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Aleocharinae from Gabon (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae)

Roberto Pace*

Via Vittorio Veneto 13, 37032 Monteforte d'Alpone, Verona, Italy

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Six tribes (Pronomaeini, Gyrophaenini, Homalotini, Eusteniamorphini, Athetini and Lomechusini), 12 genera (*Myllaena*, *Brachida*, *Cameronium*, *Coenonica*, *Eustenidia*, *Amanota*, *Atheta*, *Drusilla*, *Neosmectonia*, *Zyras*, *Porus* and *Myrmechusa*) and 14 species are recognized. Twelve species are described as new to science: *Brachida gabonensis* n. sp., *Cameronium gabonense* n. sp., *Coenonica wingonbiensis* n. sp., *Eustenidia gabonensis* n. sp., *Amanota gabonensis* n. sp., *Atheta (Tropatheta) librevillensis* n. sp., *Atheta (Phanerosphaena) mondahensis* n. sp., *Drusilla gabonensis* n. sp., *Neosmectonia gabonensis* n. sp., *Zyras (Camonia) librevillensis* n. sp., *Porus gabonensis* n. sp. and *Myrmechusa gabonensis* n. sp. All new species are illustrated and compared with similar species. The genus *Ischnopoderona* Scheerpeltz, 1974 is established as a junior synonym of *Amanota* Casey, 1906.

<http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:112D8E00-EC78-4BB2-BCD2-9B8D732D526B>

Keywords: Insecta; Coleoptera; Staphylinidae; Aleocharinae; taxonomy; Ethiopian region

Introduction

The subfamily Aleocharinae, which occurs in all zoogeographic regions, includes a great number of species. They live in diverse habitats but most of them are found in forested areas. Gabon has remained almost unexplored with regard to the subfamily Aleocharinae. Following the publication on Aleocharinae from Gabon (Pace, 2009) on the material of Staphylinidae provided by the late Dr Henry Coiffait (†), Toulouse University, and collected during the 1963 zoological expedition directed by the famous French zoologist P.P. Grassé, additional new material from Gabon is studied and described in this paper.

Materials and methods

The specimens from Gabon studied in this paper were submitted to me by Dr Luca Bartolozzi, an entomologist and researcher at the Zoological Section 'La Specola' of the Natural History Museum of the University, Florence.

The taxonomic study of the species from Gabon was conducted through examination of the characters of the aedeagus, of the spermatheca and of the shape of the ligula and of

*Email: pace.ent@tiscali.it

the maxillae. Both male and female specimens were dissected and the genital and mouthpart structures were mounted in Canada balsam (on small transparent plastic slides beneath the specimen). The genital and mouth structures were studied using a compound microscope, and were drawn from eyepiece grid. The habitus of the new species were photographed by me using a digital Canon Power Shot A610, 5.0 megapixel camera. The line drawings were arranged using Adobe Photoshop software.

The species described here are clearly recognizable from the images of habitus, aedeagus and spermatheca. The descriptions are brief and limited because all the characters are well illustrated; graphically ambiguous characters or ones that could not be well illustrated, such as the reticulation and the granulation, are described. However, in the case of the subfamily Aleocharinae, a long detailed description does not always enable accurate identification of species. Illustrations of the aedeagus and/or of the spermatheca, together with the habitus, are needed in addition to the description to identify specimens, as has been confirmed by other entomologists. Such details as the pronotum proportions to other body parts are omitted from the description when these are clearly seen in the photographs of the habitus.

The holotypes and all other specimens are deposited in the Zoological Section 'La Specola' of the Natural History Museum of the University, Florence, Italy.

Acronyms and abbreviations

Acronyms for museums and abbreviations are used as follows:

- FMNHC: Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago
 IRSNB: Institut royal des Sciences naturelles de Belgique, Bruxelles
 MNHU: Museum für Naturkunde der Humboldt-Universität, Berlin
 MSNF: Museo di Storia Naturale 'La Specola' dell'Università degli Studi di Firenze
 MTMB: Magyar Természettudományi Múzeum, Budapest
 NHML: Natural History Museum of London
 n. coll.: collection number
 num. mag.: store number
 a.s.l.: above sea level

List of the species, grouped in tribes, with descriptions

Tribe *Pronomaeini*

Myllaena dinahae Klimaszewski, 1992

Myllaena dinahae Klimaszewski, 1992: 418.

1 ♂, Gabon, Forêt de la Mondah, 0°36'26"N, 9°19'03"E, 10 m a.s.l., Cap Esterias, about 20 km N of Libreville, 6-16.XII.1995, leg. L. Bartolozzi and S. Taiti, num. mag. 1784, n. coll. 14830, MSNF.

Distribution

Species hitherto known only from the former Transvaal Province, South Africa.

Tribe **Gyrophaenini**

***Brachida gabonensis* n. sp.**

(Figures 1–4)

Holotype ♂, Gabon, Penisola di Pointe Denis, Pointe Wingonbiè, 17.XII.1995, leg. L. Bartolozzi and S. Taiti, num. mag. 1784, n. coll. 14825, MSNF.

Paratype: 1 ♀, same data, n. coll. 14826, MSNF.

