



Article

urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:ABBE345C-EE4B-46A2-8F4F-EE0719C5D7ED

New synonymy and redescription of *Mastigus deustus* (Thunberg) (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Scydmaeninae)

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Abstract

Basing on examination of type specimens and original descriptions, the status of primary types of two South African Mastigini is clarified: i) the type specimen of *Mastigus deustus* (Thunberg) (originally described in *Notoxus*), previously incorrectly treated as a holotype, was found to be a syntype; ii) the type specimen of *Mastigus glabratus* Klug previously treated as a holotype is in fact a syntype; iii) the specimen previously treated as a paratype of *M. glabratus* is not a primary type. Lectotypes for *Notoxus deustus* and *Mastigus glabratus* are designated, and *M. glabratus* is placed as a junior objective synonym of *M. deustus*. *Mastigus deustus* is redescribed, and its diagnostic characters, including the aedeagus, are illustrated.

Key words: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Scydmaeninae, Mastigini, *Mastigus*, Afrotropical, South Africa, synonymy, lectotype designation

Introduction

Mastigus Latreille, 1802 is an endemic South African genus of a small tribe Mastigini. Five species (*M. caffer* (Boheman), *M. deustus* (Thunberg), *M. hottentotus* (Leleup), *M. andrae* (Lhoste) and *M. spinicornis* (Fabricius)) were revised by Leleup (1968) and placed in the genus *Australostigus* Leleup, and later Bordoni & Castellini (1973) redescribed *M. glabratus* Klug, not examined by Leleup. *Australostigus* was placed as a junior objective synonym of *Mastigus* by Newton & Franz (1998). Although the genus is small and comprises ones of the largest and most interestingly pigmented (often bicolorous) Scydmaeninae, its diagnosis, taxonomic status of some species and the status of some type specimens require clarification.

Leleup (1968) defined *Mastigus* (as *Australostigus*) as the genus of Mastigini having the following set of characters: antennae shorter than body, with subtriangular flagellomeres; the posterior part of pronotum flattened or with a marginal carina; the mesoventrite of females confluent with mesocoxal cavities; and the aedeagus not protruding from the abdomen in resting position, with two asymmetrically developed, unequal in length parameres and elongate, oval or subcylindrical median lobe. However, some of these characters can also be found in two remaining and sympatric genera of Mastigini, *Palaeostigus* Newton and *Stenomastigus* Leleup, and some are not only variable within *Mastigus*, but even absent in some species. *Mastigus* highly resembles large species of *Palaeostigus* in the general appearance, and in some cases examination of a specimen in dorsal aspect is not sufficient to identify a genus. However, *Stenomastigus* comprising species that are all very slender and with extremely long antennae and legs and easy to identify at the first sight, shares with *Mastigus* more characters than *Palaeostigus* and only its aedeagus differs markedly from copulatory organs of the two remaining genera (e.g., Leleup 1968; Jałoszyński 2012a, 2012b). The diagnosis of *Mastigus* requires revision, but at the current stage of knowledge this genus can be distinguished from *Stenomastigus* on the basis of the antennae shorter than body, the lack of constriction of the aedeagus at the base of the copulatory piece, and the strongly elongate basal capsule of the median lobe, which is at least as long as half length of the aedeagus (usually much longer). *Mastigus* can be distinguished from *Palaeostigus*