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## Erratum on the recently published information about the ecology of *Lagriadoliops anichtchenkoi* Barvsevskis, 2014

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Recently, we received feedback from coleopterist colleagues about a recently published paper titled "Spatial distribution of Philippine long-horned beetle (*Lagriadoliops anichtchenkoi* sp. nov, Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) pest of breadfruit trees (*Artocarpus altilis*, Parkinson Fosberg) in Ayoke Island, Northeastern Mindanao, Philippines." This paper has been published in a free-access journal, Advanced Studies in Biology, which can be read here: <https://www.m-hikari.com/asb/asb2023/asb1-2023/91781.html>. The journal is operating under a Creative Commons BY-NC-ND Attribution License. This means that all parts of the paper can be shared as long proper credit is given to the owner, non-commercial use of the work is permitted, and no derivatives or adaptations of the work are permitted.

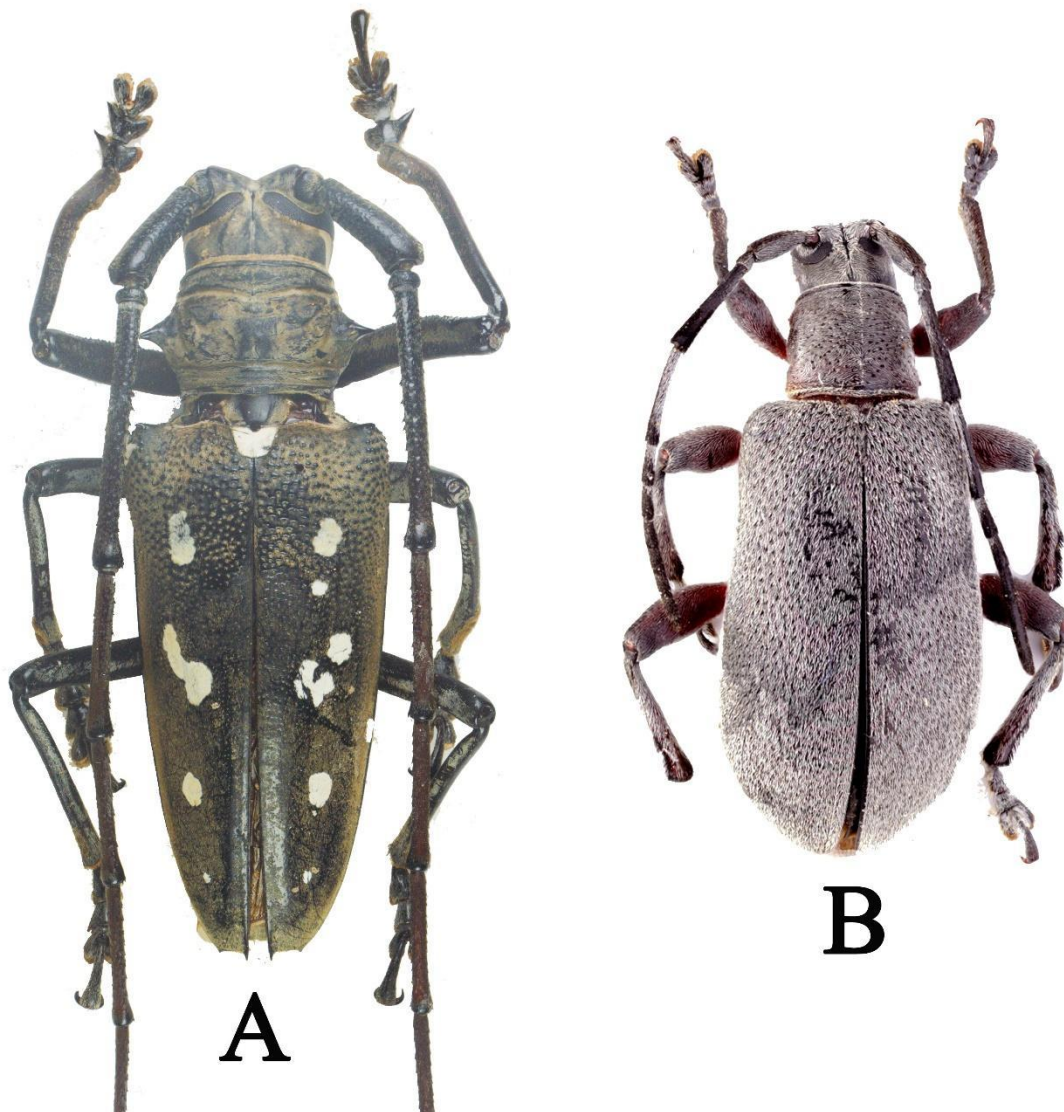
Upon reading the paper, we found the following important points that should be addressed through an erratum paper. Otherwise, the paper will mislead the readers, especially students and beginning researchers who wish to study coleopterology in the Philippines. First, the species in the paper is NOT *Lagriadoliops anichtchenkoi* Barševskis, 2014 (Fig. 1 B), but is a common *Batocera magica* Thomson, 1859 (Fig. 1 A). Second, the genus *Lagriadoliops* is monotypic and represented only by *Lagriadoliops anichtchenkoi* and is considered a rare species of Cerambycidae. Due to its rarity, it is most likely NOT a pest to Breadfruit Trees as claimed in the paper.