Description

Length: 1.8 mm. Body shiny, very convex, head reddish-brown, elytra reddish-brown with basal half yellowish-red, abdomen reddish-brown with pygidium reddish, antennae brown with the three basal antennomeres yellow, legs yellow. Eyes longer than the post-ocular region in dorsal view. Second antennomere as long as the first, third shorter than the second, fourth transverse, fifth to ninth very transverse. Reticulation of the head weak and absent at the sides, that of the pronotum very weak, that of the elytra distinct as is that of the abdomen which is slightly transverse. Punctuation of the head almost invisible, that of the pronotum fine and weak. Granulation of the elytra dense and obsolete. Elytra of the male with short, slight fold near the inner posterior angle. Aedeagus: Figure 2; spermatheca: Figure 3; male sixth free tergite: Figure 4.

Comparative notes

In the form of the aedeagus and the presence of a slight fold near the inner posterior angle of the elytra of the male, the new species is similar to *B. opportuna* Pace, 1986 from Tanzania. It differs in the brown colour of the antennae (reddish in *B. opportuna*) and above all in the shape of the aedeagus, which is strongly bi-sinuate on the ventral side in *B. opportuna*, but only slightly sinuate in the new species.

Tribe **Homalotini**

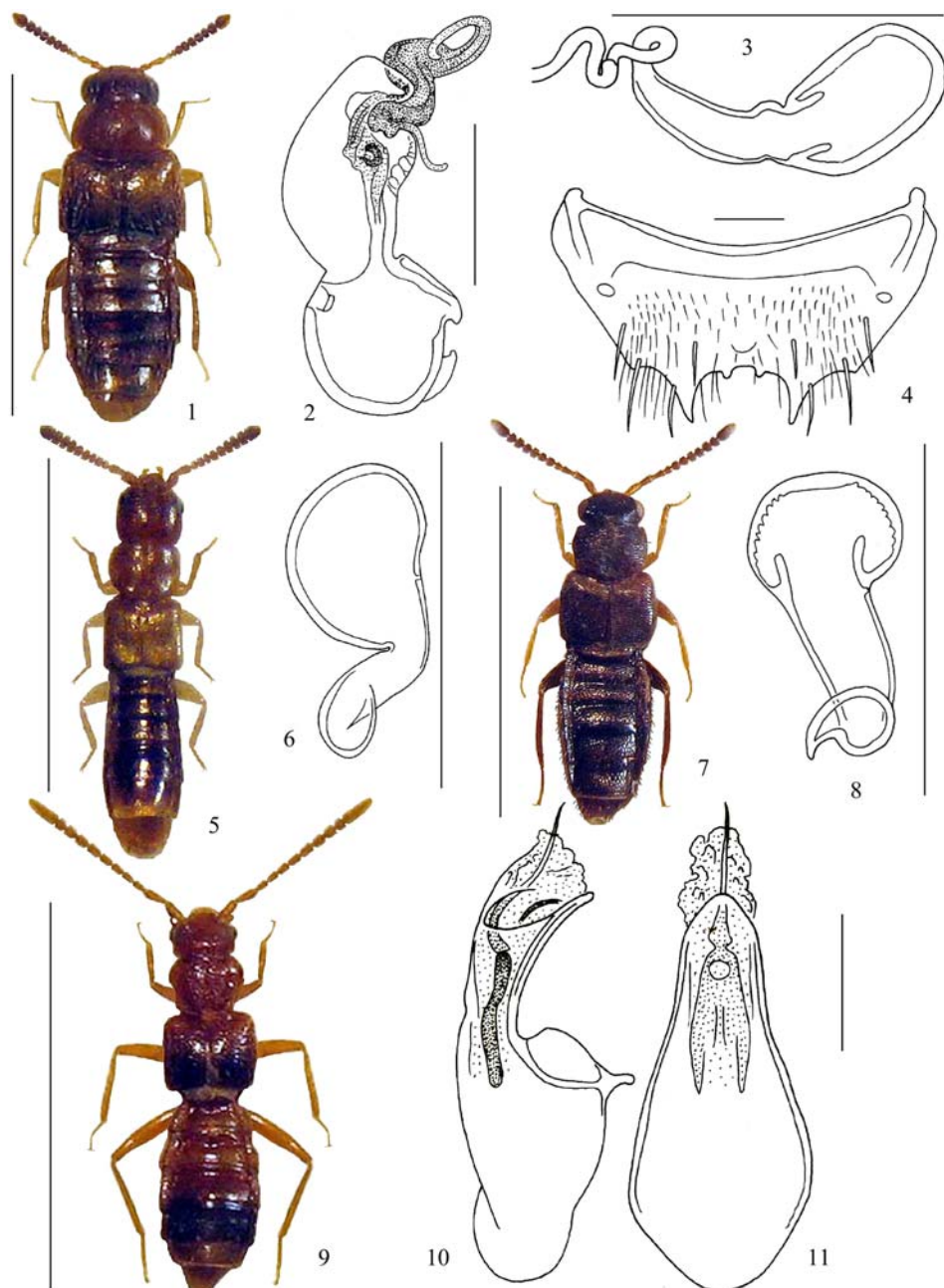
***Cameronium gabonense* n. sp.**

(Figures 5 and 6)

Holotype ♀, Gabon, Reserve de La Lopé, 14-15.XII.1995, leg. L. Bartolozzi and S. Taiti, num. mag. 1784, n. coll. 14816, MSNF.

