



The species of *Acylophorus* Nordmann (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Staphylininae) in continental sub-Saharan Africa

DEREK A. LOTT

5 Welland Rd, Barrow upon Soar, Loughborough, Leics LE12 8NA, UK. E-mail: derek@lott.fsnet.co.uk

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Abstract

Types of *Acylophorus delphinus* Fauvel from Madagascar and *Acylophorus* species found in continental sub-Saharan Africa are revised. Lectotypes are designated for the following species: *A. orientalis* Fauvel, *A. picipennis* Bernhauer, *A. densipennis* Bernhauer, *A. antennalis* Cameron, *A. tenuiceps* Bernhauer, *A. collarti* Cameron, *A. congoensis* Cameron, *A. mareei* Bernhauer, *A. trigonocephalus* Cameron and *A. grandis* Bernhauer. Type material for *A. rufipennis* Cameron could not be located and the name is considered to be a *nomen dubium*. The following new synonymies are established: *A. orientalis* Fauvel = *A. picipennis* Bernhauer **syn. n.**, = *A. marginalis* Cameron **syn. n.**; *A. antennalis* Cameron = *A. tenuiceps* Bernhauer **syn. n.**; *A. trigonocephalus* Cameron = *A. lomaensis* Bordoni **syn. n.** Seven new species are described: *A. nitens* **sp. n.** from Sudan, *A. tshuapensis* **sp. n.** from Congo, *A. makhoreae* **sp. n.** from Ethiopia, *A. micans* **sp. n.** from Côte d'Ivoire and Gabon, *A. salifi* **sp. n.** from Burkina Faso, *A. minor* **sp. n.** from Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria, and *A. setiger* **sp. n.** from Bioko (Equatorial Guinea). A key is given to species groups defined by easily observed characters. Comparative diagnoses are given for species, their distributions mapped and their bionomics detailed where data are available. Forebodies, terminal segments of the maxillary palpi, antennae and aedeagi are figured for all species, except those represented by material with these parts missing. Mandibles and secondary sexual characters are figured for selected species.

Key words: Staphylinini, Quediina, Afrotropical, taxonomy, new species, lectotype designations, new synonyms

Introduction

Herman (2001) listed thirty described species of *Acylophorus* from the Afrotropical region including five from Madagascar and 25 from continental Africa. It is evident that more species than this occur in mainland Africa, but there are some problems to resolve before the process of describing new species can proceed. Of the 25 continental species, one was described by Fauvel (1907), seven by Bernhauer (1917, 1929, 1932, 1943), seven by Cameron (1932, 1935, 1945, 1948, 1949, 1959), five by Levasseur (1968, 1971) and five by Bordoni (1994). However, the descriptions given by Fauvel, Bernhauer and Cameron are too brief to allow subsequent recognition of the species concerned. The more recent descriptions are accompanied by useful illustrations, but the textual descriptions still tend to emphasise characters that are common to the whole genus rather than those that are useful for diagnosing species. It is also necessary to fix the identity of *A. delphinus*, described from Madagascar by Fauvel (1905) and the oldest available name for all Afrotropical *Acylophorus*, because this has the potential to affect the nomenclature of mainland species.

This paper begins the process of exploring the diversity of *Acylophorus* species in continental sub-Saharan Africa by redescribing species with inadequate original descriptions and by describing new species that are represented by a reasonable amount of available material.

Methods

The types of all the species described by Fauvel, Bernhauer and Cameron were examined and the species redescribed. Material belonging to the species described by Levasseur and Bordoni was also studied in order to identify additional diagnostic characters to those included in the original descriptions. New species were identified from series of specimens in museum collections or in collections arising from recent fieldwork.

Subgenera have been described by Bierig (1938) and Smetana (1971), but they are based either on a limited geographical set of species or on characters that appear to vary between closely related species. They are ignored in the present work. Informal species groups are used to arrange species descriptions, but they are based on easily observed characters and are not intended to imply any phylogenetic relationships.

Illustrations and measurements were made from photographs taken with a Nikon Coolpix 4500 camera and an IMXZ trinocular stereomicroscope. Only the illustrations of aedeagi are drawn to scale, but there is an error of up to 10% due to variations in staging heights. For the species descriptions head lengths were measured from the front of the neck to the front of the clypeus. Head widths were measured across the widest part of the head including the eyes. The lengths of the elytra were measured along the sutural line and include the scutellum.