

## Two new species of the genus *Trichobalya* Weise, 1924 (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Galerucinae) from Vietnam and an updated taxonomic key for Vietnamese species

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**Abstract.** Two new species of the genus *Trichobalya* Weise, 1924 (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Galerucinae), are described: *Trichobalya* (*Paratrachobalya*) *arcibrunnealis*, new species, from Nui Chua National Park in southern Vietnam, and *Trichobalya* (*Paratrachobalya*) *nigribasalis*, new species, from Cat Ba National Park in northern Vietnam. Colour photographs of the habitus and body details of both new species as well as an identification key for all Vietnamese species of the genus *Trichobalya* are provided.

**Key words.** Asia, biodiversity, island, taxonomy, tropical forest

### INTRODUCTION

The genus *Trichidea* Baly, 1890, was established to accommodate *Trichidea bowringii* Baly, 1890 (type species by original designation), from Hong Kong, and *Trichidea mouhoti* Baly, 1890, from Siam and Laos (Baly, 1890). Due to homonymy, *Trichidea* De Haan, 1841 (Crustacea), Weise (1924) proposed the replacement name *Trichobalya* Weise, 1924 for *Trichidea* Baly, 1890. This genus is morphologically characterised by the following features: the last abdominal segment of males is trilobed; the mesosternum is exposed, not overlapped by metasternum; the pronotum has margined lateral and basal borders and a pair of distinct lateral depressions; anterior coxal cavities is posteriorly closed; each tibia bears a single apical spine; metatarsomere I is nearly equal in length to the remaining metatarsomeres combined; tarsal claws are not bifid; elytra possess punctures arranged in regular longitudinal striae, and each elytron has double rows and a short, indistinct scutellar row; interstices are elevated; and the elytral surface is densely pubescent.

*Trichobalya* is distributed throughout the Indo-Malayan and southeastern Palearctic regions and currently includes six recognised species: *T.* (sensu stricto) *apicalis* Kimoto, 1982, *T.* (sensu stricto) *bowringii* (Baly, 1890), *T.* (sensu stricto) *melanocephala* (Jacoby, 1889), *T.* (sensu stricto) *tiomanensis* Mohamedsaid, 1999, *T.* (sensu stricto) *viridipennis* Kimoto, 1977, and *T.* (*Paratrachobalya*) *ventrituberculata* Romantsov,

2020 (Kimoto, 1977, 1982; Mohamedsaid, 1999; Nie et al., 2017; Romantsov, 2020; Bezděk & Sekerka, 2024). *Trichobalya varians* Gressitt & Kimoto, 1963, described from South China, was originally placed in *Trichobalya*, but subsequently transferred to the genus *Doryscus* Jacoby, 1887 by Gressitt & Kimoto (1965). Three species of the genus *Trichobalya* have been recorded in Vietnam (Kimoto, 1989; Romantsov, 2020). The genus was first recorded in Vietnam by Laboissière (1936), who described two species: *T. tonkinensis* and *T. gularis*. Subsequently, Gressitt & Kimoto (1963) synonymised *T. tonkinensis* with *T. bowringii*, and Kimoto (1989) synonymised *T. gularis* with *T. melanocephala*.

The subgenus *Trichobalya* (*Paratrachobalya*) was established for *T. (P.) ventrituberculata* Romantsov, 2020, based on two specimens from northern and central Vietnam. Although it shares the general pronotal and elytral morphology of *Trichobalya* (sensu stricto), *Paratrachobalya* is distinguished by partially expanded antennomeres and a unique large, triangular protuberance on ventrite I, which is directed posteriorly (Romantsov, 2020).

In this study, two new species of *Trichobalya* (*Paratrachobalya*) from Vietnam are described, and an updated identification key to species of *Trichobalya* occurring in Vietnam is provided.

### MATERIAL AND METHODS

Specimens were collected from two national parks in Vietnam: Nui Chua National Park in Ninh Thuan Province (southern Vietnam) in 2013, and Cat Ba National Park in Hai Phong Province (northern Vietnam) in 2025. Sampling was carried out using the beating method, in which low-hanging branches and understory vegetation within arm's reach were struck with a stick, and dislodged beetles were caught with a beating tray. The collected specimens were

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immediately preserved in vials filled with 96% ethanol to preserve the DNA. Each vial was labelled with information on locality, date, and collector for future reference. Labels of type material are given verbatim in the Taxonomy section. Photographs were taken using a Nikon DS-Fi3 digital camera mounted on a Nikon SMZ800N stereomicroscope. Image acquisition and processing were carried out using NIS-Elements imaging software. To enhance image clarity and depth of field, multiple images captured at different focal planes were stacked using Helicon Focus v7 software.