Description

Length: 1.37 mm. Body shiny, yellowish-red, elytra yellow, abdomen brown with pygidium yellowish-red, antennae yellowish-brown with the three basal antennomeres yellowish-red. Eyes much shorter than the post-ocular region in dorsal view. Second antennomere shorter than the first, third shorter than the second, fourth to ninth very transverse. Reticulation of head and pronotum weakly pronounced, that of the elytra obsolete, that of the abdomen slightly transverse and well visible on three basal free tergites, diffused on the fourth and obsolete on the fifth. Punctuation of the fore-body dense and not well pronounced. Spermatheca: Figure 6.



Figures 1–11. Habitus, aedeagus in lateral and ventral views, spermatheca and male sixth free tergite. 1–4: *Brachida gabonensis* n. sp.; 5–6: *Cameronium gabonense* n. sp.; 7–8: *Coenonica wingonbiensis* n. sp.; 9–11: *Eustenidia gabonensis* n. sp. Scale bars: 1: 1.8 mm; 5: 1.37 mm; 7: 2.57 mm; 9: 1.46 mm. Other scale bars: 0.1 mm.

Comparative notes

The habitus and the colour of the body of the new species are very similar to those of *C. flavipenne* Cameron, 1944 from Zanzibar, of which I have examined the female holotype labelled 'Zanzibar, Seaweed, *Cameronium flavipenne* Cam., Type' (NHML). The spermatheca of *C. flavipenne* is very narrow, that of the new species very broad. The new species also differs from the unique male of *C. guineense* Pace, 1988 from Guinea-Bissau, in the yellowish red colour of the fore-body, and not brown as in *C. guineense*.

***Coenonica gabonensis* Pace, 2009**

Coenonica gabonensis Pace, 2009: 96.

1 ♂, Gabon, Forêt de la Mondah, 0°36'26"N, 9°19'03"E, 10 m a.s.l., Cap Esterias, about 20 km N of Libreville, 6-16.XII.1995, leg. L. Bartolozzi and S. Taiti, num. mag. 1784, n. coll. 14829, MSNF.

Distribution

Species known only from Gabon.

***Coenonica wingonbiensis* n. sp.**

(Figures 7 and 8)

Holotype ♀, Gabon, Penisola di Pointe Denis, Pointe Wingonbiè, 17.XII.1995, leg. L. Bartolozzi and S. Taiti, num. mag. 1784, n. coll. 14824, MSNF.

Description

Length: 2.57 mm. Body brown, base of the elytra and posterior border of free abdominal tergites one to three reddish-brown, antennae brown with the three basal antennomeres yellowish-red, legs yellowish-red with posterior femora brown. Eyes longer than the post-ocular region in dorsal view. Second antennomere shorter than the first, third a little shorter than the second, fourth to ninth transverse. Reticulation of the head strong, that of the pronotum clear, that of the elytra weak, that of the abdomen absent. Puncturation of the head very dense. Granulation of pronotum, elytra and abdomen dense and weakly pronounced. Puncturation of the head very dense. Granulation of pronotum, elytra and abdomen dense and very protruding. Pronotum with anterior median sulcus weak, posterior median depression wide and sides weakly sinuate in front of the posterior angles. Spermatheca: Figure 8.

Comparative notes

The very transverse pronotum is similar to that of *C. aethiopica* Fauvel, 1904 from Tanzania, of which I have examined the type series of two ♀♀ labelled 'Usambara, Derema, 850 m, 16-19.VII.1901, Conradt S., *Coenonica aethiopica* Fvl.' (IRSNB). The spermatheca of the new species has the distal bulb almost spherical, whereas that of *C. aethiopica* is oval in shape, the pronotum of *C. aethiopica* is lacking an anterior median sulcus which is present in the new species. The new species also differs from *C. gabonensis* Pace, 2009 in the transverse pronotum and in the distal bulb of the spermatheca being globose and not oval as in *C. gabonensis*.

Tribe **Eusteniamorphini*****Eustenidia gabonensis* n. sp.**

(Figures 9–11)

Holotype ♂, Gabon, Forêt de la Mondah, 0°36'26"N, 9°19'03"E, 10 m a.s.l., Cap Esterias, about 20 km N of Libreville, 6-16.XII.1995, leg. L. Bartolozzi and S. Taiti, num. mag. 1784, n. coll. 14820, MSNF.

Description

Length 1.46 mm. Body shiny, yellowish-red, posterior half of the elytra and fourth free abdominal tergite brown, antennae reddish, legs yellowish-red. Eyes shorter than the post-ocular region in dorsal view. Second antennomere shorter than the first, third shorter than the second, fourth to ninth longer than wide. Body devoid of reticulation except on the elytra on which is very transverse. Granulation of head and pronotum absent on the disc, on the sides of the pronotum dense and weak. Granulation of the elytra distinct, that of the abdomen fine and weak. Median sulcus of the pronotum divided posteriorly into two short sulci. The pronotum bears a lateral oval fovea before the posterior angles. Three foveae in the bottom of the basal sulcus of the first free abdominal tergite and a brief median carina at the base of the second free tergite. Aedeagus: Figures 10 and 11.

Comparative notes

The new species is similar to *E. coiffaiti* Pace, 1994 also from Gabon. It differs in the aedeagus being slightly arched to the ventral side, in the broad 'crista apicalis', this being very narrow in *E. coiffaiti*, and in the apical portion of the median lobe of the aedeagus, which is twice as broad as in that of *E. coiffaiti*, in ventral view. The penultimate antennomeres of the new species are not transverse and those of *E. coiffaiti* transverse.

