



Zootaxa 3463: 1–112 (2012)
www.mapress.com/zootaxa/

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ISSN 1175-5326 (print edition)

ZOOTAXA

ISSN 1175-5334 (online edition)

Monograph

urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:0E5CD185-F473-49C3-93EF-303C6BB83DE6

ZOOTAXA

3463

***Neobarombiella*, a diverse, newly described genus of Afrotropical Galerucinae (Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae)**

HELMUT BOLZ & THOMAS WAGNER*

* 38th contribution to the taxonomy, phylogeny and biogeography of the Galerucinae



Magnolia Press
Auckland, New Zealand

Accepted by M.L. Chamorro: 23 May 2012; published: 7 Sept. 2012

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(*Zootaxa* 3463)

112 pp.; 30 cm.

7 Sept. 2012

ISBN 978-1-86977-971-9 (paperback)

ISBN 978-1-86977-972-6 (Online edition)

FIRST PUBLISHED IN 2012 BY

Magnolia Press

P.O. Box 41-383

Auckland 1346

New Zealand

e-mail: zootaxa@mapress.com

<http://www.mapress.com/zootaxa/>

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ISSN 1175-5326 (Print edition)

ISSN 1175-5334 (Online edition)

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Abstract

Galerucinae with elongate basal metatarsi have traditionally been assigned to the “Monoleptites”. In recent studies it became clear that several species could not be placed in genera that have already been described. We here describe and redescribe species that form a distinct monophyletic group, defined by their external and genitalic characters, as *Neobarombiella* gen. n. This new genus is based on the examination of 3,554 specimens from continental Africa, and contains 35 valid species and 36 new synonyms: *Neobarombiella flavilabris* (Weise, 1903) **comb. n.** (= *Candezea acutangula* Weise, 1903 **syn. n.**; = *Candezea vivida* Weise, 1909 **syn. n.**; = *Barombia benguelensis* Laboissière, 1921 **syn. n.**; = *Barombia gregaria* Laboissière, 1931 **syn. n.**; = *Barombiella bifasciata* Laboissière, 1939 **syn. n.**; = *Barombiella clypeata* Laboissière, 1940 **syn. n.**; = *Barombiella ghesquierei* Laboissière, 1940 **syn. n.**; = *Barombiella trifasciata* Laboissière, 1940 **syn. n.**; = *Barombiella vicina* Laboissière, 1940 **syn. n.**; = *Barombiella wittei* Laboissière, 1940 **syn.**

