



Three new species of *Austrocarabodes* (Oribatida: Carabodidae) and notes on *Austrocarabodes pinnatus* Mahunka, 1986, from South Africa

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Abstract

Three new species of the oribatid mite genus, *Austrocarabodes*, from South Africa are described, namely *A. nortoni* **sp. nov.**, *A. longisetosus* **sp. nov.** and *A. crassimarginatus* **sp. nov.**. A supplementary description is given of *A. pinnatus* Mahunka, 1986. The known distribution of these species is given and a key to all South African species is presented.

Key words: Carabodoidea, taxonomy, distribution, identification key

Introduction

The subgenus *Austrocarabodes* (*Austrocarabodes*) Hammer, 1966 occurs worldwide except in boreal regions (Subías 2004 [2011]). This subgenus currently comprises 73 species and two subspecies. The subgenus is widespread in the Ethiopian region with 35 species described from places such as South Africa, Angola, Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Somalia, Madagascar, Mauritius and Saint Helena. *Austrocarabodes* occurs frequently in South Africa and five species have been described: *A. pinnatus* Mahunka, 1986, *A. hendriksi* Hugo, 2008, *A. vernoncrookensis* Hugo, 2008, *A. luciensis* Hugo, 2008, *A. mahunkai* Hugo-Coetzee, 2010 and *A. lineasetosa* Hugo-Coetzee, 2010 (Subías 2004 [2011]).

In this paper, three new South African *Austrocarabodes* species, *A. nortoni* **sp. nov.**, *A. longisetosus* **sp. nov.** and *A. crassimarginatus* **sp. nov.** are described. A supplementary description is given of *A. pinnatus*. Localities where these species are known to occur, are given. A key to all South African species based mostly on the main differential characteristics of species in this genus, namely body ornamentation, the form of the prodorsal and notogastral setae and the shape of the sensillus, is presented.

Generic diagnosis

Type species: *Austrocarabodes ensifer* Sellnick, 1931

The subgenus *Austrocarabodes* (*Austrocarabodes*) is characterized by the following: lamellar seta inserted on distal lateral surface of lamella; interlamellar seta originating close to inner margin of lamella; 14 pairs of notogastral setae, no setae in humeral position; well defined anterior notogastral margin; apodeme 3 short, not reaching sternum; number of epimeral setae (I–IV) 3-1-3-3; four pairs of genital, one pair of aggenital, two pairs of anal, three pairs of adanal setae, *ad*₃ in preanal position; legs monodactylous, claw with tooth, femora III-IV with broad ventral rib (Hammer 1966; Mahunka 1986).