

## Contribution to the knowledge of *Attagenus* species from Eastern and Southern Africa (Coleoptera: Dermestidae: Attageninae)

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**Taxonomy, new species, new status, new records, Coleoptera, Dermestidae, Attageninae, *Attagenus*, Afrotropical Region**

**Abstract.** The following six species, *Attagenus papillon* sp. nov. (Kenya), *Attagenus romani* sp. nov. (South Africa), *Attagenus samei* sp. nov. (Tanzania), *Attagenus ntchisii* sp. nov. (Malawi), *Attagenus balakaensis* sp. nov. (Malawi) and *Attagenus boroveci* sp. nov. (South Africa), are described, illustrated and compared with similar species. The new species are characterised by the colour, body form, structure of antennae and male genitalia. The species *Attagenus lategriseus* Kalík, 1955 is newly recorded from Rwanda and Uganda, the species *Attagenus grandjeani* Pic, 1942 is newly recorded from South Africa: North Province, Kwazulu Natal. The species *Attagenus angustegriseus* Kalík, 1955 stat. nov. is removed from synonymy and stated as an independent species.

### INTRODUCTION

The family Dermestidae currently consists of 62 genera, containing ca. 1500 species worldwide (Háva 2015). The genus *Attagenus* Latreille, 1802 is one of the most numerous genera within the Dermestidae family and currently includes more than 200 species, most of them found in Palaearctic, Ethiopian or Nearctic Regions (Háva 2015). The genus includes the species defined by the following combination of features: first segment of hind tarsi almost half as long as the second, free mouthparts, three-jointed antennal club and lack of distinct antennal cavity on the hypomeron. The most characteristic feature of the larvae is an extremely long caudal brush and elongate, cylindrical, strongly sclerotized body (Peacock 1993; Kadej & Háva 2014). The genus *Attagenus* is currently split into two subgenera *Aethriostoma* Motschulsky, 1858 (with six known species), and *Attagenus* s. str. (with nearly 200 species). Since 2005 few new species of *Attagenus* have been described from the Afrotropical Region (Háva 2005; Kalík & Háva 2005; Kadej 2006; Herrmann & Háva 2007; Háva 2008; Háva & Kadej 2008; Herrmann & Háva 2014, Herrmann, Kadej & Háva 2015). The present article brings a description of six new species recently collected in Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi and South Africa and belonging to the nominotypical subgenus *Attagenus* (s. str.).

### MATERIAL AND METHODS

All photos were made with a camera Olympus SZX16.

The following measurements were made:

Total length (TL) - linear distance from anterior margin of pronotum to apex of elytra.

Elytral width (EW) - maximum linear transverse distance.

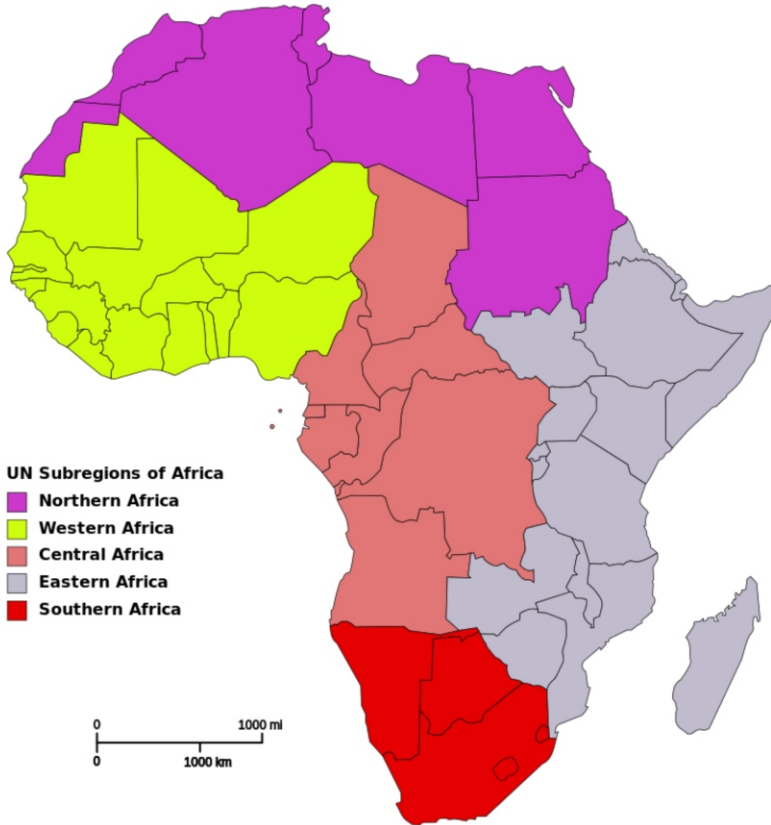
Abbreviation:

