

## On a Collection of Carabidae from Timor Leste, with Descriptions of Nine New Species (Insecta: Coleoptera, Carabidae)

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**ABSTRACT.** The ground beetle (Carabidae) fauna of Timor is reviewed based on recent collecting by the Australian Museum, in Timor Leste. 53 species were collected, of which the following nine species are described as new: *Mecyclothorax timorensis* sp. nov. Baehr; *M. reidi* sp. nov. Baehr; *Rhytisternus externus* sp. nov. Baehr; *Arhytinus timorensis* sp. nov. Baehr; *Notagonum reidi* sp. nov. Baehr; *N. angusticolle* sp. nov. Baehr; *Perigona timorensis* sp. nov. Baehr; *Aristolebia timorensis* sp. nov. Baehr; *Lebia timorensis* sp. nov. Baehr. The new species are compared with their nearest relatives. The remaining material is identified to species, or at least to genus, and discussed according to the current classification of Carabidae. Several species and genera are newly recorded for Timor. In spite of the rather small number of species contained, the sample allows some insight into the relations of the Carabid fauna of Timor to the Oriental and Australopapuan Regions, with about two thirds of the species belonging to the Oriental fauna, and one third to the Australopapuan fauna. A few species also belong to subgroups that are restricted to the southeasternmost Oriental Region “Wallacea”—Sulawesi, and the Maluku, Aru and Kei Islands.

**KEYWORDS.** Timor Leste; Coleoptera; Carabidae; taxonomy; new species; biogeography; Wallacea

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In this review of Timorese Carabidae, the first author (MB) is responsible for all taxonomic decisions, including authorship of new species, and the second author (CAMR) is responsible for the introductory paragraphs. Both authors collaborated on the concluding biogeographical remarks.

Timor is a long narrow island, 475 km by c. 75 km, separated from both the Australian continental shelf and the remaining islands of the Indo-Malayan archipelago by narrow but deep trenches. Timor is the southernmost island of the biogeographic province of Wallacea. The island is

relatively young, at most 4.5 MY (Nguyen *et al.*, 2013). Like northwestern Australia, Timor has monsoonal rainfall and much of the island is dry for about half of the year. The dominance of limestone and porous soils in the landscape exaggerates this aridity. However, the island is being rapidly upthrust and its scattered massifs exceed 1500 m in several places, rising to 2920 m at Ramelau, near the geographic centre. The mountains have higher rainfall and their runoff produces high energy rivers in the monsoon.

Timor has been inhabited by humans for at least 42,000

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