DNA was extracted from 22 specimens of *Trichobalya* (*Paratrachobalya*) *arcibrunnealis*, new species, using the protocol described by Nguyen & Gómez-Zurita (2016). The resulting sequences were submitted to GenBank under accession numbers LT160443–LT160463. After DNA extraction, the specimens were air dried, mounted, and labelled with voucher numbers. Of these, 11 specimens are housed at the Institute of Biology (IOB), Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology, while the remaining 11 paratypes are deposited in the private collection of Jesús Gómez-Zurita in Spain (JGZ). This study is based solely on the specimens deposited in the IOB collection.

For *Trichobalya* (*Paratrachobalya*) *nigribasalis*, new species, DNA was extracted from whole specimens using the DNeasy Blood & Tissue Kit (QIAGEN), following the manufacturer's protocol. The mitochondrial cytochrome c oxidase subunit I (COI) gene was amplified using the primers LepF1 (5'-ATTCAACCAATCATAAAGATATTGG-3') and LepR1 (5'-TAAACTTCTGGATGTCCAAAAATCA-3'), yielding a 658 base pair (bp) fragment. Each PCR reaction contained 12.5 µl GoTaq® G2 Hot Start Green Master Mix, 0.5 µl of each 10 µM primer (forward and reverse), 2 µl of template DNA, and 9.5 µl of deionised water. The thermal cycling conditions were as follows: initial denaturation at 94°C for 2 minutes; 38 cycles of denaturation at 94°C for 30 seconds, annealing at 54°C for 30 seconds, and extension at 72°C for 50 seconds; followed by a final extension at 72°C for 5 minutes. PCR products were visualised on a 1.5% agarose gel and subsequently sequenced in both directions using the same PCR primers. After DNA extraction, specimens were air-dried, mounted, and assigned voucher numbers for deposition at the Institute of Biology (IOB), Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology. Forward and reverse sequences were assembled into consensus sequences using Geneious Prime v2019.0.4 and submitted to both the Barcode of Life Data System (BOLD; www.boldsystems.org) and GenBank.

#### Updated key to species of the genus *Trichobalya* in Vietnam

1. Posterior margin of abdominal ventrite I with protuberance... 2 (subgenus *Paratrachobalya*)
- Posterior margin of abdominal ventrite I without protuberance ..... 4 (*Trichobalya* (sensu stricto))
2. Elytra with base dark ..... 3
- Elytra with basal, lateral, and apical margins metallic dark, forming brown inverted arch medially. Posterior margin of

ventrite I with protuberance directed backward and with two peaks facing each other, forming heart shape; body length 4.1–4.4 mm (Figs. 1, 2). ....

3. Antennomeres III–VIII filiform and posterior margin of ventrite I with large ovate protuberances. Body length 4.3 mm (Figs. 3, 4)..... *Trichobalya* (*P.*) *nigribasalis*, new species
- Antennomeres III–VIII not filiform and posterior margin of ventrite I with large triangular protuberances. Body length 6.8–7.1 mm. .... *Trichobalya* (*P.*) *ventrituberculata* Romantsov, 2020
4. Head blackish; pronotum nearly 1 1/2 times as wide as long; generally yellowish to reddish brown; elytron bluish to violaceous black; length 6.5–7.3 mm. .... *Trichobalya* (sensu stricto) *melanocephala* (Jacoby, 1889)
- Head reddish brown; pronotum nearly 1 1/4 times as wide as long; generally yellowish to reddish brown; elytron violaceous to bluish black; length 5.0–8.0 mm. .... *Trichobalya* (sensu stricto) *bowringii* (Baly, 1890)

#### TAXONOMY

##### Family Chrysomelidae Latreille, 1802

##### Subfamily Galerucinae Latreille, 1802

##### Genus *Trichobalya* Weise, 1924

##### Subgenus *Paratrachobalya* Romantsov, 2020

##### *Trichobalya* (*Paratrachobalya*) *arcibrunnealis*, new species (Figs. 1, 2)

**Type material. Holotype:** male (IOB-NUICHUA2013), “VIETNAM, NINH THUAN/Nui Chua park/11.734111N 109.182472E 174 m/Coll. Dinh T. Nguyen/March 28, 2013”.

**Paratypes:** 3 females (IOB-NUICHUA2013), “VIETNAM, NINH THUAN/Nui Chua park/11.733444N 109.184389E 122 m/coll. Dinh T. Nguyen/March 2, 2013”; 1 male (IOB-NUICHUA2013), “VIETNAM, NINH THUAN/Nui Chua park/11.734111N 109.182472E 174 m/Coll. Dinh T. Nguyen/March 28, 2013”; 2 females (IOB-NUICHUA2013), “VIETNAM, NINH THUAN/Nui Chua park/11.251667 N 109.177236E 180 m/ coll. Dinh T. Nguyen/ February 25, 2013”; 1 female (IOB-NUICHUA2013) “VIETNAM, NINH THUAN/Nui Chua park/11.7353889 N 109.179111E 271 m/coll. Dinh T. Nguyen/March 2, 2013”; 1 female (IOB-NUICHUA2013) “VIETNAM, NINH THUAN/Nui Chua park/11.7446806N 109.192500E 351 m/ coll. Dinh T. Nguyen/ June 2012”; 2 females (IOB-NUICHUA2013), “VIETNAM, NINH THUAN/Nui Chua park/11.7436528N 109.192500E 326 m/coll. Dinh T. Nguyen/Jannury - March, 2013”; 1 male (JGZ-3229), 1 female (JGZ-3376), “VIETNAM, NINH THUAN/Nui Chua park/11.734111N 109.182472E 174 m/Coll. Dinh T. Nguyen/March 28, 2013”; 3 females (JGZ-3184, JGZ-3284, JGZ-3342), “VIETNAM, NINH THUAN/Nui Chua park/11.7353889 N 109.179111E 271 m/coll. Dinh T. Nguyen/March 2, 2013”; 1 female (JGZ-3345), “VIETNAM, NINH THUAN/

