



An interesting new species of *Acmaeodera* (s. str.) Eschscholtz 1829 from the Afrotropical Region (Coleoptera: Buprestidae)

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Abstract

A new species *Acmaeodera* (s. str.) from Tanzania is described and illustrated. *A. bertrami* n. sp. exhibits an interesting development of the metasternum which is apparently unknown in other *Acmaeoderini*. *A. childreni* Laporte & Gory 1835 is synonymised with *A. quadrifasciata octodecimpunctata* Gory 1840. A reassessment of the subgeneric assignment of some Afrotropical species of *Acmaeodera* (s. lat.) is given.

Key words: Taxonomy, Coleoptera, Buprestidae, *Acmaeodera*, new species, Afrotropical, Tanzania

Introduction

Holm (1978) revised the Afrotropical *Acmaeodera* (s. lat.). Since that revision, 21 new species of Afrotropical *Acmaeodera* (s. lat.) have been described in Holm (1985, 1986), Holm & Schoeman (1999) and Levey & Volkovitsh (1996).

Volkovitsh (1979) and Volkovitsh & Bellamy (1992) indicated that most of the Afrotropical *Acmaeodera* placed by Holm (1978) in *Acmaeodera* (s. str.) belong to the subgenus *Acmaeotethya* or possibly distinct undescribed related subgenera. They expressed the opinion that the only *Acmaeodera* (s. str.) known from the Afrotropical region are *A. swammerdami* Obenberger 1928, *A. pici* Obenberger 1924 and an undescribed species from Saudi Arabia (subsequently described as *A. guichardi* Levey & Volkovitsh 1996).

Holm & Schoeman (1999) reassessed the subgenera of *Acmaeodera* from the Afrotropical region, in the light of the Volkovitsh & Bellamy (1992) comments, describing two new subgenera. They listed a large number of species that they consider would need to be excluded from the subgenus *Acmaeotethya* to make this relevant to the Afrotropical fauna but refrain from erecting subgenera or genera for these. The recent World Catalogue of Buprestidae (Bellamy, 2008) lists 15 of these species of Afrotropical *Acmaeodera* as not assigned to a subgenus. I have examined specimens of 11 of these species and all of these have a more or less well developed incision in the elytral epipleura opposite the humeral callosity, which indicates they are probably related to the subgenus *Acmaeotethya* and not the subgenus *Acmaeodera* sensu Volkovitsh (1979). Holm (1999) indicates that the four species I have not examined, *A. dumbrodyensis* Holm, *A. knobeli* Holm 1978, *A. ngamensis* Obenberger 1928 and *A. nodieri* Holm 1978 are related to *A. altae* Holm 1999, which he placed in the subgenus *Acmaeotethya*, and *A. lugubrina* Boheman 1860 which is also currently placed in *Acmaeotethya*. I have examined specimens of *A. lugubrina* and this species has a well developed incision in the elytral epipleura opposite the humeral callosity. This suggests that if Holm's indication of relationship is correct, the four species I have not examined are also probably related to the subgenus *Acmaeotethya* and not the subgenus *Acmaeodera* sensu Volkovitsh (1979).