Tribe **Athetini**

Note on the genus *Amanota* Casey, 1906

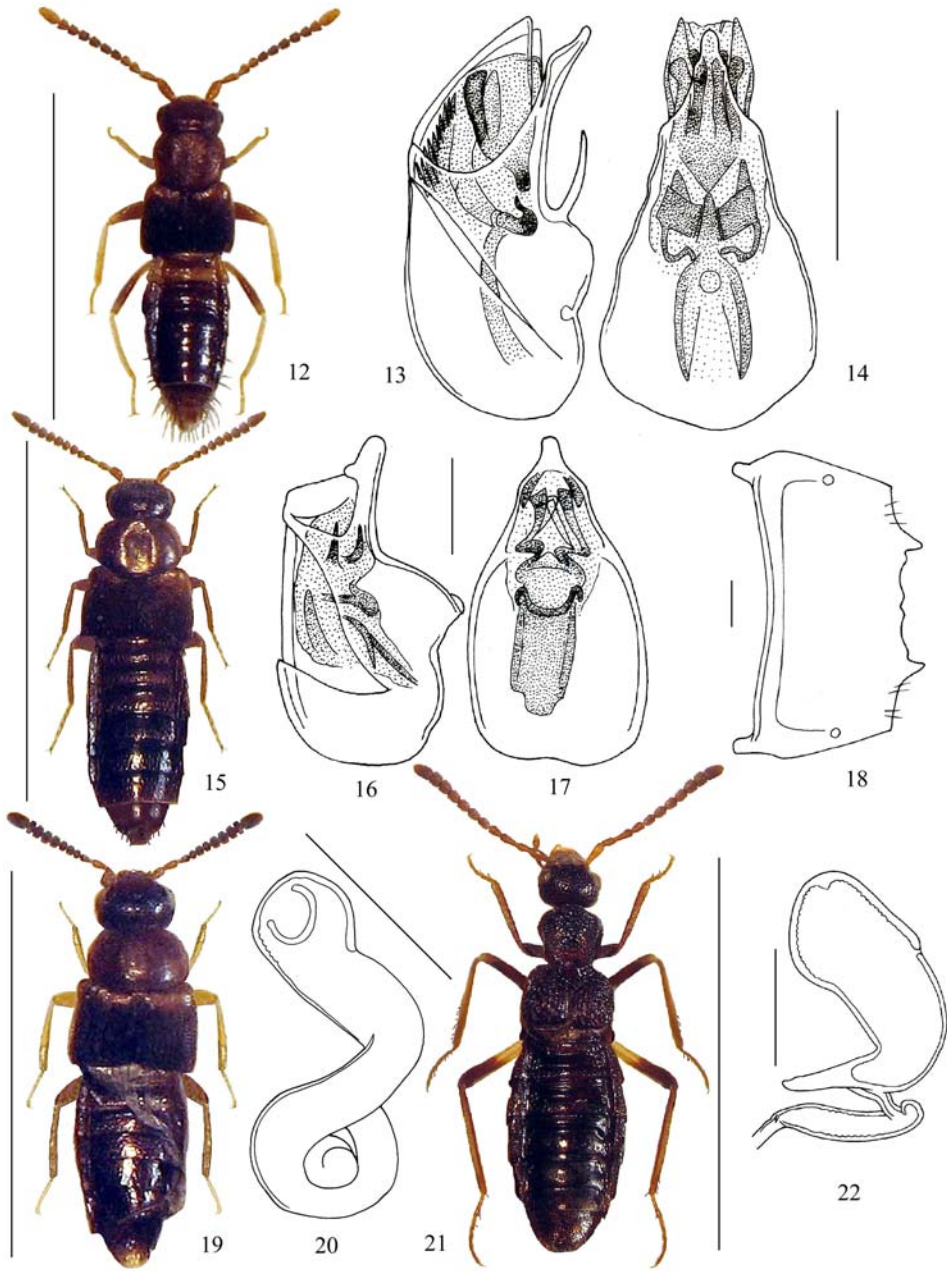
Recently, Pašnik (2007) wrongly cited *Amanota* Casey, 1906 as a junior synonym of *Ischnopoderona* Scheerpeltz, 1974 and consequently attributed a number of species to *Ischnopoderona*. The correct synonymy according to the date of publication is as follows: *Amanota* Casey, 1906: 189

Ischnopoderona Scheerpeltz, 1974: 229, **n. syn.**

***Amanota gabonensis* n. sp.**

(Figures 12–14)

Holotype ♂, Gabon, Forêt de la Mondah, 0°36'26"N, 9°19'03"E, 10 m a.s.l., Cap Esterias, about 20 km N of Libreville, 6-16.XII.1995, leg. L. Bartolozzi and S. Taiti, num. mag. 1784, n. coll. 14819, MSNF.



Figures 12–22. Habitus, aedeagus in lateral and ventral views, male sixth free tergite and spermatheca. 12–14: *Amanota gabonensis* n. sp.; 15–18: *Atheta (Tropatheta) librevillensis* n. sp.; 19–20: *Atheta (Phanerosphaena) mondahensis* n. sp.; 21–22: *Drusilla gabonensis* n. sp. Scale bars: 12: 1.92 mm; 15: 2.29 mm; 19: 1.92 mm; 21: 4.49 mm. Other scale bars: 0.1 mm.