JHAC Jiří Háva, Private Entomological Laboratory & Collection, Únětice u Prahy, Prague-west, Czech Republic;

MRAC Musée Royal de l'Afrique Central, Tervuren, Belgium.

The Map of African Subregions is used according to the UNO:

[https://cs.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C4%8Clen%C4%9Bn%C3%AD\\_Afrikya?oldid=12172992](https://cs.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C4%8Clen%C4%9Bn%C3%AD_Afrikya?oldid=12172992)



## RESULTS

### *Attagenus lategriseus* Kalik, 1955

**Material examined.** „Uganda, Ile Buvuma (L. Vict.) Gaya-bay, iii.1968, E. Verriest“, 1 male, J. Háva det., (JHAC); „[Rwanda] Ruanda, Gatsibu, 15.x.1932, L. Burgeon“, 1 male, J. Háva det., (JHAC).

**Distribution.** Species known from Burundi, Congo (Háva 2015), new to Uganda and Rwanda. Háva (2015) mentioned the species from Kenya, but according to a revision of the material, the specimens belong to *A. hargreavesi* Pic, 1935.

### *Attagenus grandjeani* Pic, 1942

**Material examined.** S Africa, North Prov., Waterberg, 24°.22'S 27°.33'E, Geelhoutbosh farm, 15-18.11.1997, S. Bily lgt., 10 spec., J. Háva det., (JHAC); RSA, Kwazulu Natal NE, Jozini, Tembe Elephant Park env., (W border), 30.11.2002,

M. Snížek lgt., 2 spec., J. Háva det., (JHAC); RSA, Kwazulu Natal NEE, S of Emangusi, 5.12.2002, M. Snížek lgt., J. Háva det., (JHAC).

**Distribution.** Species known from Mozambique; South Africa: Transvaal (Háva 2015), new to South Africa: North Province and Kwazulu Natal.

### ***Attagenus papillon* sp. nov.**

(Figs. 1-3)

**Type material.** Holotype (♂): „Kenya, Ukunda, 20 km S of Mombasa, coast, hotel Papillon, 28-30.12.2010, Jiří Háva lgt.“, (JHAC). Paratypes (1 ♂, 1 ♀): same data, (JHAC). Type specimens provided with red label: “HOLOTYPE [or PARATYPE] *Attagenus papillon* sp. nov. Jiří Háva det. 2015”.

**Description.** Male. Body: TL 2.9-3.2 mm, EW 1.5-1.7 mm; elongate and oval (Fig. 1), slightly convex; dorsally and ventrally unicolorous dark brown, shiny; dorsum covered with short and recumbent, brown setation; thoracic underside with comparatively short and recumbent, yellow setation; visible abdominal ventrites with recumbent, yellow setation, sparser than that on thoracic surface. Head finely punctate. Palpi brown. Frontal median ocellus present. Antennae brown with short, yellow setation, consisting of 11 antennomeres, antennal club compact, black with 3 antennomeres (Fig. 2). Pronotum finely punctate on the disc, coarsely punctate on lateral margins. Hypomeron very shine, without punctures. Scutellum small and triangular, shining, with rounded apex, without setation. Elytra unicolorous, without patterns or fasciae, coarsely punctate on humeri and with one small humeral bump, other parts finely punctate. Epipleuron brown, very short, with short brown setae. Prosternum without “collar”, mouthparts free. Prosternal process very short and narrow. Meta- and mesosternum finely punctate discally, laterally coarsely punctate, with yellow, recumbent setation. Abdomen brown, with five visible abdominal ventrites, each ventrite laterally with small depressions, covered by recumbent, yellow setation. Legs brown, covered with comparatively short and thick, yellow setation. Tarsi moderately long. Male genitalia as in Fig. 3.

