

Coccorchestes sp. (Araneae: Salticidae) from Pulau Kri, Raja Ampat, West Papua, Indonesia¹

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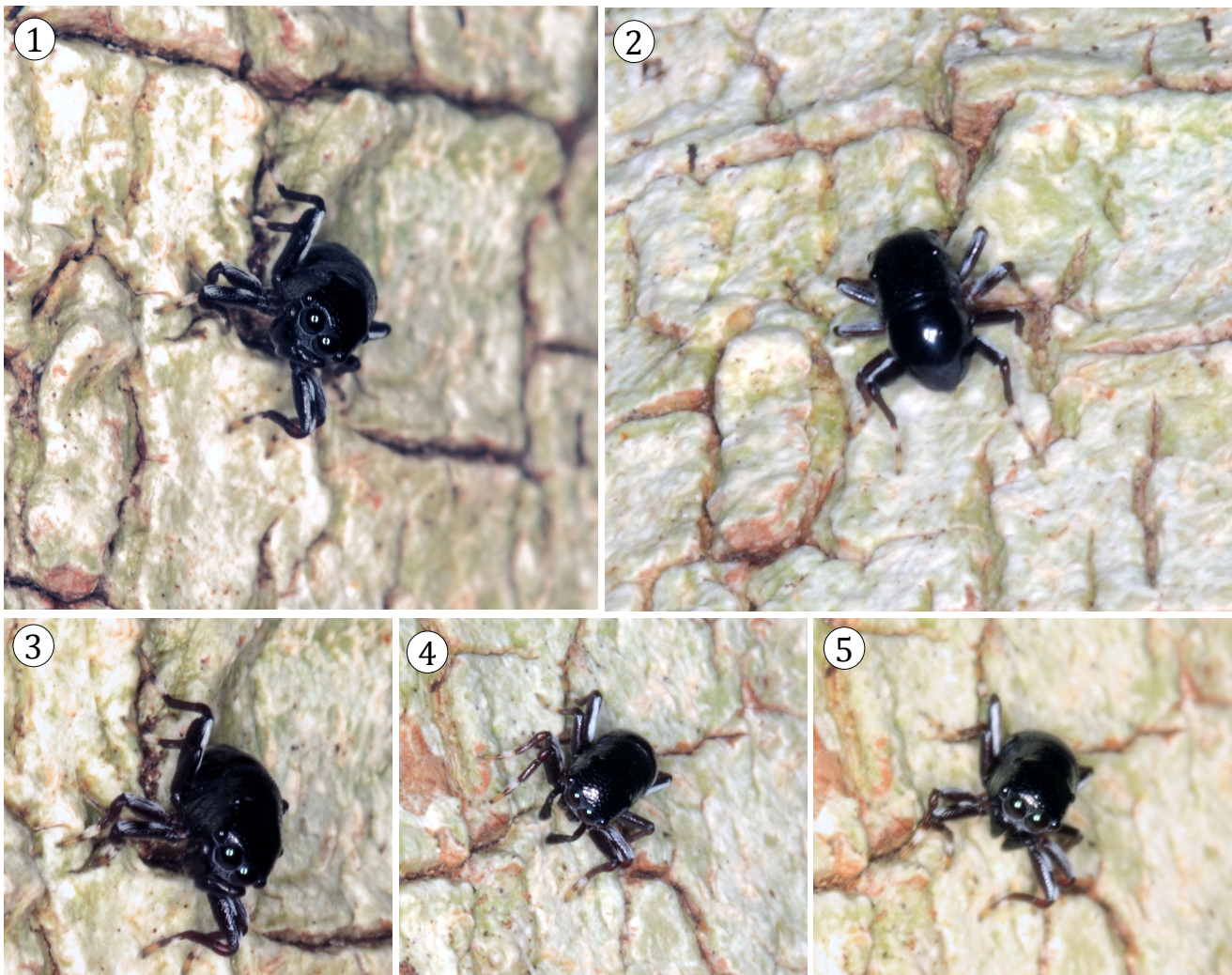
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Few images of the beetle-like salticids of the genus *Coccorchestes* Thorell 1881 are available, and thus recent photographs of a spider of this genus, taken on Pulau Kri, Raja Ampat, West Papua, Indonesia (Figure 1) should be of interest. This spider was found in the same location, in the same time-frame (30 December 2010), as *Diolenius* spiders previously reported from this island (Bohne *et al.* 2011).

Figure 1. Five views of a 3 mm *Coccorchestes* sp. as it was found on the trunk of a tree of about 20 cm in diameter. The glistening shell that covers the opisthosoma can be seen in (2). In (4) the pedipalps were extended to reveal the chelicerae, and some of the carapacial texture can also be seen. Field marks include white metatarsi, yellow tarsi, and white stripes along the dorsal femora of all legs. This spider turned but was generally immobile as it was photographed. Photographs © by Guido Bohne.



With respect to leg coloration, this spider is similar to one of the undescribed species photographed by D. Knowles in Dogobak, West Papua (Prószyński 2011). It is also very similar in appearance to the *C. ferreus* photographed by Greg Anderson in Queensland (Hill 2010), and a *Coccorchestes* filmed in New Guinea by Wayne Maddison (2008).

Coccorchestes is endemic to tropical Sahul, and almost all known species are from New Guinea (Hill 2010, Platnick 2011, Prószyński 2011). Żabka (1991) placed these in a Coccorchesteae clade, and features of the genitalia appear to place them within the Sahulian Euophryinae (Griswold 1984, Hill 2010, Prószyński 2011). They are small (~3 mm), exceedingly beetle-like in appearance, with a hard plate covering an opisthosoma that fits snugly under the posterior dorsal margin of the carapace. Virtually nothing is known of their behavior. They may represent beetle mimics, or they may be convergent with certain beetles with respect to their protective plates. The stance and relative immobility of the individual shown here was very suggestive of a small, hard-shelled weevil (Coleoptera: Curculionioidea). The light coloration of the metatarsi and tarsi also made the legs appear shorter and more compact, contributing to this effect. In a video clip of a related *Coccorchestes* (Maddison 2008), the spider walked quickly, bilaterally extending its pedipalps to touch the substratum. Apart from several “giveaway” facing turns, its general appearance suggested a walking beetle, not a salticid.

Platnick (2011) lists 40 species in this genus. Thorell (1881) originally described 4 species of *Coccorchestes* from New Guinea, 2 of which were later synonymized with the type species, *C. rufipes*, and redescribed by Prószyński (1971). Prószyński (1971) also added 3 new species from New Guinea, for a total of 5. Balogh, in a series of prolific papers on this genus (1979, 1980, 1981a, 1981b), added 34 species to this number, all but one (*C. inermis* Balogh 1980, from New Britain) from New Guinea. Griswold later (1984) described the female of one more species, *C. ferreus*, from northern Queensland. Photographs of *C. ferreus* can be found in Hill (2010). Prószyński's current database (2011) adds one more spider from New Caledonia (*Homalattus gambeyi* Simon 1880) to the count of *Coccorchestes* species, for a total of 41. Prószyński (2011) describes our state of knowledge for all of Balogh's species as either *incomplete*, *inquirienda*, or *dubius*, and considers only 4 species (*C. buszkoae* Prószyński 1971, *C. ferreus* Griswold 1984, *C. jahilnicki* Prószyński 1971, and the type, *C. rufipes* Thorell 1881) as *accepted*.

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