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**Taxonomic review of the Tribe Melaenini (Coleoptera: Carabidae),
with observations on morphological, ecological and chorological evolution**

GEORGE E. BALL & DANNY SHPELEY



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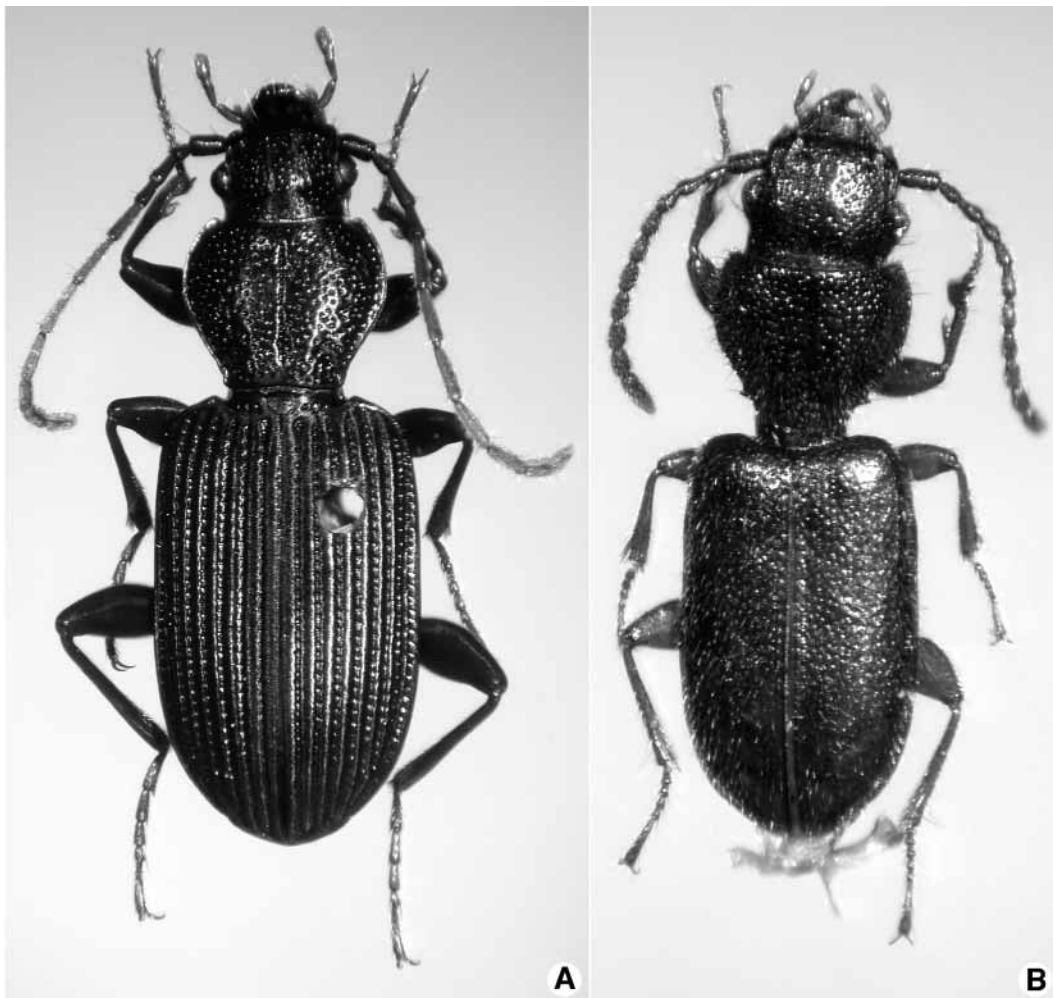


FIGURE 1. Photographs illustrating dorsal habitus: A, *Melaenus piger* Fabricius (SBL 7.33 mm); B, *Cymbionotum fernandezi*, new species (SBL 3.96 mm).

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Abstract

A taxonomic review of the tribe Melaenini (*sensu novo*), this paper includes a classification, keys at all taxonomic levels, descriptions (tribe to species), re-rankings, and new synonymy. In total, two genera and 22 species (three of which are new) are treated.

Arrangement of taxa is in the following sequence, with junior synonyms and type localities of new species in parentheses, following name of the taxon. The Eastern Hemisphere genus *Melaenus* Dejean, 1831 includes *M. piger* (Fabricius, 1801), and *M. elegans* Dejean, 1831 (with *M. elongatus* Chaudoir, 1843, as a new junior synonym), which exhibits marked dimorphism in East Africa. The genus *Cymbionotum* Baudi di Selve, 1864 includes 20 species, arranged in two subgenera, as follows. The Western Hemisphere *Procoscinia*, **n. subg.** (type species, *C. fernandesi*, **n. sp.** [Zambrano, Bolivar, Colombia]), includes the type species and *C. negrei* Perrault, 1994. The Eastern Hemisphere subgenus *Cymbionotum* (*sensu stricto*) includes 18 species in three species groups, and three superspecies. The *basale* species group includes two species: *C. semirubicum* (Reitter, 1914) (new junior synonyms *Graniger aethiopicus* Alluaud, 1923, *C. minax* Andrewes, 1935, and *C. a. airense* Basilewsky, 1950), and *C. basale* (Dejean, 1831). The *semelederi* species group includes three species: *C. semelederi* (Chaudoir, 1851) (new junior synonyms, *Coscinia funerula* Fairmaire, 1885, *Cymbionotum luniferum* Andrewes 1935, and *Graniger houskai* Jedlička, 1951), *C. striatum* Reitter, 1894, and *C. mandli* Jedlička, 1963.