

**A Revision of the subfamily Thorictinae, tribe Thorictini
(Coleoptera: Dermestidae) from the Afrotropical Region
Part 4 - genus *Thorictus* - *Thorictus orientalis* group
(descriptions of three new species)**

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Abstract. The species *Thorictus novaki* sp. nov., *Thorictus lenoiri* sp. nov. and *Thorictus muelleriae* sp. nov. all from South Africa, belonging to the *T. orientalis* species group are described, illustrated and compared with a very similar species *T. reicherti* Wasmann, 1912.

INTRODUCTION

The subfamily Thorictinae is divided into two tribes: Thorictini and Thaumaphrastini. The tribe Thorictini contains three genera as follows: *Afrothorictus* Andreae, 1967, *Macrothorictus* Andreae, 1967 and *Thorictus* Germar, 1834. The genus *Thorictus* Germar, 1834 contains about 158 species and subspecies worldwide (Háva 2010, 2013, 2018). The first catalogue of the Thorictinae was published by Hetschko & Wasmann (1925), the catalogue was subsequently supplemented by Hetschko (1926, 1930).

A revision of tribe Thorictini from the Afrotropical Region was published by John & Andreae (1967) and Andreae (1967); new species were then described by Háva & Lackner (2005) from Benin and by Háva & Lenoir (2008) from Burkina Faso. A recent revision was published by Háva (2013, 2014 and 2015). In the present article, three new species are described belonging to the *T. orientalis* species group from South Africa.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The following measurements were made:

TL total body length (measured from the head anterior margin to the apex of the elytra).

TW total body width (measured between two anterolateral humeral calli).

All measurements are given in millimetres.

Male genitalia were not studied. The differential diagnosis of the aedeagi is often problematical and the interspecific variability is currently very poorly defined (John 1963). The two species groups were stated by John (1963).

The following abbreviations refer to the collection where the examined material is deposited:

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

TMSA Transvaal Museum, Museum of Natural History, Pretoria, South Africa.

TAXONOMY

Genus *Thorictus* Germar, 1834

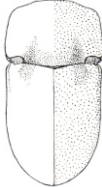
„*T. orientalis* species group“

Thorictus reicherti Wasmann, 1912

Thorictus reicherti: Háva, 2015: 23.

Material examined: „Willowmore, Capland, Dr. Brauns, 1. ii. 1900“ \ „*Thorictus Reicherti* Was.“ [handwritten label], 2 spec., det. Andr., J. Háva revid. (1 TMSA, 1 JHAC).

Tab. 1. Differential diagnostic characters.

species	habitus dorsal aspect	habitus lateral aspect	setation on margin of thorax, ventral aspect	mesosternal bulge (mb)	epipleuron
<i>Thorictus reicherti</i> Wasmann 1912					
<i>Thorictus novaki</i> sp. nov.					
<i>Thorictus lenoiri</i> sp. nov.					
<i>Thorictus muelleriae</i> sp. nov.					

***Thorictus novaki* sp. nov.**

Type material. Holotype (not sexed): „S. Afr., Richtersveld Kubeos-Ekst., 14 km W, 28.22 S 16.57 E“ \ “29.9.1991, E-Y: 2812, from under stones, leg. Endrödy-Younga”, (TMSA). Paratypes (3 spec., not sexed): the same data as holotype, (2 TMSA, 1 JHAC). Type specimens provided with label: „HOLOTYPE (or PARATYPE, respectively) *Thorictus novaki* sp. nov. Jiří Háva det. 2018“. [printed, red label].

Description of holotype. Body small, brown covered by long yellow setae on dorsal surfaces and short setae on ventral surfaces. Measurements (mm): TL 1.6 TW 0.9. Head finely punctate with long yellow setae. Labial palpi entirely brown. Antennae brown, with 11 antennomeres, antennal club compact, with 3 antennomeres. Pronotum as finely punctate as head, covered by long yellow setation. Lateral margin of pronotum not dentate. Pronotum in posterior part near scutellum without bumps. Ventral posterior pronotal angles with long yellow setation. Scutellum not visible from above. Elytra very finely punctate covered by long yellow setation. Each elytron in anterior part near humeri with one very small bump. Epipleuron finely punctate, anterior angles with long yellow setation. Prosternum finely punctate. Mesosternum finely punctate, mesosternal bulge as shown by a drawing in in table. Metasternum finely punctate. Visible abdominal ventrites very finely punctate, covered by long yellow setae. Legs brown, covered by yellow setae.

Variability. Paratypes externally similar to holotype. Body measurements (mm): TL 1.5-1.6 TW 0.8-0.9.

Differential diagnosis. The new species belong to the *T. orientalis* species group and visually similar to *T. reicherti* Wasmann, 1912, but differs from it by the characters summarized in the table; from other species known from the Afrotropical Region, it differs by the same characters.

