

Revision of the Afrotropical species of the genus *Trichodes* HERBST, 1792 (Coleoptera, Cleridae)

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Abstract

The Afrotropical species of the genus *Trichodes* Herbst, 1792, are revised. Descriptions and a key to the eight valid species are provided. *T. pretiosus* Gorham, 1883, is placed in synonym with *T. lepidus* (Walker, 1871); *T. unimaculatus* Pic, 1938, is synonymized with *T. penicillatus* Schenkling, 1909. Lectotypes are designated for *T. aulicus* Klug, 1842, and *T. lepidus* (Walker, 1871).

Key words: Coleoptera, Cleridae, Clerinae, *Trichodes*, Afrotropical species, taxonomy, nomenclature, synonymy, identification key

Introduction

Of clerid genera, *Trichodes* Herbst, 1792, is one of the most widely collected. However, species of this genus from the Afrotropical region are poorly represented in museum and private collections. The beetles hunt other anthophilous insects and/or feed on pollen. The larvae of many species are known to be predators of the immature stages of solitary bees. Ninety-one species have been described, of which 70 are from the Palearctic (Corporaal 1950), 11 from Nearctic (Foster 1976) and 10 from the Afrotropical regions (Corporaal 1950). The Afrotropical species of this genus were last revised by Schenkling (1909), who includes five species in his key. For this revision all available type and additional material from museums and private collections was obtained, from which over 200 specimens were examined.

The following species are recognized:

Trichodes aulicus Klug, 1842

Trichodes calamistratus Corporaal, 1948

Trichodes gemma Ancey, 1881