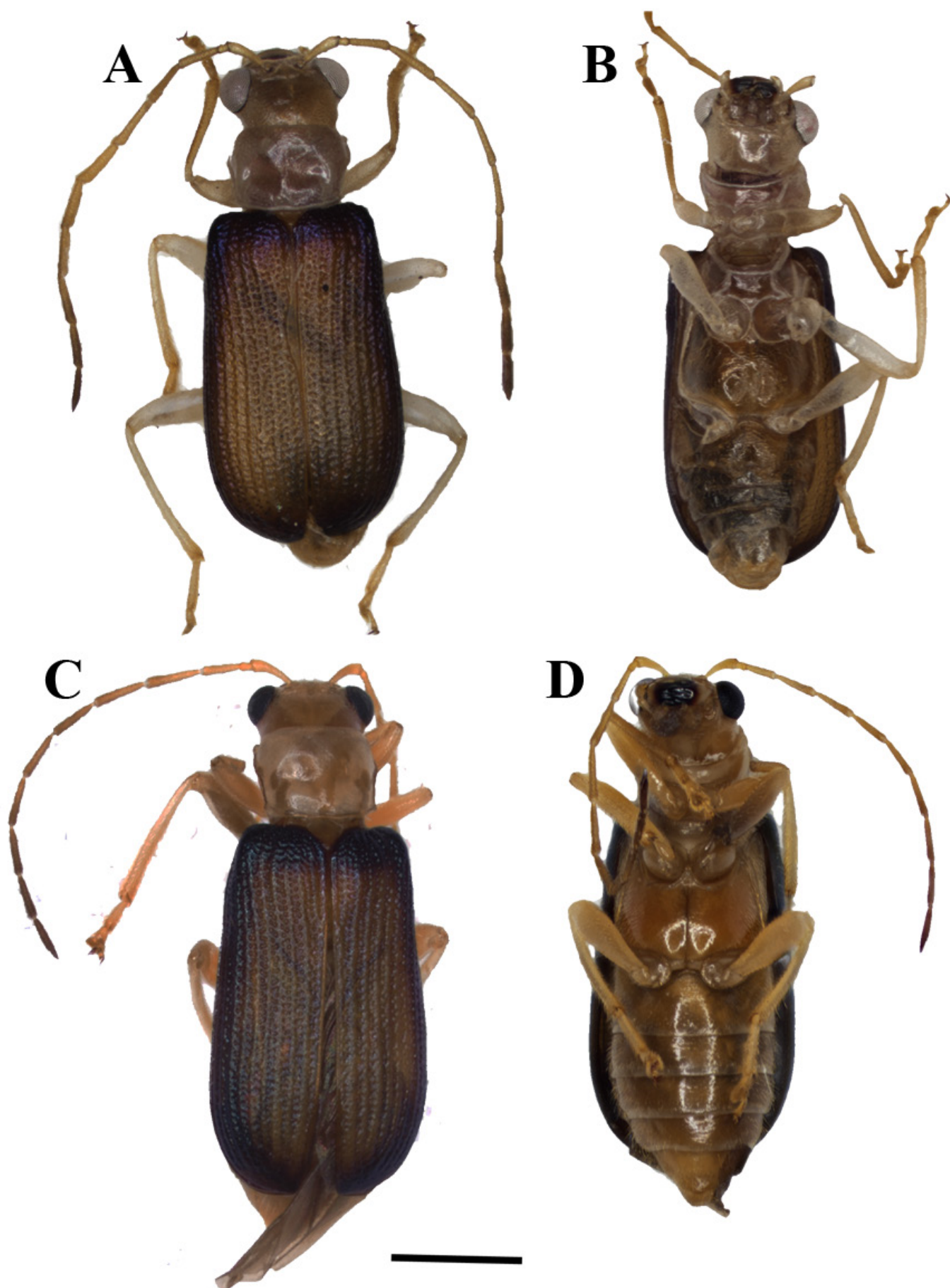


Fig. 1. Habitus of *Trichobalya* (*Paratrachobalya*) *arcibrunnealis*, new species. A, B, holotype, male; C, D, paratype, female; A, C, dorsal view; B, D, ventral view; scale bars = 1.0 cm.