Name derivation. Patronymic, the species name is dedicated to my very good friend and colleague Vladimír Novák (Praha, Czech Republic), well known specialist in Tenebrionidae: Alleculinae.

***Thorictus lenoiri* sp. nov.**

Type material. Holotype (not sexed): „S.Afr., Namaqualand, Springbok, Mesklip, 29.49S 17.52E“ \ “30.8.1976, E-Y: 1184, groundtraps, 43 days, leg. Endrödy-Younga“ \ “ground traps with meat bait“, (TMSA). Paratype (1 spec., not sexed): „S.Afr., Namaqualand, Dikdoorn Farm, 30.43S 18.00E“ \ “4.9.1977, E-Y: 1382, red sandy hill, day, leg. Endrödy-Younga“, (JHAC). Type specimens provided with label: „HOLOTYPE (or PARATYPE, respectively) *Thorictus lenoiri* sp. nov. Jiří Háva det. 2018“. [printed, red label].

Description of holotype. Body small, brown covered by long yellow setae on dorsal surfaces and short setae on ventral surfaces. Measurements (mm): TL 1.7 TW 1.0. Head finely punctate with long yellow setae. Labial palpi entirely brown. Antennae brown, with 11 antennomeres, antennal club compact, with 3 antennomeres. Pronotum as finely punctate as head, covered by long yellow setation. Lateral margin of pronotum not dentate. Pronotum in posterior part near scutellum without bumps. Ventral posterior pronotal angles with long yellow setation. Scutellum not visible from above. Elytra very finely punctate covered by long yellow setation. Each elytron in anterior part near humeri with one very small bump. Epipleuron finely punctate, anterior angles with long yellow setation. Prosternum finely punctate. Mesosternum finely punctate, mesosternal bulge as shown by a drawing in the table. Metasternum finely punctate. Visible abdominal ventrites very finely punctate, covered by long yellow setae. Legs brown, covered by yellow setae.

Variability. Paratype externally similar to holotype.

Differential diagnosis. The new species belongs to the *T. orientalis* species group and is visually similar to *T. reicherti* Wasmann, 1912, but differs from it by the characters shown in the table; from other species known from Afrotropical Region, it differs by the same characters.

Name derivation. Patronymic, the species name is dedicated to my friend and colleague Alain Lenoir (Paris, France) well known specialist in Hymenoptera (Formicidae).

***Thorictus muelleræ* sp. nov.**

Type material. Holotype (♂): „S.W.Afr. [Namibia], Kaokoveld, Kunene R. W Harimbg, 17.12S 12.10.E“ \ “13.2.1984, E-Y: 2071, groundtraps, 54 days, leg. Penrith, Müller“ \ “ground trap with meat bait“, (TMSA). Type specimens provided with label: „HOLOTYPE *Thorictus muelleræ* sp. nov. Jiří Háva det. 2018“. [printed, red label].

Description of holotype. Body small, castaneous brown covered by long yellow setae on dorsal surfaces and short setae on ventral surfaces. Measurements (mm): TL 1.7 TW 1.0. Head finely punctate with long yellow setae. Labial palpi entirely brown. Antennae brown, with 11 antennomeres, antennal club compact, with 3 antennomeres. Pronotum as finely punctate as head, covered by long yellow setation. Lateral margin of pronotum without dentation. Pronotum in posterior part near scutellum without large bumps. Ventral posterior pronotal angles with long yellow setation. Scutellum not visible from above. Elytra very finely punctate covered by long yellow setation. Each elytron in anterior part near humeri with one very small bump. Epipleuron finely punctate, anterior angles with long yellow setation. Prosternum finely punctate. Mesosternum finely punctate, mesosternal bulge as in fig. in table. Metasternum finely punctate. Visible abdominal ventrites very finely punctate, covered by long yellow setae. Legs brown, covered by yellow setae.

Differential diagnosis. The new species belongs to the *T. orientalis* species group and is visually similar to *T. reicherti* Wasmann, 1912, but differs from it by the characters shown in the table; from other species known from Afrotropical Region, it differs by the same characters.

Name derivation. Patronymic, the species name is dedicated to Ruth Müller (TMSA).

***Thorictus capensis* Péringuey, 1886**

Material examined: „S.Afr., Cape-Karoo, Victoria West, 31.24S 23.07E“ \ „16.9.1983, E-Y:2009, from under stones, leg. Penrith“, 6 spec., (4 TMSA, 2 JHAC); „S.Afr., Cape, Cederbg, Aleria forest st. 32.22 S 19.03E“ \ „3.11.1981, E-Y:1916, sifted, gallery bush, leg. Endrödy-Younga“, 1 spec., (TMSA); S.Afr., SW Cape, Grootdrif farm, 32.24 S 18.27 E“ \ „29.8.1981, E-Y:1862, groundtraps with banana bait, 61 days, leg. Endrödy-Younga“, 1 spec., (TMSA).

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