

A RECTIFICATION IN THE GENUS APRIONA

by

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Some time ago when examining some Batocerini (Cerambycidae, Lamiinae) I was struck by the strange pattern of *Apriona fasciata* Rits. (cf. Ritsema, Notes Leyden Mus., vol. 20, 1898, p. 87) of which species

our Museum possesses a single female specimen, the unique type (fig. 1). Especially the "five naked transverse bands" puzzled me because no indication of such a zebra-pattern is found in any other known species of the genus *Apriona*.

Examining the specimen very carefully I found out that these transverse bands were artificially produced by removing the yellowish scales from the elytra with a sharp object the marks of which are clearly seen under the microscope. This proves that the most striking

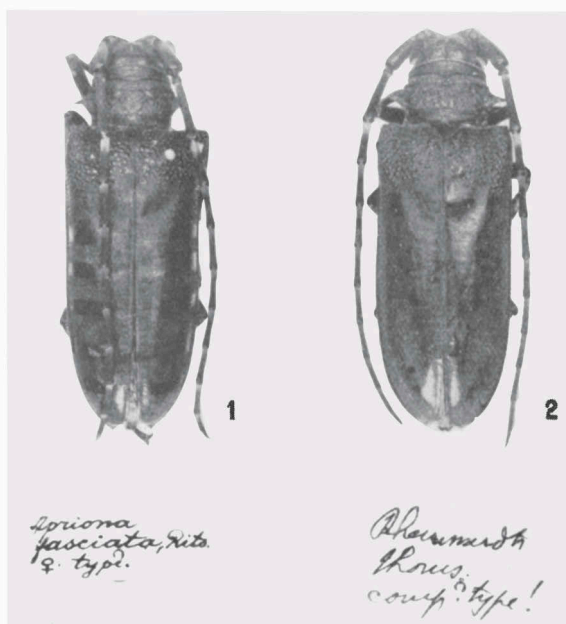


Fig. 1. *Apriona fasciata* Rits., type.

Fig. 2. *Apriona rheinwardti* Thoms.

Under each specimen the original label. Natural size.

characteristic of *Apriona fasciata* Rits. does not hold, and therefore I examined the other peculiarities of the species as given by Ritsema. This author states that the animal is: "Black, covered with a delicate fulvous pubescence"... and adds: "...along the suture and the lateral margins, on the legs and along the middle of the abdomen the pubescence is of a more

greyish colour ;..." (l.c., p. 87). The blue-grey colour along the suture and the lateral margins is found in almost every species from the East Indies. The bluish-grey shade on the middle of the abdomen too is not a specific characteristic. The dark-grey shade on the legs, however, and also on the elytra and the basal joints of the antennae is due to fat, the normal colour being yellowish grey. This too is distinctly to be seen with a microscope: the scales are more transparent and stuck together and adhere to the black chitin substrate which gives a darker impression.

After all our type of *A. fasciata* Rits. appears to be a specimen of *Apriona rheinwardti* Thoms., the most common *Apriona* of Java, of which we possess i.a. one specimen (fig. 2) which has been compared to the type by R. Oberthür.

Probably *Apriona rheinwardti* Thoms. (1878) will appear to be a local race of *Apriona flavescens* Kaup which was described in 1866 from Sumatra. As I have not seen Kaup's type, I cannot come to a decision in this question.

Consequently *Apriona fasciata* Rits. must disappear as a separate species and the name is to be regarded as a synonym of *Apriona rheinwardti* Thoms.