**Female.** Externally similar to male, but differs by the structure of the antennal club. Terminal antennomere is as small as in male.

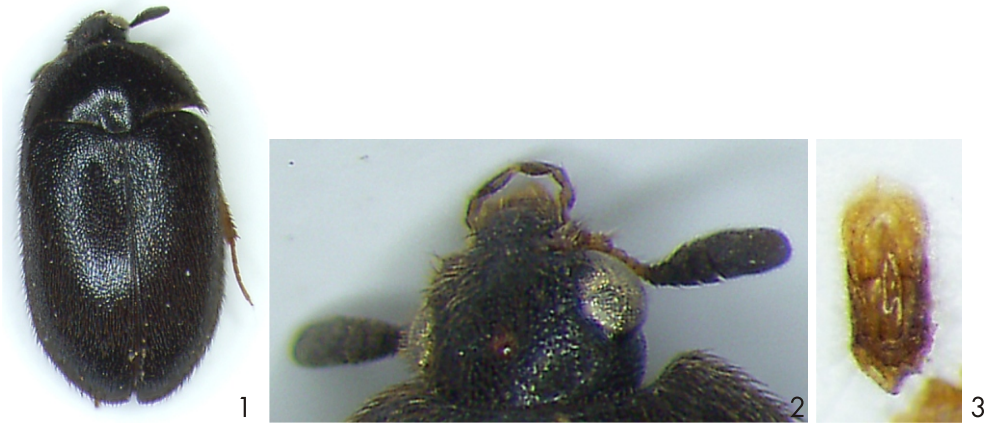
**Differential diagnosis.** The new species is visually similar to *Attagenus atricolor* Pic, 1931 and *A. nigripennis* Arrow, 1915, but differs from them by the following characters.

*Attagenus nigripennis* Arrow, 1915: dorsal and ventral surfaces black; terminal antennomere short and slightly circular; pronotum covered by golden-yellow setation posteriorly, brownish setation discally; prosternal process narrow and long; abdominal ventrites covered by golden-yellow setation (Congo, Ghana, Ivory Coast).

*Attagenus atricolor* Pic, 1931: dorsal and ventral surfaces black; terminal antennomere short and slightly oval; pronotum covered by black setation; prosternal process narrow and short; abdominal ventrites covered by yellow setation (Botswana, Congo, Malawi, Tanzania).

*Attagenus papillon* sp. nov.: dorsal and ventral surfaces dark brown; terminal antennomere long and narrower; pronotum covered by brown setation; prosternal process narrow and short; abdominal ventrites covered by yellow setation (Kenya).

**Etymology.** Toponymic, named after the type locality, hotel Papillon, Ukunda.



Figs. 1-3. *Attagenus papillon* sp. nov.: 1-habitus, dorsal aspect; 2-antenna of male; 3- male genitalia.



Fig. 4. Locality of *Attagenus papillon* sp. nov., Kenya, Ukunda, hotel Papillon, 20 km S of Mombasa (photo by J. Háva).

**Distribution.** Kenya.

### ***Attagenus boroveci* sp. nov.**

(Figs. 5-7)

**Type material.** Holotype (♂): "RSA, Western Cape, 850 m, Aurora Mts., beating fynbos, 32°43.784'S 18°34.589'E, 9.ix.2013, R. Borovec leg.", (JHAC). Paratypes (3 ♀♀): the same data, (JHAC). Type specimens provided with red label: "HOLOTYPE [or PARATYPE] *Attagenus boroveci* sp. nov. Jiří Háva det. 2015".

