

Three new Philonthini species from Ethiopia (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Philonthini)

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Abstract. Three new Philonthini species from Ethiopia are described as follows: *Gabrius aviceda* sp. nov., *Gabrius bugeranus* sp. nov. and *Philonthus circaetus* sp. nov. The male genitalia of all the species are illustrated.

INTRODUCTION

My friend Michael Schülke (Berlin), submitted to me several Staphylinidae specimens from his collection from Ethiopia for determination. Among this material I have found three new species: *Gabrius aviceda* sp. nov. which, based on external characters and morphology of genitalia, cannot be at present included into any known species group, *Gabrius bugeranus* sp. nov. belonging to the *Gabrius corydoni* species group characterized in Hromádka (2014), and *Philonthus circaetus* sp. nov. belonging to the *Philonthus discoideus-xanthoraphis* species group characterized in Tottenham (1962) and Hromádka (2012). Each new species described below is provided with a red printed label.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The specimens studied are deposited in the following private collections:

LHPC Lubomír Hromádka, private collection, Praha, Czech Republic:

MSBC Michael Schülke, private collection, Berlin, Germany.

A double slash (//) is used to divide separate labels of type specimens. All measurements were taken in beetles with extended abdomen. Ratios mentioned in the descriptions can be converted to lengths by using the following formula: 20 units = 1 mm.

The morphological studies were conducted by using the SMZ 168 TL Zoom (Italy) stereoscopic microscope.

DESCRIPTIONS

***Gabrius aviceda* sp. nov.**

(Figs. 1-3)

Type locality. Ethiopia, SNNPR, Bonga area, Adiyo Gimbo, Boka to Bongo, car net. 1777-2668 m.

Type material. Ethiopia (♂): SNNPR, Bonga area, Adiyo Gimbo, Boka to Bongo, car net 1777-2668, 07°17.711'N 36°22.555'E, 07°15.064'N 36°15.298'E. 7.xii.2014, Schöller. // Holotypus *Gabrius aviceda* sp. nov. Hromádka det., 2015, [red oblong label printed], (MSBC).

Description. Body length 4.0 mm, length of fore body 1.9 mm.

Colouration. Head black, pronotum, scutellum and abdomen black-brown, elytra brown,

shoulders slightly darker and epipleura dirty yellow, maxillary and labial palpi dark brown, antennomeres 1-2 yellow, remaining antennomeres black-brown, legs yellow.

Head quadrate, parallel-sided, posterior angles obtusely rounded, bearing one long black bristle. Clypeus with almost rounded shallow depression in the middle. Between eyes four coarse punctures, arranged in straight line, distance between medial punctures five times larger than distance between medial and lateral puncture. Eyes shorter than temples (ratio 5.5 : 7), temporal area with two coarse punctures in anterior half, several varying large setiferous punctures in posterior half. Surface without microsculpture.

Antennae long, reaching posterior sixth of pronotum when reclined. Antennomeres 1-3 and 11 distinctly longer than wide, antennomere 4 slightly longer than wide, antennomeres 5-6 as long as wide, antennomeres 7-10 slightly wider than long.

Pronotum slightly longer than wide (ratio 18 : 16), parallel-sided. Anterior angles obtusely and posterior angles markedly rounded. Each dorsal row with six punctures, punctures 2-6 coarse and equidistant, puncture 1 finer, distance between punctures 1-2 larger than between previous punctures. Each sublateral row with two punctures, puncture 2 distinctly shifted to the lateral margin. Surface without microsculpture.

Scutellum finely and sparsely punctured in the middle, sides impunctate. Diameter of punctures approximately as large as eye-facets, separated larger than one puncture diameter.

Elytra slightly wider than long (ratio 25 : 23), widened posteriad. Punctuation coarse and sparse, diameter of punctures much larger than that on scutellum, separated by one and half puncture diameters, mostly larger. Surface without microsculpture; setation brown-yellow.

Legs. Posterior legs by holotype missing.

Abdomen from visible tergite III slightly narrowed anteriorly and more distinctly narrowed posteriorly. First three visible tergites with two basal lines, elevated area between lines impunctate. Punctuation at base of all tergites finer and denser than that on elytra, becoming sparser towards posterior margin of each tergite. Surface without microsculpture; setation similar to that on elytra.

Differential diagnosis. *Gabrius aviceda* sp. nov., is quite similar to *G. obscuratus* Cameron, 1950, but differs from the latter by the shorter antennae and elytra, denser punctuation of abdomen and by the different shape of the aedeagus.