Description

Length 1.9 mm. Fore-body slightly shiny, abdomen shiny. Body reddish, elytra brown with base reddish-brown, abdomen brown with free basal tergite yellow, antennae reddish-brown with the three basal antennomeres yellowish-red and the eleventh yellow, legs yellow with median and posterior femora reddish-brown. Eyes as long as the post-ocular region in dorsal view. Second antennomere shorter than the first, third shorter than the second, fourth to sixth as long as wide, eighth to ninth slightly transverse. Reticulation of the head strong, that of the pronotum distinct, that of the elytra distinct, that of the four basal free tergites very weak, absent on fifth free tergite. Puncturation of the head almost indistinct. Granulation of the pronotum not pronounced, that of the elytra dense and weak. Pronotum with a broad median concavity. Aedeagus: Figures 13 and 14.

Comparative notes

The aedeagus of the new species bears a long and narrow ventral appendix. Other species of *Amanota* with a ventral appendix of the aedeagus are *A. perinetensis* (Pace, 2006) and *A. madecassa* (Cameron, 1944), both from Madagascar, and *A. namibiensis* Pace, 1999 from Tanzania. In none of these species is the ventral appendix of the aedeagus as narrow and as long as in the new species.

***Atheta (Tropatheta) librevillensis* n. sp.**

(Figures 15–18)

Holotype ♂, Gabon, Forêt de la Mondah, 0°36'26"N, 9°19'03"E, 10 m s.l.m., Cap Esterias, about 20 km N of Libreville, 6-16.XII.1995, leg. L. Bartolozzi and S. Taiti, num. mag. 1784 n. coll. 14823, MSNF.

Description

Length 2.29 mm. Body shiny, brown, head and free abdominal tergites three, four and five with base brown, antennae brown with the two basal antennomeres reddish, legs yellowish-red. Eyes as long as the post-ocular region in dorsal view. Second antennomere shorter than the first, third a little longer than the second, fourth to ninth transverse. Reticulation of the head clearly visible, that of the pronotum distinct, that of the elytra strong, that of the abdomen very transverse and weak, but distinct on fifth free tergite. Puncturation of head and pronotum fine, dense and weak. Granulation of the elytra fine, dense and weak, that of the abdomen weak and sparse. Aedeagus: Figures 16 and 17; male sixth free tergite: Figure 18.

Comparative notes

The habitus and the aedeagus of the new species are similar to those of *A. inducta* Fauvel, 1907 from Tanzania, of which I have examined the male holotype labelled 'Afrique Orient., Kilimanjaro (zones des forêts), Kibosho, 1700 m, Ch. Alluaud 1904, *A. inducta* Fvl., Type' (IRSNB). The antennae of the two species are similar, and the apex of the aedeagus is narrow in both species in ventral view. The basal bulb of the aedeagus of the new species, however, is well developed, and that of *A. inducta* is

reduced. The internal sclerotized structure of the aedeagus is completely different in the two species.

***Atheta (Phanerosphaena) mondahensis* n. sp.**

(Figures 19 and 20)

Holotype ♀, Gabon, Forêt de la Mondah, 0°36'26"N, 9°19'03"E, 10 m a.s.l., Cap Esterias, about 20 km N of Libreville, 6-16.XII.1995, leg. L. Bartolozzi and S. Taiti, num. mag. 1784 n. coll. 14817, MSNF.

Description

Length 1.92 mm. Body shiny, brown, pronotum, base of the elytra and basal free tergite reddish-brown, antennae brown with the two basal antennomeres yellow, legs yellow. Eyes as long as the post-ocular region in dorsal view. Second antennomere shorter than the first, third shorter than the second, fourth to ninth transverse. Reticulation of the head strong, but weak on front. Reticulation of the pronotum distinct, that of the elytra distinct and that of the abdomen strong, undulated and very transverse. Puncturation of the head dense and very weak. Granulation of the pronotum dense and clearly visible, that of the elytra dense and weak, that of the abdomen fairly dense. Spermatheca: Figure 20.

Comparative notes

The spermatheca of the new species is similar in shape to that of *A. alboguttata* Bernhauer, 1915 from Tanzania, of which I have examined the type series (in FMNHC). The proximal portion of the spermatheca of the new species is, however, less developed and is in tightly coiled, whereas in *A. alboguttata* the proximal portion of the spermatheca is more loosely coiled. The apical umbilicus of the distal bulb of the spermatheca is cylindrical and conical at the apex, whereas it is entirely conical in *A. alboguttata*. The posterior half of the brown elytra of *A. alboguttata* is yellow, in the new species the elytra are brown with reddish-brown base.

Tribe **Lomechusini**

***Drusilla gabonensis* n. sp.**

(Figures 21 and 22)

Holotype ♀, Gabon, Reserve de La Lopé, 14.XII.1995, leg. L. Bartolozzi and S. Taiti, num. mag. 1784, n. coll. 14818, MSNF.

Description

Length 4.49 mm. Body shiny, brown, pygidium reddish, antennae brown with the three basal antennomeres yellowish-red, legs reddish with anterior femora brown, middle and posterior femora with apical half brown and basal half yellow. Eyes shorter than the post-ocular region in dorsal view. Second antennomere shorter than the first, third longer than the second, fourth to seventh longer than wide, eighth to tenth as long as wide.

Reticulation of the head weak, that of the pronotum very weak, present only in the bottom of the coarse punctures, that of the elytra weak and absent on the abdomen. Puncturation of the head strong and very dense, that of the pronotum coarse, that of the elytra very strong and very dense. Granulation of the abdomen weak and sparse. Pronotum with a sharp carina on each side extending from the anterior to the posterior angles, and an anterior median impression and posterior median concavity. Spermatheca: Figure 22.

