

A new flightless trechodine genus and species from the South African Cape region (Coleoptera: Carabidae: Trechitae)

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Abstract

Scaurotrechodes capensis **gen.nov.**, **sp.nov.** is described from the Cape province. It is the first endemic flightless representative of the tribe Trechodini from southern Africa.

Key words: Trechitae, Trechodinae, Trechodini, South Africa, Cape region, new genus, new species

Introduction

In its current conception (Casale & Laneyrie, 1982) the tribe Trechodini Jeannel 1964 in Africa comprises the genera *Trechodes* Blackburn 1901 and *Pachytrechodes* Jeannel 1960. The wide-spread genus *Trechodes* comprises numerous epigeic macropterous species that are mostly riparian or otherwise associated with open water. The genus *Pachytrechodes* in contrast is strictly endemic to the Ulughuru mountains in Tanzania and comprises 3 humicolous species that are all apterous and also show some reduction of the eyes (Uéno 1981, Uéno 1987). Remarkably, mesophilous Trechodini were not yet discovered in any of the well studied geologically young mountain ranges of east and central Africa (e.g. Mt. Elgon, Mt. Kilimanjaro, Mt. Kenya, Mt. Meru, Ruwenzori) that provide perfect ecological conditions for humicolous ground beetles. Humicolous Trechodini were not yet reported from the temperate regions of southern Africa, either, from where numerous humicolous ground beetles from other groups are reported. Therefore it was very unexpected to find a single specimen of a new trechodine in material from the South African cape region collected by the late Dr. Endrödy-Younga (Transvaal Museum, Pretoria, South Africa (TMSA)). The distinct characteristics of the specimen indicate that it does not belong to any known genus of the tribe Trechodini. Despite the very limited material the large number of particular morphological characteristics justify in the authors opinion to erect a