribution of the species of the genus *Pheropsophus* Solier, 1833 from the Australian Region was published by Andrewes (1930) and Csiki (1932, 1933). The works focusing on the Australian Region were later published by Darlington (1968), Giachino (2003, 2005), Baehr (2012), Hrdlička (2015a, 2015b, 2017, 2019) and Roux & Écharoux (2023). In the Australian Region, the genus *Pheropsophus* Solier, 1833 is represented by 29 species.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The material examined is housed in the collections listed below:
cNHML coll. Natural History Museum, London, United Kingdom;
cNMP coll. National Museum, Praha, Czech Republic;
cHRDL coll. Jan Hrdlička, Babice u Říčan, Czech Republic.

Photographs of specimens used for descriptions were provided (photographs of general habitus of specimens and photographs of aedeagi were taken with the Canon EOS 600D digital camera with Canon MP-E 65 mm and Canon EF-S 60 mm objectives, images of the same objects at different focal planes were combined by using the Helicon Focus 6.4.3 software, two light sources Philips Master LEDspot PAR20 6W, 500 lumen, 2700K were used for lighting). Each paratype has its own number. The label text of type specimens is cited as originally given, separate lines on labels are indicated by „/“, separate labels by „/““. Notes and comments of authors are given in brackets. [p] - the preceding data were printed; [hw] - the same was hand-written.

Measurements of body parts and corresponding abbreviations used in the text are as follows:

TL total length - measured from the apex of the left mandible (mandibles opened) to the apex of the left elytron;

DVH dorso-ventral height - maximum dorso-ventral height of the body;
 HL length of head - measured from the clypeus apex to the neck constriction;
 HW width of head - maximum width of the head (including eyes);
 AL antennae length;
 PL pronotal length - length of the pronotum measured along the mid-line;
 PW1 pronotal width 1 - width of the anterior margin of pronotum;
 PW2 pronotal width 2 - maximum width of the pronotum;
 PW3 pronotal width 3 - minimum width of the pronotum;
 PW4 pronotal width 4 - width of the posterior margin of the pronotum;
 EL elytral length - measured from the anterior margin of the scutellum to the posterior margin of the elytra;
 EW elytral width - maximum width of both elytra combined.
 PW1/PW2; PW2/PW2; PW3/PW2; PW4/PW2 individual dimensions (PW1, PW3, PW4) are recalculated in relation to PW2 (expresses the curvature of the lateral sides of the pronotum). The location of the PW2 and PW3 of the pronotum are given as a percentage of the PL (calculated from the anterior margin of the pronotum). The location of the EW of the elytra is given as a percentage of the EL (calculated from the anterior margin of the scutellum).

TAXONOMY

Pheropsophus attenboroughi sp. nov.

(Figs. 1-10)

Type material. Holotype (♂) labelled: „INDONESIA: / N.C. SERAM, / Manusela N.P., / Wae Mual Plain. / 25.vii-9.ix.1987 [p, white label] // Lowland / Alluvial / forest. [p, white label] // Op. Raleigh. / M.J.D. Brendell. / B.M.1987-262 [p, white label] // HOLOTYPE / *Pheropsophus* / *attenboroughi* sp. n. / Jan Hrdlička des. 2026 [p, red label]“ (cNHML). Paratypes nos. 1-23 (8 ♂♂; 15 ♀♀) labelled: with same data as holotype (cNHML, cNMP, CHRDL). Paratype labels in the same way as holotype label, additionally with number of paratype.

Description of the male holotype. Habitus (Figs. 1-4). A medium-sized *Pheropsophus* (TL 15.33 mm); 2.74 times longer than wide (TL/EW). Body convex (TL/DVH 3.41). Body largely black-brown, anterior half of head, antennae, tibia and tarsi yellow. Mandibles and clypeus largely brown.