Comparative notes

The new species is clearly distinct from *D. fissata* (Bernhauer, 1915) from Tanzania, of which I have examined 1 ♂ and 2 ♀♀ of the type series labelled 'Africa Or., Katona, Moschi, Fl. Rau, *Astilbus fissatus* Brnh.' and 'Pangani, 1905, Katona' (MTMB). The pronotum of the new species is a little wider than long, whereas that of *D. fissata* is evidently transverse. The spermatheca of the new species has the distal bulb almost conical with a short apical umbilicus, whereas in *D. fissata* the apical umbilicus of the distal bulb of the spermatheca is deep and the bulb oval.

***Neosmectonia gabonensis* n. sp.**

(Figures 23–27)

Holotype ♂, Gabon, Forêt de la Mondah, 0°36'26"N, 9°19'03"E, 10 m a.s.l., Cap Esterias, about 20 km N of Libreville, 6-16.XII.1995, leg. L. Bartolozzi and S. Taiti, num. mag. 1784, n. coll. 14814.

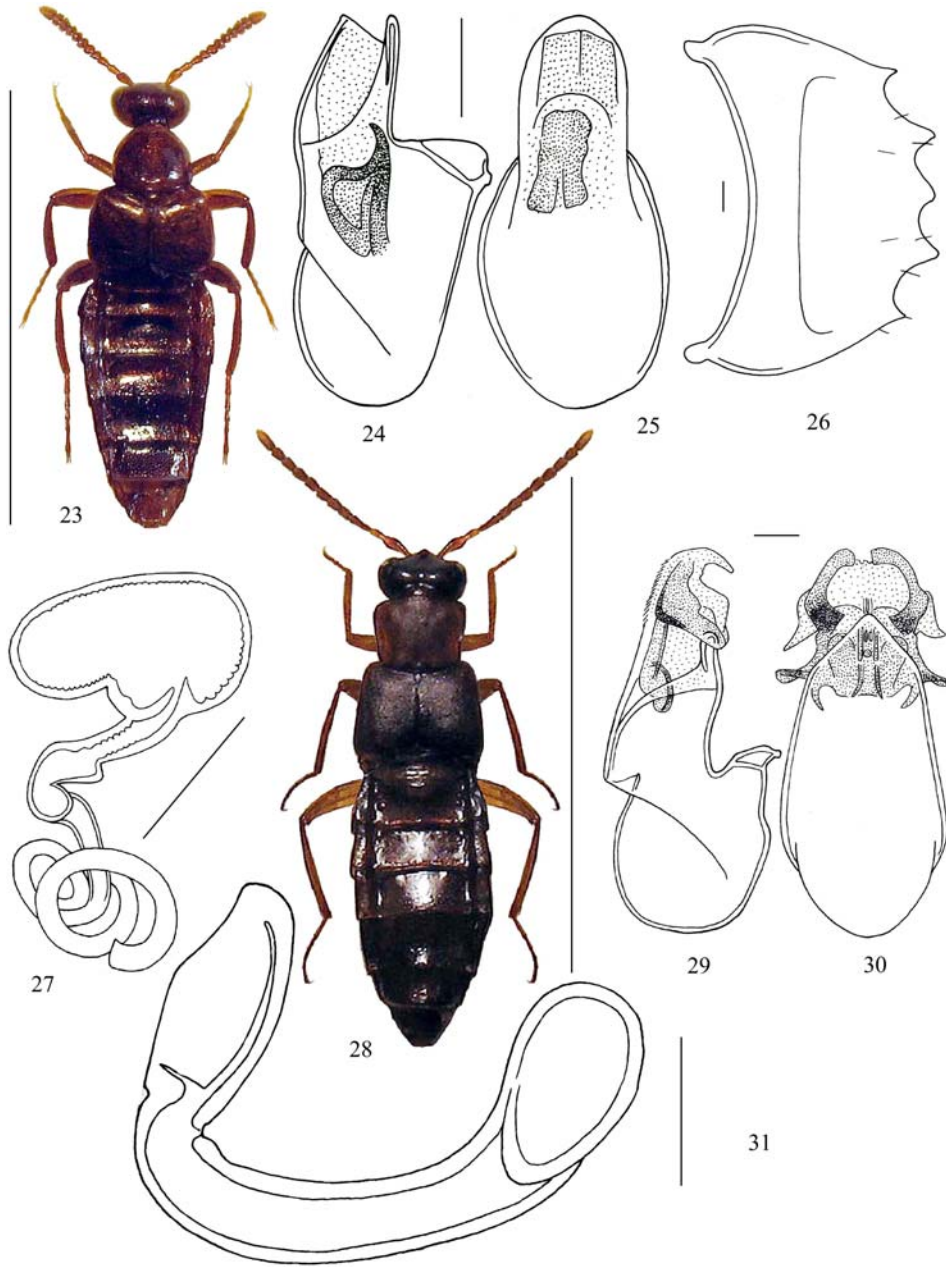
Paratype: 1 ♀, same data, n. coll. 14815, MSNF.