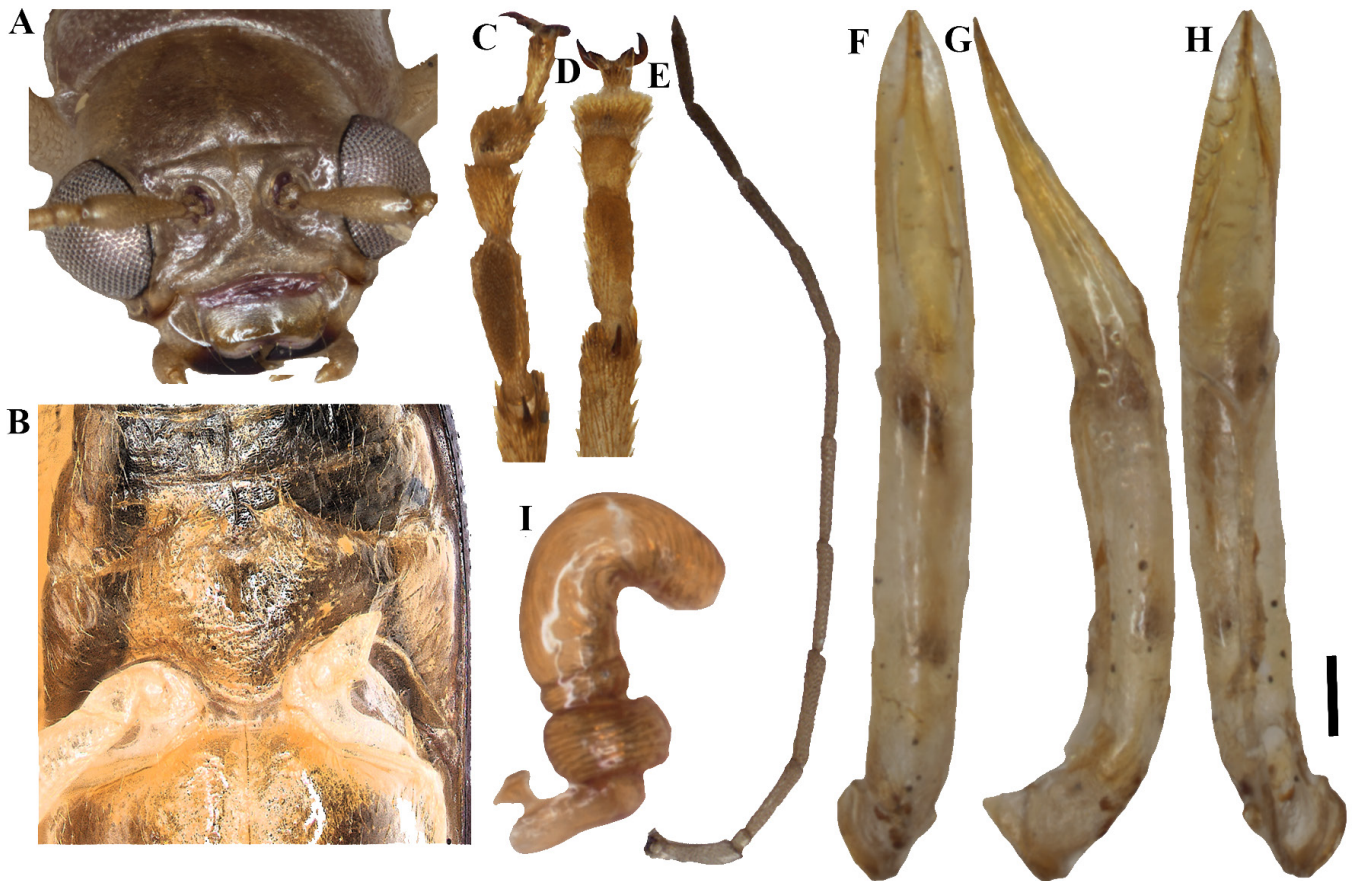


Fig. 2. Details of *Trichobalya* (*Paratrachobalya*) *arcibrunnealis*, new species. A– H, holotype, male: A, head; B, ventrite I; C, protarsus; D, mesotarsus; E, antennae; F, aedeagus dorsal view; G, aedeagus lateral view; H, aedeagus ventral view; scale bars = 1.0 mm for F–H; I, paratype, female: spermatheca.