**Description.** Male. Body: TL 2.7-3.0 mm, EW 1.6-1.7 mm; elongate and oval (Fig. 5), slightly

convex; dorsally and ventrally unicolorous black, dorsum covered with black and white, recumbent setation; thoracic underside with comparatively recumbent, black setation; visible abdominal ventrites with recumbent, black setation, sparser than that on thoracic surface. Head finely punctate. Maxillary palpi black. Frontal median ocellus present. Antennae black with short, black setation, consisting of 11 antennomeres, antennal club compact, with 3 antennomeres (Fig. 6). Pronotum finely punctate on the disc, coarsely punctate on lateral margins; black with black and white setation; white setation forming in antero-middle white transverse fascia divided into spots and posteriorly with four isolated spots. Scutellum small and triangular, shining, with rounded apex, without setation. Elytra black with black and white setation, coarsely punctate on humeri and with one small humeral bump, other parts finely punctate. White setation forming on each elytron one short fascia near scutellum, two divided transverse fasciae and small apical isolated spot. Epipleuron black, very short, with short black setae. Prosternum without "collar", mouthparts free. Prosternal process long and narrow. Meta- and mesosternum finely punctate discally, laterally coarsely punctate, with black, recumbent setation. Abdomen black, with five visible abdominal ventrites, each ventrite laterally with small depressions, covered by recumbent, black setation. Legs brown, covered with comparatively short and thick, black setation. Tarsi brown, moderately long. Male genitalia (Fig. 7).

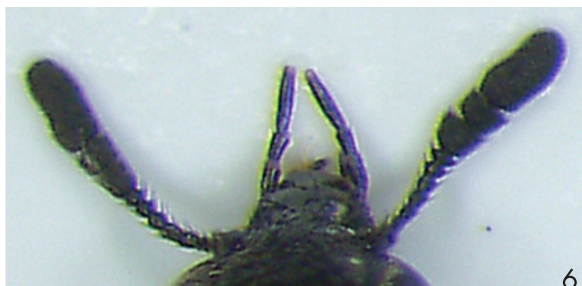
**Female.** Externally similar to male, but differs by the structure of antennal club.

**Differential diagnosis.** The new species belongs to the *A. capensis* species complex (Herrmann et al. 2015) but differs from all known species by the characteristic elytral pattern, structure of antennae and male genitalia; externally similar to *A. muelleri* Herrmann, Kadej et Háva, 2015 (Figs. 13-16) but differs from it by the narrower body form, unicolorous black elytral cuticle and structure of antennal club and male genitalia; from *A. pseudocapensis* Herrmann, Kadej et Háva, 2015 (Figs. 1-14) it differs by the narrow body form and structure of antennal club and male genitalia.

**Etymology.** Patronymic, dedicated to my friend Roman Bovec (Sloupno, Czech Republic), specialist in Curculionidae (Coleoptera).



5



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7

Figs. 5-7. *Attagenus boroveci* sp. nov.: 5-habitus, dorsal aspect; 6-antenna of male; 7-male genitalia.





8

Fig. 8. Locality of *Attagenus boroveci* sp. nov., RSA, Western Cape, Aurora Mts. (photo by R. Borovec).

**Distribution.** RSA: Western Cape.

### ***Attagenus romani* sp. nov.**

(Figs. 9-12)

**Type material.** Holotype (♀): „RSA, Northern Cape, 770 m, East of Goodhouse, 28°59.590'S 18°41.642'E, 15.ix.2013", R. Borovec lgt., (JHAC). Holotype specimen provided with red label: "HOLOTYPE *Attagenus romani* sp. nov. Jiří Háva det. 2015".

**Description.** Female. Body: TL 3.8 mm, EW 2.1 mm; elongate and oval (Figs. 9, 10, 12), slightly convex; dorsally and ventrally unicolorous dark black, shiny; dorsum covered with long and erect, brown and golden-orange setation; thoracic underside with comparatively long and recumbent, yellow setation; visible abdominal ventrites with recumbent, yellow setation, sparser than that on thoracic surface. Head finely punctate. Palpi black. Frontal median ocellus present. Antennae black with very long, black setation, consisting of 11 antennomeres, antennal club compact, black with 3 antennomeres (Fig. 13). Pronotum finely punctate on the disc, coarsely punctate on lateral margins, covered by golden-orange setation (Fig. 12). Hypomerion very shiny, without punctures. Scutellum small and triangular, shiny, with rounded apex, without setation. Elytra coarsely punctate on humeri and with one small humeral bump, other parts finely punctate; covered by black setation and golden-orange setation forming three transverse fasciae and apical, isolated spot (Figs. 9-10). Epipleuron brown, very short, with short golden-orange setae. Prosternum without "collar", mouthparts free. Prosternal process very short and narrow. Meta- and mesosternum finely punctate discally, laterally coarsely punctate, with yellow, recumbent setation. Abdomen brown, with five visible abdominal ventrites, each ventrite laterally with small depressions, covered by recumbent, yellow setation. Legs dark brown, covered with comparatively short and thick, grey setation and with short, brown thorns. Tarsi moderately short.