Description

Length 2.9 mm. Body shiny, reddish, including antennae and legs. Eyes as long as the post-ocular region in dorsal view. Second antennomere shorter than the first, third longer than the second, fourth to ninth transverse and oval. Body devoid of reticulation except on the pronotum on which is very weak. Puncturation of the head dense and weak, absent on the longitudinal median band of the head and near the eyes, that of the pronotum dense and weak, grouped to the sides of the impunctate longitudinal median band, with some very weak and very fine punctures on the sides. Granulation of the elytra very fine and very weak, absent on the abdomen. Pronotum with a weak posterior median impression. Aedeagus: Figures 24 and 25; male sixth free tergite: Figure 26; spermatheca: Figure 27.

Comparative notes

The new species is attributable to the genus *Neosmectonia* Jacobson and Kistner, 1983, and is distinguished from *N. angusticollis* (Eppelsheim, 1885) from the Gold Coast, by the short antennae, with transverse intermediary antennomeres, whereas these are elongate in *N. angusticollis*. The aedeagus of the new species has a well-developed 'crista apicalis', which is absent in the aedeagus of *N. angusticollis*. The present comparison is based on the revision, including an illustration of the aedeagus of *N. angusticollis*, given by Jacobson and Kistner, 1983.



Figures 23–31. Habitus, aedeagus in lateral and ventral views, male sixth free tergite and spermatheca. 23–27: *Neosmectonia gabonensis* n. sp.; 28–31: *Zyras (Camonia) librevillensis* n. sp. Scale bars: 23, 2.9 mm; 28, 6.8 mm. Other scale bars: 0.1 mm.

***Zyras (Camonia) librevillensis* n. sp.**

(Figures 28–31)

Holotype ♂, Gabon, Forêt de la Mondah, 0°36'26"N, 9°19'03"E, 10 m a.s.l., Cap Esterias, about 20 km N of Libreville, 6-16.XII.1995, at light, leg. L. Bartolozzi and S. Taiti, num. mag. 1784, n. coll. 14827, MSNF.

Paratypes: 1 ♂ and 1 ♀, same data, n. coll. 14828, MSNF.

Description

Length 6.8–7.5 mm. Fore-body slightly opaque, abdomen shiny. Body brown, head and fourth and fifth free abdominal tergites blackish-brown, pronotum reddish, antennae reddish-brown with basal, second, and apex of the eleventh antennomeres yellowish-red, legs brown with base of the middle and posterior femora and anterior femora yellowish-red. Eyes longer than the post-ocular region in dorsal view. Second antennomere shorter than the first, third longer than the second, fourth to ninth longer than wide and slightly compressed. Reticulation of the fore-body strong, that of the abdomen distinct. Puncturation of the fore-body of the male dense and very weak, distinct in the female. Disc of the head concave in male, convex in female. The head bears a protruding tubercle between the antennae in both sexes. Pronotum with a shallow impression on each side of the pronotum. The male has a shallow median impression posteriorly, this impression extending to the anterior margin in the female. Fifth free tergite of the male with small protruding tubercles, which are absent in the female. Aedeagus: Figures 29 and 30; spermatheca: Figure 31.

Comparative notes

In the slightly opaque fore-body and strongly arched spermatheca the new species is comparable to *Z. kilifensis* Pace, 1996 from Kenya. It differs in the distal bulb of the spermatheca being compressed and longer than that of *Z. kilifensis* and in the greater length of the spermatheca, 0.37 mm, whereas in *Z. kilifensis* it measures 0.25 mm. The proximal portion of the spermatheca of the new species is short, that of *Z. kilifensis* forms an almost complete coil. The male of *Z. kilifensis* is not known.