Nui Chua park/11.7334444 N 109.184389E 122 m/coll. Dinh T. Nguyen/April 20, 2013"; 1 male (JGZ-3351), "VIETNAM, NINH THUAN/Nui Chua park/11.7356667N 109.177750E 340 m/coll. Dinh T. Nguyen/April, 2013"; 1 female (JGZ-3225), "VIETNAM, NINH THUAN/Nui Chua park/11.7334444N 109.184389E 122 m/coll. Dinh T. Nguyen/March 2, 2013"; 1 female (JGZ-3280), "VIETNAM, NINH THUAN/Nui Chua park/11.7355000N 109.176889E 382 m/coll. Dinh T. Nguyen/February, 2013"; 2 females (JGZ-3272, JGZ-2949), "VIETNAM, NINH THUAN/Nui Chua park/11.7436528N 109.192681 E 326 m/coll. Dinh T. Nguyen/March, 2013".

**Description.** Body length: males: 4.1–4.2 mm; females: 4.2–4.4 mm.

**Colouration:** Head brown; antennae brown, apical three segments dark brown; pronotum purple. Venter brown, prothorax and mesosternum purple. Legs pale, protibiae and protarsi brown. Elytra metallic, dark at basal, lateral, and apical parts; rest brown, inverted arch-shaped. (Figs. 1, 2).

**Male:** Head punctate (Fig. 2A). Labrum anterior margin concave; approximately 2× as wide as long; surface slightly convex, microsculptured; with two rows of setae: one with four pale setae along anterior margin, one with six setae near posterior margin. Maxillary palpi: penultimate segment extended, apical segment small and triangular. Clypeus

purple; anterior margin straight and smooth; posterior margin with two long setae at lateral angles. Frontal ridge large, convex, impunctate, and transverse, forming and isosceles triangular apex between frontal tubercles, with edges bearing long setae posteriorly. Frontal tubercles large, convex, separated from vertex by distinct transverse furrow. Interantennal space wider than antennal socket diameter (1.1×); interocular space 2× eye diameter. Areas around sockets deeply concave. Vertex slightly convex, brown, with a deep round depression behind frontal tubercles, and several setae laterally behind eyes. Antennae approximately 1.05× body length; densely covered with short subrecumbent setae. Antennomere I long, with apex expanded; antennomere II very small, and cylindrical; antennomeres IX–XI wider than I–VIII. Length proportions of antennomeres I–XI: 32:7:42:48:48:46:46:44:40:40:40 (Fig. 2E).

Pronotum slightly flattened, trapezoidal, anterior margin longer than posterior; disc with paired depressions. Width of pronotum 1.35× length; max width at anterior third; 1.58× narrower than elytra at base. Anterior margin unbordered; lateral and posterior margins bordered. Each angle with setigerous pore bearing long pale seta; lateral margin with several short setae. Disc with reticulate microsculpture (Fig. 1A).

Scutellum brown, triangular, apex slightly rounded; surface sparsely covered with setae and microsculpture.