**Male.** Unknown.

**Differential diagnosis.** The new species similar to *A. fulvicollis* Reitter, 1881, but differs from it by the following characters; from *A. grandjeani* Pic, 1942 it differs by the golden-yellow setation, black antennae, terminal atennomere long and triangular (in *grandjeni* brown, short and circular).

*Attagenus fulvicollis* Reitter, 1881: pronotum covered by yellow setation with small black patterns of black setation; each elytron with two transverse, narrow, yellow fasciae (posterior fasciae not reaching suture); antennae dark brown.

*Attagenus romani* sp. nov.: pronotum covered by golden-orange setation; each elytron with three transverse golden-orange fasciae and apical, isolated spot; antennae black.

**Etymology.** Patronymic, dedicated to my friend Roman Borovec (Sloupno, Czech Republic), after his first name, specialist in Curculionidae (Coleoptera).



Figs. 9-12. *Attagenus romani* sp. nov.: 9- habitus, dorsal aspect; 10- habitus, lateral aspect; 11- antenna of female; 12- head and pronotum.



Fig. 13. Locality of *Attagenus romani* sp. nov., RSA, Northern Cape, East of Goodhouse (photo by R. Borovec).

**Distribution.** RSA: Northern Cape.

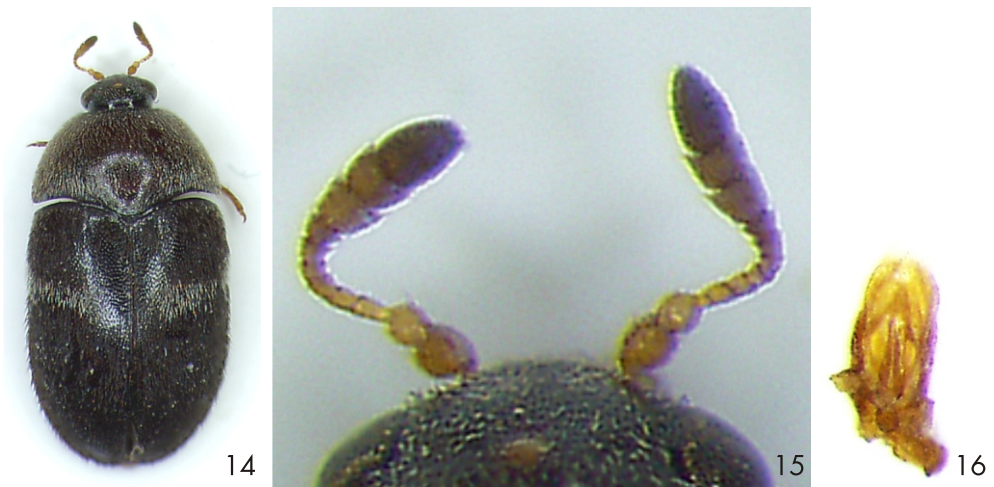
***Attagenus samei* sp. nov.**

(Figs. 14-16)

**Type material.** Holotype (♂): „Tanzania, Same, 12-17.05.1999, A. Kudrna Jr. leg.“, (JHAC). Paratype (1 ♀): same data, (JHAC). Type specimens provided with red label: “HOLOTYPE [or PARATYPE] *Attagenus samei* sp. nov. Jiří Háva det. 2015”.

