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***Dromicoida* gen.n. from West Africa, with description of a new species (Coleoptera: Cicindelidae)**

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Abstract

A new genus, *Dromicoida* gen.n. from West Africa (Ivory Coast) with one species, *Dromicoida elegantia* sp.n., is described and figured. Main distinguishing character from related genera is the lack of dilated antennal segments and elytral markings in combination with deep puncturation of elytra and pronotum.

Key words: Cicindelidae, taxonomy, new genus, new species, *Dromicoida elegantia*, West Africa, Ivory Coast

Introduction

During his stay at the Comoe National Park in the northeastern part of Ivory Coast, between 19. March and 26. April 1993, Mr. Jakob Fahr (Würzburg, Germany) studied the faunistical, zoogeographic, and ecological aspects of the tiger beetle populations. There he obtained a rich material of Cicindelidae, including rare species and two specimens of a new species and genus, herein described as *Dromicoida* gen.n. *elegantia* sp.n. A third specimen of this new species was captured by Mr. Mark-Oliver Rödel (Tübingen, Germany) in June 1993.

The general appearance of this new species resembles the Afrotropical genus *Dromica* DEJEAN, 1826, which is placed in the subtribe Prothymina W. HORN, 1910. This genus is represented by savannah species in the eastern and southern parts of Africa, but not in West Africa. The northern border line of the genus' range is southern Angola in western and Ethiopia in eastern Africa. However, closer examination of the three specimens showed that they belong to the subtribe Cicindelina W. HORN, 1908, but it was not possible to include them in one of the known genera.

***Dromicoida* gen.n.**

TYPE SPECIES: *Dromicoida elegantia* sp.n.

DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS: *Dromicoida* gen.n. is distinguished from related genera of the subtribe Cicindelina by the following combination of characters: antennal segments in both sexes not dilated; inner sac of male genital medium-sized with short flagellum (fig. 2); elytra strongly punctate and without markings; body shiny coppery with bluish-green reflections on side margins.

DESCRIPTION: For details of morphological characters, see below under description of *Dromicoida elegantia* sp.n.

DISTRIBUTION: *Dromicoida* gen.n. is only known from the type locality in the Comoe National Park in Ivory Coast.

SYSTEMATIC POSITION: The pubescent metasternum, the wings, and the six labral setae

suggest a position within the subtribe Cicindelina. Characters, such as deep puncturation of the elytra and of the pronotum, together with the "dromicoid" (= "prothymoid") habitus, place *Dromicoida* gen.n. in a position among the archaic African-Malagassic (after RIVALIER 1971, p. 141) genera of this subtribe.

DISCUSSION: RIVALIER (1971) divided the tribe Cicidelini SLOANE, 1906 into 5 subtribes. *Dromicoida* gen.n. is a member of the subtribe Cicindelina and it belongs to the "Chaetotaxis"-group, according to RIVALIER (1971, p. 141), which is formed by genera with subtribe "Prothymina-appearance" in the subtribe Cicindelina. RIVALIER (1971) placed these genera as intermediates between these two subtribes. This "Chaetotaxis"-group is represented by three genera from Madagascar and five genera from tropical Africa. I propose to place *Dromicoida* gen.n. as the sixth African mainland genus between the genera *Bennigsenium* W. HORN, 1897 and *Prothymidia* RIVALIER, 1957.

ETYMOLOGY: The name "Dromicoida" refers to the "dromicoid" habitus of the new genus.

Dromicoida elegantia sp.n.

TYPE LOCALITY: Comoe National Park, Ivory Coast, West Africa.

TYPE MATERIAL: **Holotype** ♂, Ivory Coast, Comoe National Park, near "Camp an der Lola", 12. IV.1993, J. Fahr leg. (in Zoologische Staatssammlung München). **Paratypes**: 1 ♂, same data, 19.IV.1993, J. Fahr leg. (in collection J. Fahr, Würzburg); 1 ♀, same locality data as paratype ♂, 11.VI.1993, M.O. Rödel leg. (in collection K. Werner, Peiting).

DESCRIPTION: Size: 8 - 10 mm (sine labro). Habitus: see frontispiece and fig. 1; elytra ovate ("dromicoid"). Dorsally dull to bright red-coppery with iridescent blue-green margins. Head: Eyes prominent. Clypeus dark coppery, frons and vertex coppery with coarse rugae. Frons prominent with one seta next to each eye. Labrum more prominent in the female, shiny dark with three teeth and six labral setae in both sexes. Male mandibles ivory except the three teeth darkened, female mandibles same, but more darkened. Maxillary palpus brown except last segment black. Labial palpus testaceous with white setae, last segment shiny black. Antenna at the first segment with one seta; first four segments coppery, others dull brown. Pronotum: Coarsely punctate; side margins smooth, shining green, with sparse white hairs. Elytra: Shape ovate, coarsely punctate. Apical spine in the male projecting, in the female withdrawn. Wings developed. Legs: Trochanters testaceous, femora, tibiae and tarsi more or less bluish green metallic. Femora and tibiae with sparse setae. Ventral: Dull blackish. Metasternum, meta- and mesocoxae pubescent. Aedeagus: See figure 2.