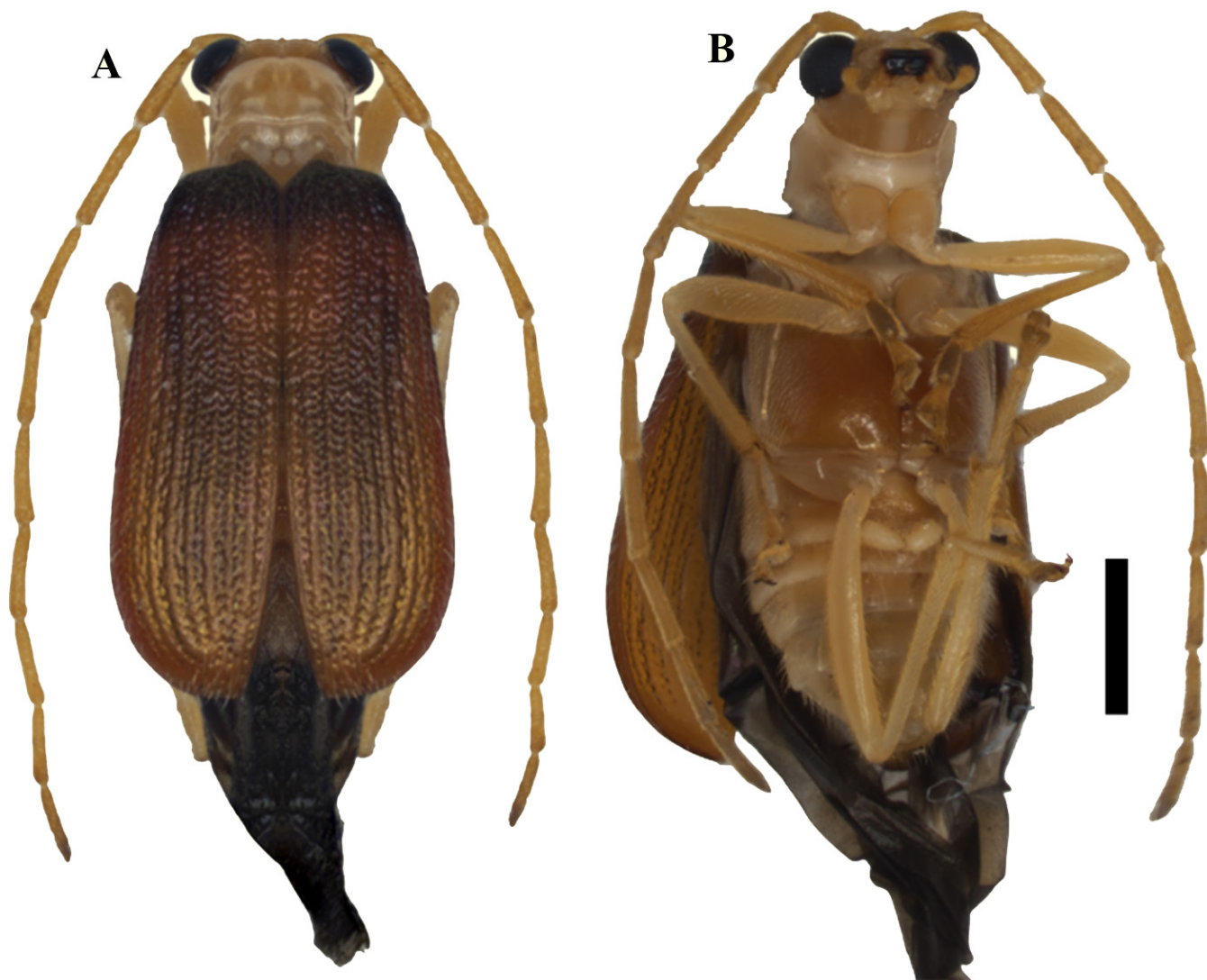


Fig. 3. Habitus of *Trichobalya* (*Paratrachobalya*) *nigribasalis*, new species. A, B, holotype, male: A, dorsal view; B, ventral view; scale bars = 1.0 cm.

Elytra 1.6× longer than wide, broadened at  $\frac{2}{3}$  apical region; surface densely covered with semierect setae; punctate-striate with longitudinal ridges between double rows of punctures; scutellar row short, indistinct, unpaired. Humeral calli well developed. Epipleurae dark brown, broadened basally, narrowing to apex (Fig. 1A).

Legs slender; all tibiae with apical spurs. Protarsomeres I–IV length ratio 17–10–7–20; protarsomere I approximately 2.5× longer than wide, 1.3× wider than protarsomere II, and equal in width to protarsomere III. Mesotarsomeres I–IV ratio 25–14–10–20. Metatarsomeres I–IV ratio 40–18–10–25; metatarsomere I slender, elongate (approximately 5× longer than wide), longer than metatarsomeres II–IV combined. Ventral sides of pro- and mesotarsomeres I with large sensilla patch. Claws appendiculate (Figs. 2C, D).

Venter impunctate, sparsely covered with thin setae. Procoxae globular; prosternal process very narrow, invisible between procoxae. Anterior coxal cavities posteriorly closed. Abdomen with five distinct ventrites; posterior margin of ventrite I with backward protuberances, the two opposing

peaks forming a heart-shaped structure. Last ventrite trilobed (Figs. 1B, 2B).

Aedeagus 1.57 mm long; dorsal/ventral view parallel, apex slightly pointed, forked; lateral view with apical third pointed (Figs. 2F–H).

**Female:** Colouration as in male; pro- and mesotarsomeres I ventrally without sensilla patch; ventrite I without protuberance; last ventrite tapering, not trilobed (Figs. 1C, D).

Spermatheca: Nodulus subspherical; cornu V-shaped, base constricted, transverse suture subbasally (Fig. 2I).

**Distribution.** Nui Chua National Park, Ninh Thuan Province, southern Vietnam.

**Differential diagnosis.** This new species differs from other members of the subgenus *Paratrachobalya* by the colouration of the elytra and the form of the protuberances on the posterior margin of ventrite I. In this species, the elytra are brown medially, with the basal, lateral, and apical regions



