

**Description of the male of the rare Madagascan species
Pseudorphnus hiboni with notes on the genus *Pseudorphnus*
(Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Orphninae)**

ANDREY V. FROLOV¹ & OLIVIER MONTREUIL²

¹Laboratory of Insect Systematics, Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, Universitetskaya nab., 1, 199034 Sankt-Petersburg, Russia (afrolov@zin.ru)

²UMR 602, Département Systématique et Évolution, Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Entomologie, CP 50, 45 rue Buffon, 75231 Paris cedex 05, France

Abstract

A male of *Pseudorphnus hiboni* Paulian is described from material recently collected in Ranomafana National Park (eastern Madagascar). The species is compared with the two other known species of the genus. Notes on biology and distribution are given.

Key words: Coleoptera, Scarabaeidae, Orphninae, *Pseudorphnus*, distribution, Madagascar

Introduction

The scarab beetle (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae) fauna of Madagascar has a long history of investigation. Many groups of Madagascar scarab beetles, including the Orphninae, were studied by Paulian (1936, 1959, 1977, 1992), but some species are still very rare in collections or known only from type specimens. This is particularly true for many rare genera and species that originate from tropical forest areas of the central and eastern part of the island. These areas are severely threatened by human activities. Still, almost every collecting trip yields interesting findings of poorly known taxa.

A dung beetles survey in Madagascar was recently started by the Metapopulation Research Group supervised by Ilkka Hanski (University of Helsinki, Finland). Beetles were sampled by pitfall traps in a few tropical wet forests in Madagascar, mostly in Ranomafana National Park. Along with the scarabaeine dung beetles (subfamily Scarabaeinae), some other scarabs were also collected; chiefly Hybosoridae, Ochodaeidae, and Orphninae. Some of the most interesting findings included one male and five females