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Rediscovery of *Euryarthron bouvieri* (BABAULT, 1921) in Kenya and description of the male (Coleoptera: Cicindelidae)

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Abstract

The rediscovery of *Euryarthron bouvieri* (BABAULT, 1921) in Kenya is reported and the hitherto unknown male is described, figured, and pictured.

Key words: Coleoptera, Cicindelidae, taxonomy, *Euryarthron bouvieri*, Kenya, Africa.

Introduction

The African tiger beetle genus *Euryarthron* was established by GUÉRIN-MÉNEVILLE (1849). *Euryarthron bocandei* GUÉRIN-MÉNEVILLE from West Africa is the type species. All species of this genus are rare or very rarely collected. This fact can probably be explained by the very short life span of the adults, which emerge shortly after the first rainfalls. Some species of *Euryarthron* are fully winged and fly readily; others are micropterous or wingless and behave like species of *Dromica* DEJEAN, 1826. Presently, a total of 19 species are known in the genus, 13 from West and Central Africa, six from eastern Africa and Angola. CASSOLA (1983) gave a brief review of the West African species and WERNER (2000) presented the images of all known species of the genus.

Two *Euryarthron* species, both from eastern Africa, were known for many years from single females only before males were discovered: *E. oscari* (HORN, 1904) from southern Ethiopia (WERNER 1997: 243) and *E. bouvieri* (BABAULT, 1921) from Kenya, discussed in the present paper.

The holotype female (Fig. 4) of *E. bouvieri* was collected in October 1913 by G. Babault at “Thika River” (Kenya). BABAULT (1921: 13) dedicated his new species to Professor Jean-Louis Bouvier, director of the Muséum national d’Histoire naturelle, Paris (MNHP) for more than 30 years.

No additional specimen of *E. bouvieri* was collected until 2003 and 2004, when Alfred Puchner and Petr Smrž were able to find a total of three males in two separate localities in the eastern parts of Kenya. With this discovery it is now possible to describe and figure the male of this interesting species.

***Euryarthron bouvieri* (BABAULT, 1921)**

MATERIAL EXAMINED:

KENYA: 1 ♂, central Kenya, vicinity of Isiolo, 1300 m, 18.–23.XI.2003, A. Puchner leg.; 2 ♂♂, southeast Kenya, 30 km east Garsen, 10.IV.2004, P. Smrž leg.; all specimens in the author’s collection (KWC).

