



A taxonomic revision of the African leaf chafer genus *Asthenopholis* Brenske, 1898 (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Melolonthinae): a SEM study

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Abstract

The African chafer genus *Asthenopholis* Brenske, 1898 is revised. Seven species are included in the genus: *A. adspersa* (Boheman, 1857), *A. crypsis* **sp. nov.**, *A. crassa* Arrow, 1902, *A. minor* Brenske, 1898, *A. subfasciata* (Blanchard, 1851), *A. ugandensis* Moser, 1913, and *A. rex* **sp. nov.** *Asthenopholis transvaalensis* Brenske, 1898 is here designated as the type species for the genus. The synonymy of *A. transvaalensis* Brenske, 1898 with *A. adspersa* (Boheman, 1857) is maintained. Lectotypes are designated for *Asthenopholis adspersa* (Boheman, 1857), *A. dasyopus* (Burmeister, 1855), *A. minor* Brenske, 1898, *A. subfasciata* (Blanchard, 1851), *A. transvaalensis* Brenske, 1898, and *A. ugandensis* Moser, 1913. In the absence of a formal description, *Asthenopholis bechuana* Péringuey, 1904 is regarded as a *nomen nudum*. Colour habitus pictures and three views of the male genitalia are provided for all valid species. A key to differentiate the species and three maps to illustrate their known distributions are included. The phenology (as seven bar charts) and pest status are presented for all species. Fourteen plates comprising 138 scanning electron micrographs are included to illustrate obscure, yet species-specific characters (including some generic-specific characters).

Key words: Melolonthini, Leucopholina, *Ancylonycha*, *Asthenopholis*, *Brachylepis*, *Hoplochelus*, propygidial groove, taxonomy, south-eastern Africa, white grubs, chafers, sporadic pests