**Description.** Male. Body: TL 3.2 mm, EW 1.8 mm; elongate and oval (Fig. 14), slightly convex; dorsally and ventrally unicolorous brown, shiny; dorsum covered with dark, long and erect, brown and grey setation; thoracic underside with comparatively long and recumbent, brown setation; visible abdominal ventrites with recumbent, grey setation, sparser than that on thoracic surface. Head finely punctate. Palpi brown. Frontal median ocellus present. Antennae brown except terminal dark antennomere, with very long, yellow setation, composed of 11 antennomeres, antennal club compact, with 3 antennomeres (Fig. 15). Pronotum finely punctate on the disc, coarsely punctate on lateral margins, covered by grey setation. Hypomeron very shiny without punctures. Scutellum small and triangular, shiny, with rounded apex, without setation. Elytra coarsely punctate on humeri and with one small humeral bump, other parts finely punctate, covered by brown setation and one transverse fascia from grey setation (Fig. 14). Epipleuron brown, very short, with short grey setae. Prosternum without “collar”, mouthparts free. Prosternal process very short and narrow. Meta- and mesosternum finely punctate discally, laterally coarsely punctate, with grey, recumbent setation. Abdomen brown, with five visible abdominal ventrites, each ventrite laterally with small depressions, covered by recumbent, grey setation. Legs dark brown, covered with comparatively short and thick, grey setation and with short, brown thorns. Tarsi moderately short. Aedeagus (Fig. 16).

**Female.** Externally similar to male, but differs by the structure of the antennal club; terminal antennomere small.



Figs. 14-16. *Attagenus samei* sp. nov.: 14-habitus, dorsal aspect; 15-antenna of male; 16-male genitalia.



**Differential diagnosis.** The new species is similar to *Attagenus conradi* Pic, 1951, but differs from it by the following characters:

*Attagenus conradi* Pic, 1951: cuticle dark brownish-black; pronotum and elytra covered by yellow and black setation; anterior elytral fascia divided into spots; antennae brown with dark three antennomered antennal club.

*Attagenus samei* sp. nov.: cuticle brown; pronotum and elytra covered by grey and brown setation; anterior elytral fascia not divided into spots; antennae brown except terminal dark antennomere.

**Etymology.** Toponymic, named after the type locality, Same (Tanzania).

**Distribution.** Tanzania.

***Attagenus angustegriseus* Kalik, 1955 stat. nov.**

(Fig. 17)

*Attagenus hargreavesi* var. *angustegriseus* Kalik, 1955: 303.

*Attagenus hargreavesi*: Háva 2003: 62.

**Type material.** Holotype (♂): „B.C.-Rutshuru, iii.1957, J. Ghesquiere” / „Holotypus *Attagenus hargreavesi* var. *angustegriseus* n., V. Kalík det. 1955”, (MRAC). Allotype (♀): the same data as holotype / „Allotypus *Attagenus hargreavesi* var. *angustegriseus* n., V. Kalík det. 1955” (MRAC).

**Remarks.** According to study of type material the species is newly stated as an independent species and removed from synonymy with *Attagenus hargreavesi* Pic, 1935 (see Háva 2003: 62).



17

Fig. 17. *Attagenus angustegriseus* Kalik, 1955 (paratype), habitus, dorsal aspect (photo by A. Herrmann).

**Distribution.** Species known from Burundi and Congo.

***Attagenus ntchisii* sp. nov.**

(Figs. 18-20)

**Type material.** Holotype (♂): „Central Africa, Malawi, Ntchisi, 25-29.3.2000, F. Pavel lgt.“, (JHAC). Holotype specimen provided with red label: “HOLOTYPE *Attagenus ntchisii* sp. nov. Jiří Háva det. 2015”.

**Description.** Male. Body: TL 3.4 mm, EW 1.9 mm; elongate and oval (Fig. 18), slightly convex; dorsally and ventrally unicolorous black, matt; dorsum covered with long and erect, black and yellow setation; thoracic underside with comparatively long and recumbent, yellow setation; visible abdominal ventrites with recumbent, yellow setation, sparser than that on thoracic surface. Head finely punctate. Palpi dark brown. Frontal median ocellus present. Antennal club black, other antennomeres dark brown with very long, black setation, composed of 11 antennomeres, antennal club compact with 3 antennomeres (Fig. 19). Pronotum finely punctate on the disc, coarsely punctate on lateral margins; covered by yellow setation, black setation forming spots (Fig. 18). Hypomeron very matt without punctures. Scutellum small and triangular, matt, with rounded apex, without setation. Elytra coarsely punctate on humeri and with one small humeral bump, other parts finely punctate; covered by black setation with one transverse, narrow fascia of yellow setation (Fig. 18). Epipleuron black, very short, with short yellow setae. Prosternum without “collar”, mouthparts free. Prosternal process very short and narrow. Meta- and mesosternum finely punctate discally, laterally coarsely punctate, with yellow, recumbent setation. Abdomen black, with five visible abdominal ventrites, each ventrite laterally with small depressions, covered by recumbent, yellow setation. Legs dark brown, covered with comparatively short and thick, yellow setation and with short, brown thorns. Tarsi moderately short. Aedeagus (Fig. 20).