HABITAT: One specimen was captured on a sandy path through savannah habitat, and it tried to escape by flying in adjacent grassy areas; one was taken while hunting small ants on an old termite nest; the third one came to light at the camp located between savannah and forested area (J. Fahr, i.l.).

ETYMOLOGY: The name "elegantia" refers to the fact that this is a particularly elegant species.

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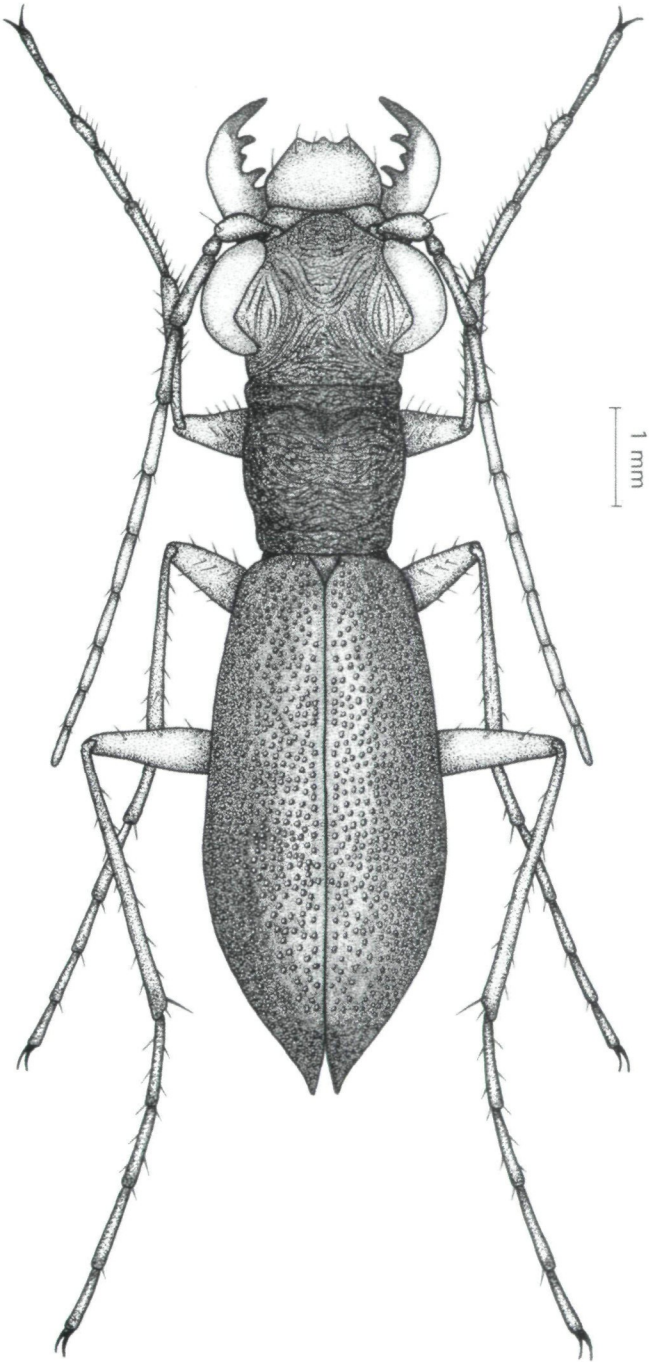


Fig. 1: *Dromicoida* gen.n. *elegantia* sp.n., habitus.

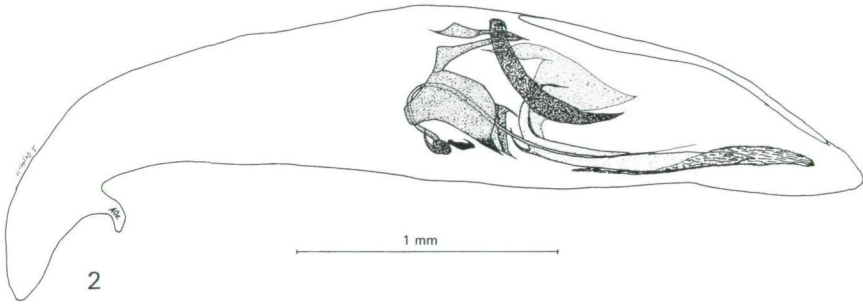


Fig. 2: *Dromicoida* gen.n. *elegantia* sp.n., aedeagus, lateral aspect.

Zusammenfassung

Eine neue Gattung mit einer neuen Art, *Dromicoida* gen.n. *elegantia* sp.n. aus Westafrika (Elfenbeinküste) wird beschrieben und abgebildet. Die neue Gattung unterscheidet sich von nahestehenden Gattungen hauptsächlich durch nicht verbreiterte Fühler und fehlende Flügeldeckenzeichnung zusammen mit zugleich starker Punktierung der Flügeldecken und des Halsschildes.

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