



Revision of the Genera *Diplocladus* Fairmaire and *Strotocera* Schenkling (Coleoptera: Cleridae, Tillinae)

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Abstract

The genera *Diplocladus* Fairmaire and *Strotocera* Schenkling are taxonomically revised. Thirty four species are recognized within this revision (11 *Diplocladus*, 23 *Strotocera*). *Diplocladus tilloides* Fairmaire, 1887 n. syn., and *Diplocladus rhodesianus* Péringuey, 1899 n. syn., are placed in synonymy with *Diplocladus louvelii* Spinola, 1844; *Strotocera sjoestedti* Schenkling, 1908 n. syn., is synonymized with *Strotocera convexa* Hintz, 1905; *Strotocera multisignata* Pic, 1926 n. syn., is synonymized with *Strotocera emerita* Péringuey, 1899; *Strotocera orangica* Kuwert, 1893 n. syn., is synonymized with *Strotocera versicolor* Chevrolat, 1842 and *Strotocera unimaculata* Pic, 1953, n. comb., n. syn., is synonymized with *Diplocladus discoidalis* Schenkling, 1908. The following species are described as new taxa: *Diplocladus arabicus*, *Diplocladus bipunctatus*, *Diplocladus compactus*, *Diplocladus ebureofasciatus*, *Diplocladus nigrinus*, *Diplocladus rufobasalis*, *Strotocera auratopilosa*, *Strotocera bartletti*, *Strotocera brevefasciata*, *Strotocera chicoi*, *Strotocera elegantula*, *Strotocera mawdsleyi*, *Strotocera minuscula*, *Strotocera roberti*, *Strotocera rufoapicalis*, *Strotocera similis*, *Strotocera topolinae*, *Strotocera wernerii*.

The Madagascan *Diplocladus trinotatus* (Pic, 1949) is excluded from *Diplocladus* in this revision; a review of the Madagascan tilline genera is required to determine its correct generic placement. *Isocymatodera atricolor* (Pic, 1935) new combination, is here removed from *Strotocera*.

Key words: Afrotropical species, taxonomy, identification key, genital figures, distribution maps

Introduction

The subfamily Tillinae is most diverse in continental Africa and Madagascar while being virtually absent from Australia and South America with only a few species recently invading from the north. With approximately 72 genera and 633 species, Tillinae is a relatively species-rich group within Cleridae, its diversity rivaled only by that contained within Clerinae (103 genera, 1613 species) (from Corporaal 1950).

Much confusion exists regarding the systematic position of many tilline genera (Schenkling 1903), and this is much the case with *Diplocladus* Fairmaire, 1885, and *Strotocera* Schenkling, 1902, which, collectively, contain now 34 attractive, and often similar-looking, species. These two genera are almost exclusively distributed within continental Africa; the two exceptions are *Diplocladus arabicus* n. sp. from Saudi Arabia, and *Strotocera grandis* Schenkling from Indonesia.

The aim of this study is to define the generic characteristics of *Diplocladus* and *Strotocera*, and to revise the species constitution of both genera. Additionally, an expanded key for the *Philocalus* genus group (Gerstmeier 1993), now newly including *Gastrocentrum* Gorham, 1876, is given.

The following species are recognized:

- Diplocladus arabicus* Gerstmeier & Weiss, n. sp.
- Diplocladus bipunctatus* Gerstmeier & Weiss, n. sp.
- Diplocladus compactus* Gerstmeier & Weiss, n. sp.
- Diplocladus ebureofasciatus* Gerstmeier & Weiss, n. sp.
- Diplocladus kuwertii* (Hintz, 1897)
- Diplocladus louvelii* (Spinola, 1844)
 - = *Diplocladus tilloides* (Fairmaire, 1887), n. syn.
 - = *Diplocladus rhodesianus* (Péringuey, 1899), n. syn.
- Diplocladus nigrinus* Gerstmeier & Weiss, n. sp.
- Diplocladus oculicollis* (Fairmaire, 1885)
 - = *Diplocladus discoidalis* (Schenkling, 1908) n. syn.
 - = *Strotocera unimaculata* Pic, 1953, n. comb., n. syn.
- Diplocladus pulcher* (Schenkling, 1906)
- Diplocladus rufobasalis* Gerstmeier & Weiss, n. sp.