



## Revision of the Afrotropical genus *Tritonus* Mulsant (Coleoptera: Hydrophilidae)

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### Abstract

The previously monotypic genus *Tritonus* Mulsant is revised. Six new species are described from Madagascar, from which the genus is also recorded for the first time: *T. complanatus* sp.n., *T. crenulatus* sp.n., *T. madagascarensis* sp.n., *T. riambavy* sp.n., *T. riana*, sp.n., and *T. steineri* sp.n. New records for the previously described and Mauritian-endemic species *Tritonus cribratus* (Mulsant) are given. All known species occur in hygropetric habitats, consistent with the biology of other members of the *Oocyclus*-genus group of the tribe Laccobiini to which *Tritonus* belongs. A key to species, aedeagal illustrations, and scanning electron micrographs of diagnostic characters are provided.

**Key words:** Coleoptera, Hydrophilidae, Laccobiini, Afrotropical, Madagascar, Hygropetric habitats, new species

### Introduction

The genus *Tritonus* Mulsant was first described to accommodate a single species from the island of Mauritius. Within the tribe Laccobiini, the genus is a component of the “*Oocyclus*-group” (sensu Hansen 1991) together with the genera *Oocyclus* Sharp, *Scoliopsis* d’Orchymont, *Beralitra* d’Orchymont, and *Ophthalmocyclus* Komarek. Most, if not all, species in this genus group are known to occupy hygropetric and other wet-rock habitats. During a visit to the California Academy of Sciences in 2000, I located a series of a very large *Oocyclus*-like species from Madagascar (what is now *T. complanatus*). After examining additional material at the Vienna Natural History Museum and the US National Museum of Natural History, it became apparent these specimens represented a previously unknown Malagasy radiation of *Tritonus*, which is described here. Until now, no species of the *Oocyclus*-group have been recorded from Madagascar and they still remain unknown from the African continent. The generic concept of *Tritonus* is redefined in light of these new species, and the relationships between *Tritonus* and other genera of the *Oocyclus*-group are discussed. This represents the third paper in a series of works (Short & Perkins 2004, Short & Swanson 2005) to revise the *Oocyclus*-group.

### Materials and methods

Eighty-six specimens were examined for this study, although just one of the seven species (*T. complanatus* sp.n.) accounted for more than half of the material. Material is deposited in the following depositories:

CAS                    California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, CA (R. Brett)  
FHC                    Collection of Franz Hebauer, Plattling, Germany