n.); *Neobarombiella nigrita* (Jacoby, 1894) **comb. n.**; (= *Candezea morio* Jacoby, 1906 **syn. n.**); *Neobarombiella pictipennis* (Jacoby, 1894) **comb. n.**; *Neobarombiella nigrocaerulea* (Jacoby, 1897) **comb. n.** (= *Candezea moliroensis* Jacoby, 1900 **syn. n.**; = *Monolepta kwaiensis* Weise, 1903 **syn. n.**; = *Barombia ruficollis* Laboissière, 1920 **syn. n.**; = *Barombia ruficollis* var. *marginata* Laboissière, 1920 **syn. n.**; = *Barombia humeralis* Laboissière, 1932 **syn. n.**; = *Barombiella monardi* Laboissière, 1939 **syn. n.**; = *Monolepta* (*Candezea*) *nigeriae* Bryant, 1940 **syn. n.**); *Neobarombiella variopennis* (Jacoby, 1897) **comb. n.**; *Neobarombiella punctatolineata* (Jacoby, 1899) **comb. n.** (= *Monolepta opulenta* Jacoby, 1903 **syn. n.**; = *Barombia gibbosa* Laboissière, 1920 **syn. n.**); *Neobarombiella salisburyensis* (Jacoby, 1899) **comb. n.**; *Neobarombiella pygidialis* (Jacoby, 1906) **comb. n.** (= *Monolepta prasina* Weise, 1907 **syn. n.**; = *Monolepta alutacea* Weise, 1915; = *Barombia truncata* Laboissière, 1929 **syn. n.**); *Neobarombiella mendica* (Weise, 1909) **comb. n.** (= *Monolepta pruni* Bryant, 1937 **syn. n.**, = *Barombiella mimula* Laboissière, 1939 **syn. n.**); *Neobarombiella vittigera* (Weise, 1912) **comb. n.** (= *Barombia quadrilineata* Laboissière, 1921 **syn. n.**); *Neobarombiella punctata* (Laboissière, 1920) **comb. n.**; *Neobarombiella flavicollis* (Laboissière, 1923) **comb. n.** (= *Barombiella piceobasalis* Laboissière, 1940 **syn. n.**); *Neobarombiella suturalis* (Laboissière, 1923) **comb. n.**; *Neobarombiella senegalensis* (Laboissière, 1923) **comb. n.** (= *Barombiella leopoldi* Laboissière, 1929, **syn. n.**; = *Barombiella clathrata* Laboissière, 1939 **syn. n.**; = *Barombiella costai* Laboissière, 1939 **syn. n.**; = *Barombia bicincta* Laboissière, 1940 **syn. n.**; = *Barombiella mutabilis* Laboissière, 1940 **syn. n.**; *Barombiella pallida* Laboissière, 1940 **syn. n.**; = *Barombiella variabilis* Laboissière, 1940 **syn. n.**; = *Barombia basalis* Laboissière, 1940, **syn. n.**); *Neobarombiella pakhassana* (Laboissière, 1931) **comb. n.** (= *Monolepta gossypiperda*, Bryant, 1947 **syn. n.**); *Neobarombiella sculptipennis* (Laboissière, 1939) **comb. n.** (= *Barombiella striata* Laboissière, 1939 **syn. n.**); *Neobarombiella apicalis* (Bryant, 1956) **comb. n.**; *Neobarombiella bilineata* (Bryant, 1958) **comb. n.**; *Neobarombiella multistriata* (Bryant, 1958) **comb. n.**; *Barombia jobiti* Laboissière, 1920 is here transferred to *Bonesioides* [*Bonesioides jobiti* (Laboissière, 1920) **comb. n.**]. The following 16 species are newly described: *Neobarombiella budongoensis* sp. n., *N. congoensis* sp. n., *N. cornuta* sp. n., *N. emma* sp. n., *N. fassbenderi* sp. n., *N. frohnorum* sp. n., *N. frontalis* sp. n., *N. grotedefendi* sp. n., *N. lineata* sp. n., *N. medvedevi* sp. n., *N. naumanni* sp. n., *N. nigrosuturalis* sp. n., *N. reichartzi* sp. n., *N. spielbergi* sp. n., *N. susannae* sp. n., and *N. zambiae* sp. n. *Neobarombiella* is described in detail, redescrptions are provided for all valid species, and comprehensive descriptions of the new species include figures of both external and genitalic characters, and distribution maps. A key is provided to facilitate species identification. An analysis of phylogenetic aspects is given in which characters of species in the genus *Neobarombiella* are compared to closely related genera.

Key words. *Barombia*, *Barombiella*, *Monolepta*, *Candezea*, *Neobarombiella*, Africa, Afrotropical Region, taxonomy, revision, new genus, new species, lectotype, synonymy, key.

Introduction

Galerucine species with elongate basal metatarsi and no significant pronotal depressions were traditionally placed in the “Monoleptites”. This supra-generic group was introduced by Chapuis (1875), and was also used in the most recent printed catalogue to these beetles (Wilcox 1973). Descriptions of such species originated mostly between 1890 and 1950 and were, with few exceptions, based on external characters and colouring. The classification, generic delimitation, and taxonomic status of most of the genera in this group were for a long time unsatisfactory. However, our working group has been studying the taxonomy and phylogeny of the Afrotropical taxa for about 15 years. Revisions of species-rich groups like *Monolepta* Chevrolat, 1836 (Wagner 2000a, 2000b, 2001a, 2001b, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2007a, 2007c, with a few awaiting revisions), *Afrocrania* Hincks, 1949 (Middelhaue & Wagner 2000, Wagner 2007b), *Candezea* Chapuis, 1879 (Wagner & Kurtscheid 2005), *Afrocandezea* Wagner & Scherz, 2002 (Scherz & Wagner 2007), *Barombiella* Laboissière, 1931 (Wagner & Freund 2003), *Bonesioides* Laboissière, 1925 (Freund & Wagner 2003) and *Galerudolphia* Hincks, 1949 (Bolz & Wagner 2005), have already been published. Some additional monotypic genera, or such with few species, about 220 species, covering 70% of the afrotropical taxa traditionally placed in the “Monoleptites”, are now revised.

These studies revealed that external characters alone were not particularly useful to identify species and allocate them to monophyletic groups, i. e. genera. However, genital structures, in particular the shape and endophallic armature of the median lobe, could effectively be used for the identification of both species and genera. Consequently, many of the species described in *Monolepta*, *Candezea* and *Barombiella* have been transferred to other genera. Furthermore, the colour patterns often used for species differentiation by preceding authors are highly variable in many species. This led to the description of many synonyms, particularly in widely distributed and abundant species. Only some colour variants allow generic characterisation, e. g. most species with metallic green or blue dorsal colouring, a trapezoidal pronotum, and a characteristic shape of the median lobe belong to