Etymology. The name of this species, a noun in apposition, is the Latin generic name of the African Cuckoo-Hawk *Aviceda cuculoides* (Swainson, 1837).

Distribution. Ethiopia.

***Gabrius bugeranus* sp. nov.**

(Figs. 4-6)

Type locality. Ethiopia, SNNPR, Bonga area, Adiyo Gimbo, Boka to Bongo, 1777-2668 m.

Type material. Holotype (♂): Ethiopia, SNNPR, Bonga area, Adiyo Gimbo, Boka to Bongo, car net, 1777-2668 m. 07°17.711'N 36°22.555'E, 07°15.054'N 36°15.298'E, 7.xii.2014, Schöller. // Holotypus *Gabrius bugeranus* sp. nov. Hromádka det., 2015, [red oblong label printed], (MSBC). Paratypes: (7 spec.): same data as holotype, (LHPC, MSBC).

Description. Body length 5.2 mm, length of fore body 2.5 mm.

Colouration. Head, scutellum and abdomen black, posterior margin of all tergites narrowly yellow-brown, pronotum black-brown. Maxillary and labial palpi, antennomere 1 and base of

antennomere 2 yellow-brown, femora and tarsi dirty yellow, tibiae slightly darker.

Head quadrate, slightly wider than long (ratio 17 : 16), posterior angles obtusely rounded, bearing two long black bristles. Between eyes four coarse punctures, medial punctures shifted anteriorly, distance between medial punctures six times larger than distance between medial and lateral puncture. Eyes shorter than temples (ratio 5 : 7.5), posterior margin with two punctures, temporal area with one coarse puncture in posterior half. Surface with very fine irregular microsculpture here and there.

Antennae long, reaching almost posterior margin of pronotum when reclined. Antennomeres 1-4 and 11 distinctly longer than wide, antennomere 5 slightly longer than wide, antennomeres 6-10 slightly wider than long.

Pronotum approximately as long as wide, parallel-sided. Anterior angles obtusely and posterior angles markedly rounded. Each dorsal row with 6 punctures, punctures 2-6 equidistant, distance between punctures 1 and 2 slightly larger than distance between previous punctures. Each sublateral row with two punctures, puncture two shifted to the lateral margin. Surface without microsculpture.

Scutellum very finely and sparsely punctured in the middle, sides impunctate, diameter of punctures as large as eye-facets, separated by two or three puncture diameters.

Elytra wider than long (ratio 27 : 25), widened posteriad. Punctuation coarse and sparse, diameter of punctures much larger than that on scutellum, separated by three or four puncture diameters. Surface without microsculpture; setation yellow-brown.

Legs. Metatibia shorter than metatarsus (ratio 11 : 14), metatarsomere 5 longer than metatarsomere 1, as long as metatarsomeres 2-3 combined.

Abdomen wide, from visible tergite III slightly narrowed posteriad. First three visible tergites with two basal lines, elevated area between lines with scattered fine punctures. Punctuation at base of all tergites much finer and denser than that on elytra, becoming sparser towards posterior margin of each tergite.

Differential diagnosis. *Gabrius bugeranus* sp. nov. may be distinguished from the similar *G. delosus* Tottenham, 1956 by its narrower head, longer elytra and different shape of the aedeagus.

Etymology. The name of this species, a noun in apposition, is the Latin generic name of the African Wattled crane *Bugeranus carunculatus* (Gmelin, 1789).

Distribution. Ethiopia.

***Philonthus circaetus* sp. nov.**

(Figs. 7-9)

Type locality. Ethiopia, SNNPR, Bonga area, Adiyo/Gimbo, Boka to Bonga, 1777-2668 m,

Type material. Holotype (♂) Ethiopia, SNNPR, Bonga area, Adiyo Gimbo, Boka to Bonga, car net. 1777-2668 m. 07°17,711'N 36°22.555'E, 07°15.064'N 36°15.298'E, 7.xii.2014, Schöller. // Holotypus *Philonthus circaetus* sp. nov. Hromádka det., 2015, [red oblong label printed], (MSBC).

Description. Body length 5.4 mm, length of fore body 2.4 mm.