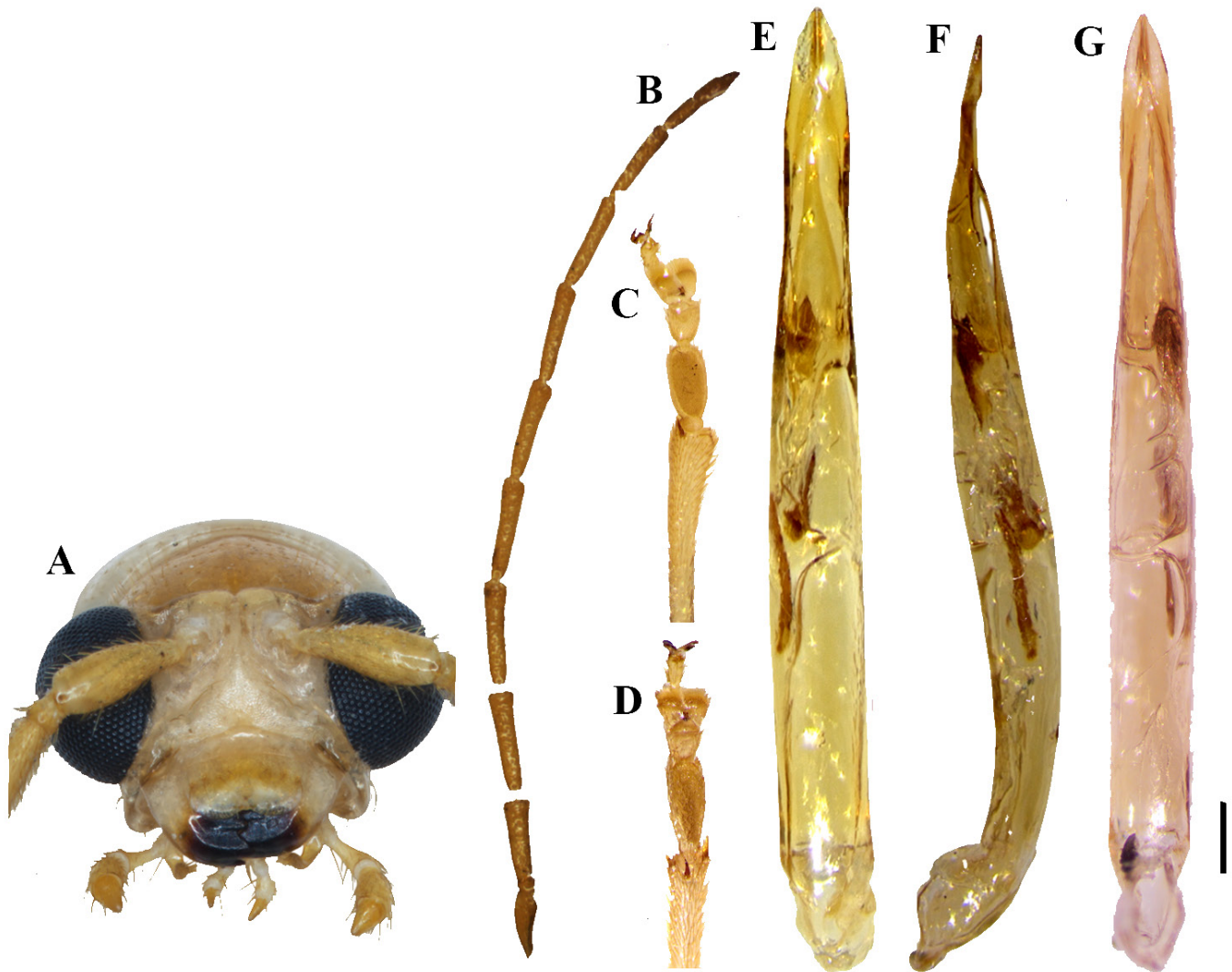


Fig. 4. Details of *Trichobalya* (*Paratrachobalya*) *nigribasalis*, new species. Holotype, male: A, head; B, antennae; C, protarsus; D, mesotarsus; E, aedeagus dorsal view; F, aedeagus lateral view; G, aedeagus ventral view; scale bars = 1.0 mm for E–G.

dark, whereas other species of the subgenus exhibit dark colouration only at the base. Furthermore, the protuberance on the posterior margin of ventrite I is less prominently elevated than in related species.

**Etymology.** The name refers to the distinct colour pattern of the elytra in this species. ‘Archi’ is derived from the Latin word ‘arcus’ meaning ‘arch’, which refers to an arch-like shape. ‘Brunnealis’ is derived from the Latin word ‘brunneus’ meaning ‘brown’, indicating the brown colour of the elytra.

***Trichobalya* (*Paratrachobalya*) *nigribasalis*, new species**  
(Figs. 3, 4)

**Type material. Holotype:** male (IOB-VAST25/26), “VIETNAM/HAI PHONG/Cat Ba national park/20.809014N 106.977458E 33 m/coll. Dinh T. Nguyen/ May 2025”.

**Paratype:** 1 male, same locality label as holotype.

**Description.** Body length: males: 4.3 mm.

**Colouration:** Antennae, head (except vertex brown), pronotum, ventral surface (except metasternum brown), and all legs pale yellow. Elytra reddish brown with basal dark (Figs. 3, 4A, B).

**Male:** Head impunctate. Labrum approximately 2× wider than long; surface slightly convex; anterior margin concave, microsculptured; bearing two rows of long setae: one with four pale setae anteriorly, and one with eight setae posteriorly. Maxillary palpi: penultimate segment extended; apical segment small, and triangular. Clypeus: anterior margin smooth; posterior margin with two long setae at lateral angles. Frontal ridge large, flattened, impunctate, and transverse, forming isosceles triangular apex between frontal tubercles; lateral edges with a row of long setae. Frontal tubercles large, convex, separated from vertex by distinct transverse furrow. Interantennal space narrower than antennal socket diameter (0.8×); interocular space 2× eye diameter. Vertex slightly convex, brown, with a deep, round depression behind frontal tubercles; many long setae laterally behind eyes (Fig. 4A). Antennae approximately 1.25× body length densely covered with short subrecumbent setae.

