



Taxonomy of the water beetle genus *Limnebius* Leach in southern Africa (Coleoptera: Hydraenidae)

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Abstract

The southern African species of the water beetle genus *Limnebius* Leach, 1815, are revised. Eleven new species are described, based on the examination and databasing of 6,201 specimens from 96 localities/events. Male genitalia are illustrated, and high resolution habitus images of the holotypes are provided. Distribution maps are provided for the eleven species now known from southern Africa, including Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and the extreme southern part of Angola. New species of *Limnebius* are: *L. capensis* (South Africa: Western Cape Province, W. Cape, Hawequas); *L. convexus* (South Africa: Western Cape Province, Little Karroo, Raubenheimer Dam); *L. endroedyi* (Namibia: C. Namib desert, Numis Wasser); *L. kavango* (Namibia: Kavango: Mahango Game Reserve); *L. masculinus* (South Africa: KwaZulu-Natal Province, Hluhluwe Game Reserve); *L. probus* (South Africa: KwaZulu-Natal Province, Zululand, Dukuduku Forest Station); *L. quantillus* (South Africa: Limpopo Province, N. Transvaal, Mmabolela estate); *L. retiolus* (South Africa: Northern Cape Province, Cape Farm Ezelsfontein); *L. speculus* (South Africa: KwaZulu-Natal Province, Hluhluwe Game Reserve); *L. suaviculus* (South Africa: KwaZulu-Natal Province, Tugela River near Olivershoek road); *L. transversus* (South Africa: KwaZulu-Natal Province, Mtubatuba).

Key words: Coleoptera, Hydraenidae, southern Africa

Introduction

This is the eleventh contribution in a series of papers revising Afrotropical Hydraenidae. Previous papers have included a general taxonomic work on the fauna of southern Africa (Perkins & Balfour-Browne 1994), a comprehensive morphological and systematic study of the family, including African taxa (Perkins 1997), revisionary studies of the genera *Pneuminion* Perkins (Perkins 2004a), *Nucleotops* Perkins & Balfour-Browne (Perkins 2004b), *Discozantaena* Perkins & Balfour-Browne (Perkins 2005a), *Coelometopon* Janssens (Perkins 2005b), a paper describing new species of, and documenting new collecting records for, Prosthetopinae (Perkins 2008), a comprehensive revision of the tribe Parhydraenini (Perkins 2009), a revision of the genus *Ochthebius* (Perkins 2011), and a revision of the genus *Hydraena* (Perkins 2014). The remaining revision, of *Aulacochthebius* Kuwert, is nearing completion. More than 50,427 specimens have been identified and databased, from 1,393 localities/events, representing 226 hydraenid species. Revisions include digital images of primary types.

In this paper, 11 new species of *Limnebius* Leach, 1815, from southern Africa are described. Distribution maps are provided for all species. The geographical area includes Namibia, South Africa, Lesotho, Botswana, Zimbabwe, and the extreme southern part of Angola (Fig. 23). In total, 6,201 specimens of *Limnebius* have been identified and databased, from 96 localities/events.

Microhabitats and distributions

The majority of *Limnebius* specimens are collected from the sandy/gravelly margins of streams or rivers. Specimens of *Limnebius* and *Hydraena* are often collected together: of the 96 *Limnebius* collecting events,

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