



A new genus and species of the aleocharine tribe Thamiaraeini (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae) from South Africa

GRZEGORZ PAŚNIK

Institute of Systematics and Evolution of Animals, Polish Academy of Sciences, Sławkowska 17, 31 016 Kraków, Poland.

E-mail: pasnik@isez.pan.krakow.pl

Abstract

A new genus and species, *Thendelecrotona natalica* Paśnik, **gen. & sp. n.**, from the Royal Natal National Park, South Africa is described and illustrated. The new genus is placed in the tribe Thamiaraeini Fenyes, 1921, and its affinities with related genera are discussed.

Key words: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Aleocharinae, Thamiaraeini, South Africa, taxonomy, new genus, new species

Introduction

The aleocharine tribe Thamiaraeini Fenyes, 1921 is composed of 28 genera and over 300 species and is mostly restricted to tropical regions of the Southern hemisphere. In the African Region, fourteen genera are currently recognized: *Akronusa* Pace, 2006a; *Chalcochara* Jarrige, 1957; *Cyllophallia* Pace, 2006b; *Dilobidiontura* Pace, 1986; *Ditropandria* Pace, 1984b; *Exaeretota* Pace, 1984c; *Oxypodinus* Bernhauer, 1901; *Paracyphea* Bernhauer, 1922; *Peliusa* Erichson, 1839; *Phaenacrotona* Pace, 1999; *Pseudomyrmedon* Cameron, 1947; *Schistogenia* Kraatz, 1857; *Thamiaraea* Thomson, 1858 and *Tyloplatyola* Pace, 1984a. The half of them (7 genera) are endemic to Madagascar, six genera are known from central Africa and only one was recently described from South Africa (Pace 2006a).

In connection with a study of the staphylinid diversity of South Africa, a remarkable new genus and new species of the aleocharine tribe Thamiaraeini was discovered.

The type material is deposited in the Transvaal Museum in Pretoria, R. S. A. (TMSA, Ruth Müller) and in the Institute of Systematics and Evolution of Animals PAS in Kraków (ISEA, G. Paśnik).

Thendelecrotona gen. n.

(Figs. 1–6)

Type species: *Thendelecrotona natalica* sp. n.

Diagnosis. *Thendelecrotona* can be recognized by the combination of the following characters: the head with infraorbital ridge, the maxillary palpus with 4 articles and a moderately defined apical pseudosegment, the labial palpi 2-jointed, the ligula entire (not divided into lobes), the mentum with produced anterior angles, the pronotal hypomera not visible in lateral view, the mesocoxae narrowly separated, the elytral postero-lateral angles strongly sinuate, the tarsal formula 4-5-5.

Description. Body length 2.2–2.4 mm, broad, convex and moderately glossy (Fig. 1).