Antennomere I long, apex expanded; antennomere II very small, and cylindrical. Length proportions of antennomeres I–XI: 32:6:46:62:62:58:57:55:51:49 (Fig. 4B).

Pronotum slightly flattened, trapezoidal; anterior margin longer than posterior; disc with paired depressions. Width 1.36× length; widest at anterior third, which approximately 1.6× wider than narrowest part at posterior base. Anterior margin unbordered; lateral and posterior margins bordered. Each angle with setigerous pore bearing very long pale seta; lateral margin with several short setae. Disc with reticulate microsculpture.

Scutellum triangular, pale, approximately 1.5× wider than long, apex slightly rounded, surface sparsely covered with setae and reticulate microsculpture.

Elytra 1.43× longer than wide; widened at apical 2/3. Surface densely covered with semierect setae; punctate-striate; longitudinal ridges between double rows of punctures; scutellar row short, indistinct, unpaired. Humeral calli developed. Epipleurae broadened basally, gradually narrowing to apex; same colour as elytra (Fig. 3A).

Legs slender; all tibiae with apical spurs. Protarsomeres I–IV ratio 16–9–8–17; protarsomere I swollen, approximately 2× longer than wide, 1.5× wider than protarsomere II, approximately equal to protarsomere III. Mesotarsomeres I–IV ratio 18–10–8–19. Metatarsomeres I–IV ratio 32–10–9–18; metatarsomere I slender, elongate, approximately 6× longer than wide, slightly longer than metatarsomeres II–IV combined. Ventral sides of pro- and mesotarsomeres I with large sensilla patches. Claws appendiculate (Figs. 4C, D).

Venter impunctate, sparsely covered with thin setae. Procoxae globular; prosternal process very narrow, not visible between procoxae. Anterior coxal cavities posteriorly closed. Abdomen with five ventrites; posterior margin of ventrite I with large elevated ovate protuberances; last ventrite trilobed.

Aedeagus narrow, elongate (Figs. 4E–H); length 2.74 mm, width 0.25 mm; widest at middle (lateral view); with a longitudinal slit extending from the basal third to the apical third (dorsal and ventral views).

**Female:** unknown.

**Distribution.** Vietnam (Hai Phong city, Cat Ba Island, Cat Ba National Park).

**Differential diagnosis.** *Trichobalya* (*Paratrachobalya*) *nigribasalis*, new species, resembles *T. (Paratrachobalya) ventrituberculata* in elytral colouration, although the dark basal region of the elytra is narrower in *T. (Paratrachobalya) ventrituberculata*. The two species can be distinguished as follows: *T. (Paratrachobalya) nigribasalis*, new species, is smaller, with antennomeres III–VIII filiform and the posterior margin of ventrite I bearing a large, elevated, ovate protuberance; whereas *T. (Paratrachobalya) ventrituberculata*

is larger, with antennomeres III–VIII flattened and the posterior margin of abdominal ventrite I bearing a large triangular protuberance. The aedeagus also differs: in *T. (Paratrachobalya) ventrituberculata*, the ventral side has a longitudinal median impression, while in *T. (Paratrachobalya) nigribasalis*, new species, it has a longitudinal slit extending from the basal third to the apical third.

**Etymology.** The name relates to the obvious colour feature of elytra in this species. ‘Nigri’ is a noun derived from ‘niger’ which means black, and ‘basalis’ means belonging to the base.

**DNA barcoding:** The Barcode Index Number (BIN) in the Barcode of Life Data System (BOLD) assigned to this taxon is BOLD:AGV0544, and the GenBank accession number is PX170669.

## DISCUSSION

To date, the genus *Trichobalya* Weise, 1924 comprises eight recognised species, distributed across the Indo-Malayan and southeastern Palearctic regions, and classified into two subgenera. These subgenera are distinguished primarily by antennal structure and the presence or absence of a protuberance on ventrite I (Romantsov, 2020). However, the two new species described in the subgenus *Trichobalya* (*Paratrachobalya*) in this study possess filiform antennae, similar to members of the subgenus *Trichobalya* (sensu stricto), suggesting that antennal morphology is not a reliable character for distinguishing between the two subgenera.

Additionally, members of the two subgenera differ in claw morphology: all species of the subgenus *T. (Paratrachobalya)* possess appendiculate claws, while those of *Trichobalya* (sensu stricto) generally have simple tarsal claws, as exemplified by *T. (sensu stricto) bowringii*. However, *T. (sensu stricto) tiomanensis* has appendiculate claws (Mohamedsaid, 1999), and claw morphology remains undescribed for several other members of the subgenus (Kimoto, 1977; 1982). Moreover, genitalia remain undescribed for any of the known species of *Trichobalya* (sensu stricto), making reexamination essential for accurate subgeneric placement within the genus.

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