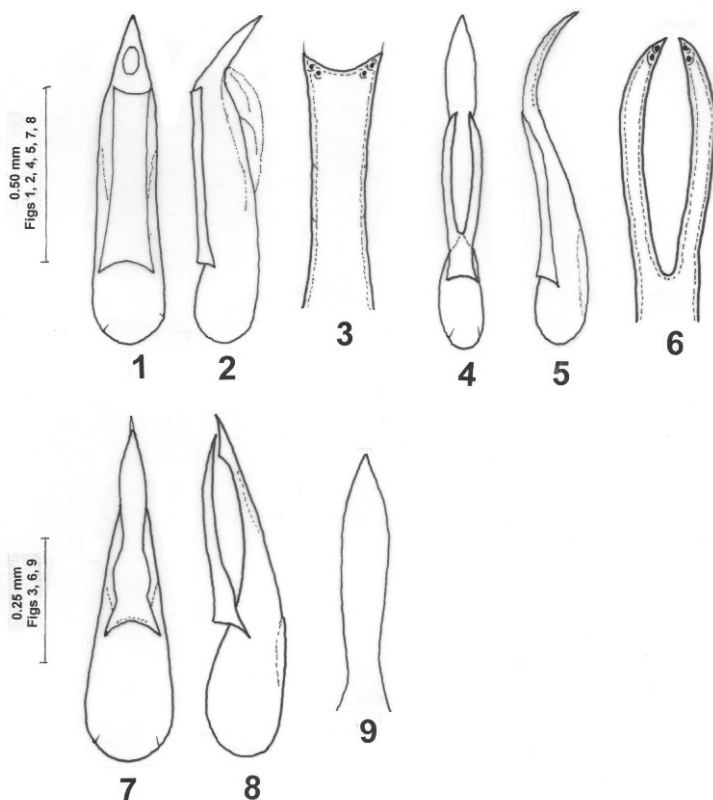
Colouration. Head black, pronotum, scutellum and elytra black-brown, posterior margin of elytra narrowly and whole epipleura yellow. Maxillary and labial palpi brown, antennomere 1

and base of antennomere 2 brown-yellow, remaining antennomeres black-brown. Femora and tarsi yellow, tibiae darker.

Head as long as wide, parallel-sided, posterior angles obtusely rounded, bearing several short bristles. Between eyes four coarse punctures, medial punctures distinctly shifted anteriad, distance between medial punctures five times larger than distance between medial and lateral puncture. Eyes as long as temples, posterior margin with two coarse punctures, one coarse puncture in the middle and several small punctures in posterior half. Surface with distinct microsculpture consisting of transverse waves.

Antennae reaching posterior fifth of pronotum when reclined. Antennomeres 1-3 and 11 distinctly longer than wide, antennomeres 4-10 as long as wide.

Pronotum approximately as long as wide, slightly narrowed anteriad. Anterior angles rectangular, obtusely rounded, posterior angles markedly rounded. Each dorsal row with four punctures, separation between punctures very irregular, each sublateral row with two punctures, puncture two shifted to the lateral margin. Surface with microsculpture similar to that on head.



Figs. 1-3. *Gabrius aviceda* sp. nov.: 1- aedeagus, ventral view; 2- aedeagus, lateral view; 3- apex of paramere with sensory peg setae, ventral view.

Figs. 4-6. *Gabrius bugeranus* sp. nov.: 4- aedeagus, ventral view; 5- aedeagus, lateral view; 6- apex of paramere with sensory peg setae, ventral view.

Figs. 7-9. *Philonthus circeatus* sp. nov.: 7- aedeagus, ventral view; 8- aedeagus, lateral view; 9- apex of paramere, ventral view.

Scutellum finely and sparsely punctured, diameter of punctures as large as eye-facets, separated by one and half puncture diameters or larger.

Elytra as long as wide, widened posteriad. Punctuation coarser than that on scutellum, separated by one and half or two puncture diameters. Surface without microsculpture; setation brown-yellow.

Legs. Metatibia as long as metatarsus, metatarsomere 1 shorter than metatarsomere 5, as long as metatarsomeres 2-3 combined.

Abdomen wide, from visible tergite III very slightly narrowed posteriad, first three visible tergites with two basal lines, elevated area between lines impunctate. Punctuation at base of all tergites finer and denser than that on elytra, becoming sparser towards posterior margin of each tergite. Surface without microsculpture; setation similar to that on elytra.

Differential diagnosis. *Philonthus circaetus* sp. nov. may be distinguished from similar *P. uhligi* Hromádka, 2005 by the darker antennae and whole body, sparser punctuation of elytra and by the different shape of the aedeagus.

Etymology. The name of this species, a noun in apposition, is the Latin generic name of the African Brown Snake-Eagle *Circaetus cinereus* (Vieillot, 1818).

Distribution. Ethiopia

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