



Article

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Taxonomy of the Afrotropical genera *Angolositus* Koch, 1955 and *Pseudoselinus* Iwan, 2002 with a key to species (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae: Pedinini)

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Abstract

The validity of the genera *Angolositus* and *Pseudoselinus* is confirmed. The results of a comparative morphological analysis show that these two genera are closely related. One new species is described (*Angolositus lidiae* sp. n.) and *Pseudoselinus elevatus* is transferred into the genus *Angolositus*. Distributional maps are presented with complete faunistic data for the studied genera. An identification key is provided to all known species of *Angolositus* and *Pseudoselinus*.

Key words: entomology, eye division, new species, *Ectateus* generic group, Platynotina

Introduction

The genus *Angolositus* was erected by Koch in 1955 to include a single Angolan endemic species—*Angolositus sadabandeirus* Koch, 1955. According to Koch's (1955) taxonomic concept, this genus can be readily distinguished from other Platynotina by its completely divided eyes (Fig. 1, 4). Basing on this concept, in 1956 Koch transferred *A. rufimanus* (Harold, 1879) into this genus. In the same paper Koch noticed that the complete bordering 5th ventrite resembles *Angolositus* to the genus *Selinus* Mulsant et Rey, 1853.

The results of a cladistic analysis performed by Iwan (2002a) supported Koch's (1955) interpretation of *Angolositus*. This genus occurred on the phylogram as a basal taxon of the platynotoid lineage within the subtribe Platynotina (Iwan 2002a). The characteristic eye structure (complete division by the epistomal canthus) was interpreted as a synapomorphy within the platynotoid evolutionary lineage, but not within the whole subtribe—a similar feature also occurs in the monotypic genus *Atrocrypticanus* Iwan, 1999 classified in the trigonopoid evolutionary lineage (Iwan 1999, 2002a).

During a recent study of the material from the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris, specimens representing a new species of *Angolositus*, described herein, were identified. The reviewed material was used to test the validity of the genus *Angolositus* (Koch 1955, 1956; Iwan 2002a) and improve our understanding of its systematic position within the subtribe Platynotina. The new interpretation of the genus *Angolositus* affects the taxonomic concept of the genus *Pseudoselinus* Iwan, 2005 proposed by Iwan & Banaszkiwicz in 2005. Therefore, updated taxonomic information concerning *Pseudoselinus* is also given.

Material and methods

Measurements taken using a filar micrometer were as follows: width of anterior elytral margin—from humeral angle to scutellum; body length—from anterior margin of labrum to elytral apex; body width—maximum elytral width.

This study was based on the material from the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris (MNHN) and Museum für Naturkunde in Berlin (ZMHB).

For examination of internal structures, insects were dissected and whole abdomens were cleared in 10% cold potassium hydroxide overnight.