

A new species of *Ctesias* from Gambia (Coleoptera: Dermestidae: Megatomini)

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Abstract. The species *Ctesias* (*Tiresiomorpha*) *gambiensis* sp. nov. from Gambia is described, illustrated and compared with similar Afrotropical species. The new species differs by the structure of antennae and male genitalia.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Ctesias* Stephens, 1830 belongs to the subfamily Megatominae, subtribe Ctesiina Rees, 1943 and is divided into four subgenera *Ctesias* s. str., *Decemctesias* Háva, 2004, *Novemctesias* Háva, 2004 and *Tiresiomorpha* Pic, 1954 and contains 27 species worldwide (Háva 2004, Háva 2015), from Afrotropical Region only three species belonging to subgenus *Tiresiomorpha* are known (Arrow 1915, Herrmann & Háva 2009, Háva & Matsumoto 2021). The new species has morphological characters, described in this paper, that distinguish it from any other known Afrotropical *Ctesias* (*Tiresiomorpha*).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The size of the beetles or of their body parts can be useful in species recognition and thus, the following measurements were made:

TL: total length - linear distance from anterior margin of pronotum to apex of elytra.

EW: elytral width - maximum linear transverse distance.

The holotype specimen is deposited in the collection (JHAC) - Private Entomological Laboratory & Collection, Jiří Háva, Únětice u Prahy, Prague-West, Czech Republic.

The nomenclature and zoogeography follow Háva (2015) and Motyka et al. (2022).

Specimen of the presently described species are provided with red, printed label with the text as follows: „HOLOTYPE *Ctesias* (*T.*) *gambiensis* sp. nov. Jiří Háva det. 2021”.

TAXONOMY

***Ctesias* (*Tiresiomorpha*) *gambiensis* sp. nov.**

(Figs. 1-2, 7-8)

Type material. Holotype (♂): “The Gambia, M Bollet, 10.1.1968”, (JHAC).

Description. Body (Figs. 1-2) elongate ovate, slightly arched. TL: 2.43 mm, EW: 1.34 mm.

Head as wide as long, between eyes and antennae coarsely punctate, sparsely covered with procumbent long, white setae. Mentum with short light brown setae, clypeus slightly extended. Palpi brown. Ocellus present on front. Antennae composed with 11 antennomeres, with 3-antennomered club (Fig. 7).



Figs. 1-2. *Ctesias* (*Tiresiomorpha*) *gambiensis* sp. nov.: 1- dorsal habitus; 2- dorso-lateral habitus.

Pronotum black, twice as wide as long, strongly narrowed anteriorly, broadest at posterior end, fine and sparsely punctate with the black and white setation, black setation forming spots. Anterior angles acute, but slightly rounded, not visible from above; posterior angles acute, pointed; middle of base convexly extended, rounded. Lateral antennal fossa present on the underside of the pronotum.

Scutellum small, triangular, with a no visible setae; puncture hardly visible.

Elytra coarsely punctate, as dense as on the head. Cuticle reddish brown to dark brown; four white horizontal fasciae extending from lateral end to suture, aligning on L_1 , " and L' from anterior end and on apical end; one horizontal fascia extending from the suture to the middle on anterior end, sparsely covered with the same kind of hairs as head and pronotum.

Punctuation, setation and colour of the underside (mesosternum, metasternum and abdominal sternites) quite similar to the dorsal surface.

Legs light brown, sparsely covered with small, brown and slightly erect hairs. Hind tarsi about as long as hind tibiae. All tibiae with two distinct small spines apically.

Male genitalia as in Fig. 8.

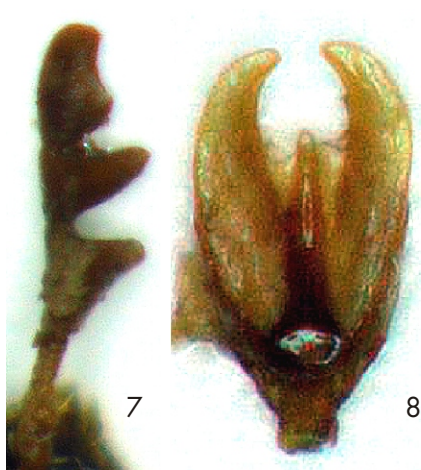
Female. Unknown.

Differential diagnosis. According to the characters given by Háva (2004), the new species belongs to the subgenus *Tiresiomorpha* Pic, 1954. This subgenus includes seven known species which are distributed in the Palaearctic and Afrotropical Regions (Háva 2015, Háva & Matsumoto 2021). The new species *Ctesias gambiensis* sp. nov. differs from the other three Afrotropical species *C. dakariensis* Herrmann & Háva, 2009, *C. taiensis* Háva & Matsumoto, 2021 and *C. variegata* Arrow, 1915 by the structure of the antennae and the male genitalia.

Etymology. The species is named after the type locality, state Gambia.



Figs. 3-4. *Ctesias (Tiresiomorpha) dakariensis* Herrmann & Háva, 2009 (Distribution: Senegal): 3-male antenna; 4- male genitalia.



Figs. 7-8. *Ctesias (Tiresiomorpha) gambiensis* sp. nov. (Distribution: Gambia): 7-male antenna; 8- male genitalia.



Figs. 5-6. *Ctesias (Tiresiomorpha) taiensis* Háva & Matsumoto, 2021 (Distribution: Ivory Coast): 5- male antenna; 6- male genitalia.



Figs. 9-10. *Ctesias (Tiresiomorpha) variegata* Arrow, 1915 (Distribution: Congo, Kenya, South Africa): 9- male antenna; 10- male genitalia.

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