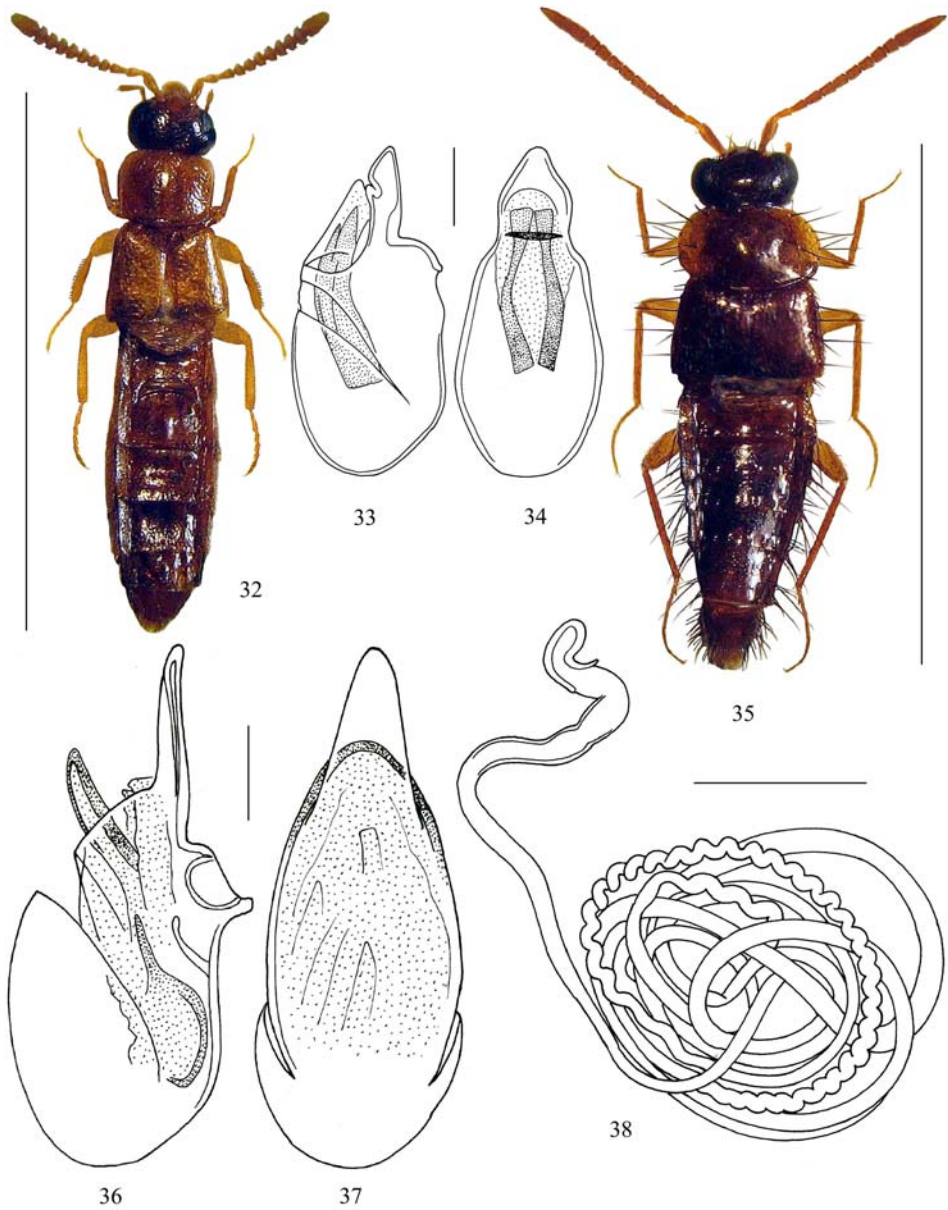
***Porus gabonensis* n. sp.**

(Figures 32–34)

Holotype ♂, Gabon, Forêt de la Mondah, 0°36'26"N, 9°19'03"E, 10 m a.s.l., Cap Esterias, about 20 km N of Libreville, 6-16.XII.1995, at light, leg. L. Bartolozzi and S. Taiti, num. mag. 1784, n. coll. 14822, MSNF.

Description

Length 4.2 mm. Body yellowish-red, head brown, antennae and legs yellowish-red. Eyes longer than the post-ocular region in dorsal view. Second antennomere shorter than the first, third as long as the second, fourth to tenth strongly transverse. Body devoid of reticulation except on the elytra, on which it is weak. Puncturation of the head distinct and dense, absent on the longitudinal median band, that of the pronotum irregularly



Figures 32–38. Habitus, aedeagus in lateral and ventral views and spermatheca. 32–34: *Porus gabonensis* n. sp.; 35–38: *Myrmechusa gabonensis* n. sp. Scale bars: 32: 4.2 mm; 35: 5.1 mm. Other scale bars: 0.1 mm.

distributed, absent on the longitudinal median band, that of the elytra weak and dense. Granulation of the abdomen weak. First free tergite of the male with a thorn on either side of the posterior border, second free tergite of the male with a protruding median carina, fifth free tergite of the male with a protruding median carina that does not reach the posterior margin of the tergite. Aedeagus: Figures 33 and 34.

Comparative notes

The habitus and male secondary sexual characters of this new species are similar to those of *P. bissauensis* Pace, 1988 from Guinea-Bissau. The head of the new species is brown, whereas that of *P. bissauensis* is yellowish-red. The aedeagus of the new species has an enormous basal bulb and no 'crista apicalis', whereas the aedeagus of *P. bissauensis* has a narrow basal bulb and a strongly developed 'crista apicalis'.

***Myrmechusa gabonensis* n. sp.**

(Figures 35–38)

Holotype ♂, Gabon, Forêt de la Mondah, 0°36'26"N, 9°19'03"E, 10 m a.s.l., Cap Esterias, about 20 km N of Libreville, 6-16.XII.1995, at light, leg. L. Bartolozzi and S. Taiti, num. mag. 1784, n. coll. 14813, MSNF.

Paratypes: 2 ♀♀, same data, n. coll. 14814 and n. coll. 14815, MSNF.

Description

Length 5 mm. Body shiny, reddish, head reddish-brown, sides of the pronotum yellowish-red, antennae reddish, legs reddish with femora yellowish-red, with long black bristles. Eyes longer than the post-ocular region in dorsal view. Second antennomere shorter than the first, third as long as the second, fourth to ninth longer than wide and not compressed, tenth as long as wide, eleventh as long as the four preceding together. Body lacking reticulation. Head with some setigerous pores lined up near the eyes and in the occipital region. Punctuation of the pronotum fine and fairly dense. Granulation of the elytra fine. The three basal free tergites almost impunctate, the fourth and fifth with strong and dense punctuation. Sides of the body with long and rigid bristles (Figure 35). Aedeagus: Figures 36 and 37; spermatheca: Figure 38.

Comparative notes

Based on the paper on the genus *Myrmechusa* Wasmann, 1908 by Hláváč (2003), the new species is distinct from *M. selindensis* Hláváč, 2003 from Zimbabwe, in having the shorter antennae, but with eleventh antennomere as long as the four preceding antennomeres together, whereas in *M. selindensis* the eleventh antennomere is about as long as the two preceding antennomeres together. The aedeagus of the new species has a semi-elliptic dorsal pre-apical structure which is absent in the aedeagus of *M. selindensis*.

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