Head longer than wide (HL/HW 1.19), narrower than pronotum (HW/PW2 0.92). Eyes flatter. Head dull with two setiferous punctures above every eye, neck wrinkled and finely and sparsely irregularly punctate and pubescent by short setae. Antennae long, narrow (TL/AL 1.52). Antennomeres 1-2 with scattered long setae, 3-4 pubescent with short setae and scattered longer setae, 5-11 densely pubescent with short setae.

Pronotum slightly transverse (PL/PW2 0.98). PL 3.13 mm, PW1 2.43 mm, PW2 (at the 32% of PL) 3.20 mm, PW3 = PW4 (at the 100% of PL) 2.50 mm. Lateral margins weakly rounded (PW1/PW2; PW2/PW2; PW3/PW2; PW4/PW2 0.76; 1; 0.78; 0.78). Disc convex, little dull, finely and sparsely irregularly punctate, with pubescence. Median line of pronotum uniformly deep, does not reach anterior and posterior margins. Lateral groove poorly visible, with a setiferous puncture approximately in the middle. Posterior angles



Figs. 1-4. Habitus of *Pheropsophus attenboroughi* sp. nov. (HT): 1- dorsal view; 2- ventral view; 3- lateral view; 4- anterior view.

Figs. 5-9. Aedeagus of *Pheropsophus attenboroughi* sp. nov. (HT): 5, 7- lateral views; 6- dorsal view; 8, 9- ventral views.

Fig. 10. Coxites of *Pheropsophus attenboroughi* sp. nov. (PT 9), (ventral view).

of pronotum rectangular, slightly rounded at the tip. Anterior and posterior margins with a fringe of short hairs. Episterna of prothorax shiny with few setiferous puncture on the anterior part (3 in the left and 4 in the right anterior part of episterna of prothorax). Pronotal epipleura smooth and shiny.

Scutellum with macrosculpture.

Elytra 1.55 times longer than wider (EL/EW). Elytra widest somewhat behind the middle (55 % of EL). Humeri present. Each elytron with 8 costae (sharply defined, rounded, smooth and shiny) and 8 intercostal intervals (matt with macrosculpture). Eighth intercostal interval (at lateral margin) pubescent with short setae. Posterior margin of elytra with membranous fringe with short setae (approximately 0.21 mm).

Abdomen shiny, densely pubescent by short yellow setae.

Male genitalia (Figs. 5-9). Median lobe of aedeagus long, narrow and conical. Apical half flattish dorso-ventrally. Flattish part is at angle of about 45° to plane perpendicular to aedeagus axis. The short apical part has two distinct ribs on its ventral side.

Variability. TL 12.51-17.63 (aver. 15.12) mm (24 specimens measured). Some specimens have a dark labrum or lighter-colored femora. The number of setiferous punctures on the anterior part of episterna of prothorax varies from 2 to 11.

Differential diagnosis. *Pheropsophus attenboroughi* sp. nov. is similar to *P. minahassae* Heller, 1903 from Celebes Island. However this species differs from the new one by shape of elytra (humeri absent), uniformly light-coloured legs, and by shape of aedeagus which is more robust and lacks two distinct ribs on its ventral side in the apical part.

Collecting habitat. The specimens were collected in a lowland floodplain forest on the Wae Mual Plain, located within Manusela National Park on Seram Island, Maluku Province, Indonesia. This area is widely recognized in scientific and conservation circles as one of the key expedition sites for biodiversity research of the Maluku Islands.

Biology. Known only from its type series, the biology of *Pheropsophus attenboroughi* sp. nov. remains unknown.

Name derivation. This species is named in honour of Sir David Frederick Attenborough (born 8 May 1926), English broadcaster, natural historian, and writer, on the occasion of his 100th birthday.

Distribution. Currently known only from Manusela National Park on Seram Island, Maluku Province, Indonesia.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS. Special thanks are extended to Jiří Háva (Prague, Czech Republic) for photo editing and to Jan Hrdlička Jr. for proofreading the English text.

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Received: 20.6.2026

Accepted: 10.7.2026

Printed: 5.10.2026