**Female.** Unknown.



Figs. 18-20. *Attagenus ntchisii* sp. nov.: 18-habitus, dorsal aspect; 19-antenna of male; 20-male genitalia.

**Differential diagnosis.** The new species visually similar to *A. angustegriseus* Kalík, 1955, but differs by the following characters:

*A. angustegriseus* Kalík, 1955: antennal club black, other antennomeres dark brown, terminal antennomere long and broad; maxillary palpi black; elytral transverse fascia broad,

compact, reaching scutellum along suture.

*Attagenus ntchisii* sp. nov.: antennal club black, other antennomeres dark brown, terminal antennomere small, short and circular; maxillary palpi brown; elytral transverse fascia narrow, not reaching scutellum.

**Etymology.** Toponymic, named after the type locality, Ntchisi (Malawi).

**Distribution.** Malawi.

### ***Attagenus balakaensis* sp. nov.**

(Figs. 21-23)

**Type material.** Holotype (♂): „Malawi S, Balaka env., 19-20.xii.2001, J. Bezděk lgt.“, (JHAC). Holotype specimen is provided with red label: “HOLOTYPE *Attagenus balakaensis* sp. nov. Jiří Háva det. 2015”.

**Description.** Male. Body: TL 2.5 mm, EW 1.5 mm; elongate and oval (Fig. 21), slightly convex; dorsally and ventrally unicolorous dark brown, shiny; dorsum covered with long and erect, brown and yellow setation; thoracic underside with comparatively long and recumbent, yellow setation; visible abdominal ventrites with recumbent, yellow setation, sparser than that on thoracic surface. Head finely punctate. Palpi dark brown. Frontal median ocellus present. Antennae brown with very long, white setation, composed of 11 antennomeres, antennal club compact with 3 antennomeres, terminal antennomere shortly triangular (Fig. 22). Pronotum finely punctate on the disc, coarsely punctate on lateral margins; covered by yellow setation. Hypomeron very shiny, without punctures. Scutellum small and triangular, shiny, with rounded apex, without setation. Elytra coarsely punctate on humeri and with one small humeral bump, other parts finely punctate; anterior part with yellow setation other parts covered by brown setation. Epipleuron brown, very short, with short brown setae. Prosternum without “collar”, mouthparts free. Prosternal process short and broad. Meta- and mesosternum finely punctate discally, laterally coarsely punctate, with yellow, recumbent setation. Abdomen brown, with five visible abdominal ventrites, each ventrite laterally with small depressions, covered by recumbent, yellow setation. Legs brown, covered with comparatively short and thick, yellow setation. Tarsi moderately long. Aedeagus (Fig. 23).

**Female.** Unknown.

**Differential diagnosis.** The new species is visually similar to *A. hargeavesi* Pic, 1935 but differs from it by the following characters; from the species *A. lategriseus* Kalík, 1955, it differs by the structure of male genitalia and small body.

*Attagenus hargeavesi* Pic, 1935: maxillary palpi light brown; terminal antennomere longly triangular; prosternal process very long, narrow.

*Attagenus balakaensis* sp. nov.: maxillary palpi dark brown; terminal antennomere shortly triangular; prosternal process short, broad.

**Etymology.** Toponymic, named after the type locality, Balaka (Malawi).

**Distribution.** Malawi.



Figs. 21-23. *Attagenus balakaensis* sp. nov.: 21-habitus, dorsal aspect; 22-antenna of male; 23- male genitalia.

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