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Revision of the genus *Acalloplastus* Schoenherr (Coleoptera, Curculionidae, Curculioninae, Nerthopini)

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Abstract

The genus *Acalloplastus* (Curculioninae, Nerthopini) is revised. Eight species are recognized as valid: *A. vellicosus* Schoenherr, *A. abutilonis* Marshall, *A. fallax* Boheman, *A. guttatus* Boheman, *A. crassirostris* Hustache and three new species, *A. dissimilis*, *A. hibisci* and *A. dentirostris*. The following new synonymies are proposed: *A. maculithorax* Hustache and *A. senegalensis* Hustache = *A. vellicosus* Schoenherr, *A. pardalis* Gyllenhal = *A. guttatus* Boheman. Lectotypes are designated for *A. vellicosus* Schoenherr, *A. abutilonis* Marshall, *A. guttatus* Boheman, *A. crassirostris* Hustache and *A. malvae* Boheman; one neotype is designated for *A. fallax* Boheman. The species *A. malvae* Boheman is excluded from the genus *Acalloplastus*. A key to species, diagnosis of each species, together with habitus photographs and line illustrations of male and female genitalia are provided.

Key words: Curculioninae, Nerthopini, India, Africa, Malvaceae

Introduction

The genus *Acalloplastus* Schoenherr is a small genus belonging to the tribe Nerthopini, currently placed in the subfamily Curculioninae (Alonzo-Zarazaga & Lyal 1999). Most species are distributed across the Afrotropical region, although one of them is also found in the western part of the Oriental region (India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka). The recorded host plants are semi-ligneous shrubs belonging to the family Malvaceae, including species of the genera *Abutilon*, *Hibiscus* and *Gossypium* (cotton). Larval stages develop in fruits; adults are easily observed feeding and mating on these plants from July to December.

The genus *Acalloplastus* was described by Schoenherr in 1826 and contained at that time only one species: *Acalloplastus vellicosus* from India. Boheman (1835) subsequently added four species from Africa and Hustache (1938) and Marshall (1950) later described two additional species during the first half of the 20th century. The wide distribution ranges of some species, combined with extensive intraspecific variation have led to additional descriptions during this period. As a result, the taxonomy of this genus has become confusing and the identification of species without extensive study of primary types was unreliable. Therefore, the aim of this work is to clarify the taxonomy of the genus *Acalloplastus* by providing a summary of the knowledge for this group together with a redescription and drawings of genitalia of each valid species.

Materials and methods

This study is based on the examination of 158 museum specimens, from the Natural History Museum (London, UK), the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (Paris, France), the Museum für Naturkunde (Berlin, Germany) and the Swedish Museum of Natural History (Stockholm, Sweden). Eight types could be identified in the collections (Table I). Lectotype designation is following ICZN code, article 74. They were chosen from syntypic series based on state of conservation and amount and quality of data on labels. Neotype designation follows ICZN