



A new species of *Hyposerica* Brenske, 1897 (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Sericini) from Mauritius Island

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The genus *Hyposerica* Brenske, 1897 is endemic to the Malagasy region with most species (approximately 60, Ahrens unpublished data) occurring in Madagascar. There is also one species on La Réunion and nine species on Mauritius Island (eight were previously described by Arrow [1948] and one is described here as new). The Mauritius Island species are the only representatives of the tribe Sericini (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Melolonthinae) on the island. *Hyposerica* are not only the most diverse group of melolonthine chafer beetles on Mauritius Island (with 12 chafer species in total), but also one of the most species-rich groups of scarabaeoid beetles on the island (Vinson 1956, 1967; Gomy 2000).

Recently, we had the opportunity to examine a fairly extensive collection of Mauritian chafer beetles (Macabé Forest; 20.4167°S, 57.6°E) undertaken by C. M. Courtois and preserved in the South African National Insect Collection (Pretoria). Within this material was a *Hyposerica* assemblage of four species, including one new species herein described.

Material and methods

The principal terminology and methods used for specimen dissection and genital preparation are described in detail by Ahrens (2004). Male genitalia were glued on a small pointed card and photographed in both lateral and dorsal view with a stereomicroscope Olympus SZX-12 using a Jenoptik ProgRes digital camera (C5 5.0). Single focused images were obtained using Automontage software. The resulting images were digitally edited to remove errors in the Automontage reconstruction and to obtain a white background.

Abbreviations used

BMNH The Natural History Museum, London
SANC South African National Insect Collection, Pretoria

Hyposerica courtoisi sp. n.

Fig. 1

Type material examined. Holotype: ♂ "Mauritius Macabé Forest 12.2.[19]63 C.M. Courtois" (SANC). Paratypes (3): "Mauritius Macabé 12.i.1970 C.M. Courtois" (1♂, 1♀ SANC, 1♂ BMNH).

Holotype description. Length: 15.2 mm, length of elytra: 12 mm, width: 7.5 mm. Body oval, dark reddish brown, shiny; dorsum glabrous, except for a few small setae on the head and elytra; wings fully developed as in all other known *Hyposerica* species.

Labroclypeus subtrapezoidal, distinctly wider than long, widest at base; lateral margins weakly convex and strongly convergent to strongly rounded anterior angles; lateral border and ocular canthus producing an indistinct blunt angle; margins moderately reflexed, anteriorly shallowly sinuate medially; surface weakly convex medially, shiny, very densely punctate, distance between punctures irregular sometimes less than their diameter, with a few long, erect setae behind anterior margin. Frontoclypeal suture feebly impressed and weakly curved medially; smooth area in front of eye approximately twice as wide as long; ocular canthus short and moderately broad, finely and densely punctate, without