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On the species of the genus *Anthaxia* Eschscholtz, 1829 described by A. Théry from Angola in 1947 (Coleoptera: Buprestidae: Anthaxiini)

SVATOPLUK BÍLÝ

Czech University of Life Sciences, Faculty of Forestry and Wood Sciences, Department of Game Management and Wildlife Biology, Kamýcká 1176, Praha 6-Suchbát, 165 21 Czech Republic. E-mail: svatopluk_bily@nm.cz

Abstract

The type specimens of the genus *Anthaxia* Eschscholtz, 1829 described from Angola by A. Théry (1947) were studied, critically evaluated and some of them synonymised: *Anthaxia* (*Cratomerus*) *reticollis* Quedenfeldt, 1886 = *A. (C.) coelestis* Théry, 1947, syn. nov., *A. (Haplantaxia) egena* Kerremans, 1913 = *A. (H.) decimata* Théry, 1947, syn. nov., *A. (H.) duvivieri* Kerremans, 1898 = *A. (H.) eumede* Théry, 1947, syn. nov., *A. (H.) mashuna* Obenberger, 1931 = *A. (H.) morula* Théry, 1947, syn. nov. and *A. (H.) sjoestedti* Kerremans, 1908 = *A. (H.) recisa* Théry, 1947, syn. nov. The male of *A. (H.) monardi* Théry, 1947 is briefly described and *A. (H.) puchneri* Bílý, 2014 is shortly discussed. All mentioned species and the relevant types of the newly synonymised species are illustrated.

Key words: taxonomy, Coleoptera, Buprestidae, Anthaxiini, *Anthaxia*, new synonymy, Angola

Introduction

For a long time I have been searching for the type deposition of the species of the genus *Anthaxia* Eschscholtz, 1829 described by Théry (1947) from Angola. Originally (Bílý, 1997) I wrongly suggested that they were in the Zoological Museum of the University Coimbra (Portugal); later (Bílý 1999) I wrongly suggested based on the personal communication of Spanish colleagues that the types were deposited in the National Museum, Lisbon (Portugal) in which they had been destroyed by the fire. After years of searching and correspondence with many coleopterists and curators I found further “footprints” which helped me to find the current place where the whole Buprestidae collection from the Monard’s expeditions to Angola is deposited. The collection is deposited in the Musée d’Histoire Naturelle, La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland. The former director of this museum, Dr. Albert Monard, organised two expeditions to Angola in 1928–1929 and 1932–1933; the Buprestidae species were sent to André Théry (Musée national d’Histoire Naturelle, Paris) who published the results about 15 years later (Théry, 1947). The staff of the museum kindly sent me all types of the genus *Anthaxia* for study and finally I was able to evaluate them (the last available types of *Anthaxia* I had not yet studied).

Material and methods

A Canon D-550 digital camera with attached Canon MP-E65mm f/2.8–5x macro lens was used to capture the colour images.

The body length was measured in the middle of the body following the elytral suture (the same for the pronotal and elytral length); width of body means the maximum body width (usually the maximum span between lateral pronotal margins or span between outer margin of humeral callosities).

Data from locality labels of the types in the taxonomy part are cited “verbatim” (p = printed, h = handwritten, h+p = combined) with my comments in [square brackets] and the content of the paper is given in the catalogues of the treated species in (parenthesis). Double slash “//” is used for separating data from the different labels.