Both species are from separate tribes. *Batocera magica* is from the tribe Batocerini, while *L. anichtchenkoi* is from Apomecynini. The tribe Batocerini is characterized by having a scape with cicatrix, claws opposite, procoxal cavities posteriorly open, and size large or very large. Apomecynini, on the other hand, is characterized by having mesotibiae with a furrow, more or less evidenced by a tooth; clypeus normal, mesocoxal cavities closed (separated from epimera); body small or very small.

Furthermore, it is incorrect to use 'sp. nov.' in already described species. It is an abbreviation of *species nova*, a Latin phrase used after a binomial name that is being published for the first time. The authors used 'sp. nov.' in the paper, signifying an attempt to describe a species new to science.

*What needs to be done?*

The journal (Advanced Studies in Biology) has a section regarding 'Publication Ethics,' which stipulates the guidelines for the correction or retraction of published papers. Under this section, the author can retract the paper by notifying the publisher and cooperating with the journal editor (see: <https://www.m-hikari.com/asb/ethics.html>). We recommend the retraction of the said paper.



**Figure 1.** A. *Batocera magica* Thomson, 1859, B. *Lagriadoliops anichtchenkoi* Barsevskis, 2014, holotype.

In this way, the circulation of an erroneous article would be stopped. The paper can be re-submitted to the journal with more accurate information when appropriate corrections are made. This erratum paper is essential to rectify the publication as this

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might cause misinformation or misleading scientific information amongst our students, faculty, researchers, and policymakers.

We position that the academe or the research community has the moral obligation to produce good science for the next generation. An erroneous species identification has serious implications for research. It can lead to false identification of a pest and mislead others in proper pest management efforts. The same is true for biodiversity management, wherein correct identification can provide data on the presence or absence of invasive or threatened, rare, and endemic species that are the baseline for appropriate conservation and management efforts. For future similar publications, we recommend that the authors consult specialists and taxonomists to validate the taxonomic identification and determine the conservation status of the species.

*What could we learn from this?*

Errors like this could have been avoided if the authors consulted Coleoptera specialists and taxonomists, especially those working on the family Cerambycidae. Publishing in non-credible journals will do more harm than good, and this can be easily corrected with an elaborate peer review. Moreover, taxonomic accuracy is not necessarily guaranteed, even if a journal is indexed or listed in indexing bodies. Taxonomic accuracy can only be ensured if taxonomists and specialists are consulted or tapped as peer reviewers of the paper. Publishing in reputable journals with proper review should be the norm in academia.

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## References

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