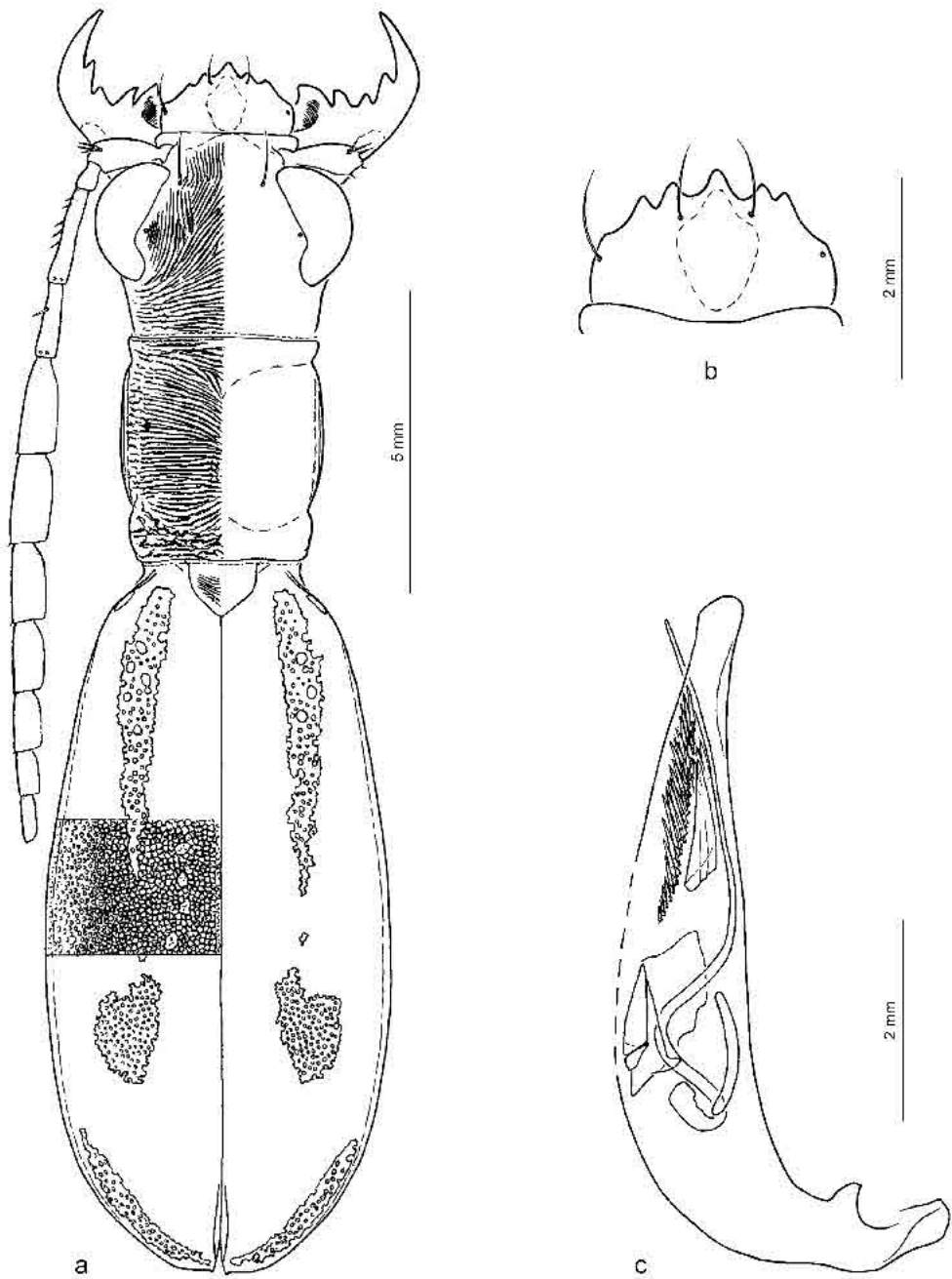
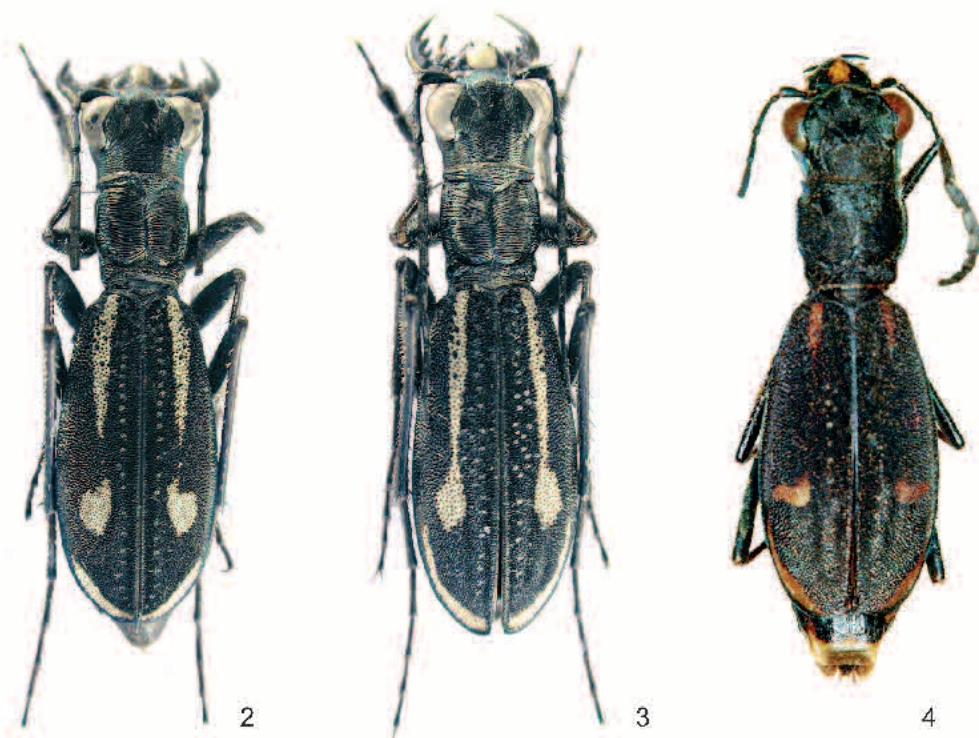


Fig. 1: *Euryarthron bouvieri*, male from Kenya central, vicinity of Isiolo; a) habitus; b) labrum; c) aedeagus.



Figs. 2–4: *Euryarthron bouvieri*; 2) male from Kenya central, vicinity of Isiolo, 1300 m, 18.–23.XI.2003, A. Puchner leg., deposited in KWC; 3) male from Kenya southeast, 30 km east Garsen, 10.IV.2004, P. Smrž leg., deposited in KWC; 4) female from Kenya, Thika River, X.1913, G. Babault leg., holotype, deposited in MNHP.

DIAGNOSIS: A wingless *Euryarthron*-species, distinguishable in the genus by the variable, but unique elytral markings.

DESCRIPTION OF MALE: Bodysize (without labrum): 20–21 mm.

Habitus (Fig. 1a): dorsally velvet black with metallic influences. Pronotum and head bronze with bluish reflections. Shoulders reduced and body oval-shaped.

Head: dull bronze. Frons and vertex glabrous, granulated with striae. Frons slightly prominent, vertex with one supraorbital seta next to each eye. Clypeus dull, dark and glabrous. Labrum (Fig. 1b) dark brown to black with a testaceous central part of variable size. Five labral teeth and four labral setae, center tooth slightly protruding. Mandibles fine and sharp, blackish with small testaceous outer edges. Maxillary and labial palpi testaceous with a few hairs, except last palpomere glabrous and dark. Genae metallic coppery, slightly granulated with fine longitudinal striae. Fossae and scape dark metallic and in one specimen with a brownish base. Scape with three setae. Antennomeres 1–4 dark metallic, segments 3 and 4 with a few white setae, antennomeres 5–11 foliated (Fig. 1a), dull, dark and with fine pubescence.

Pronotum: dull, bronze and granulated with coarse transverse grooves interrupted by a medial line, slightly trapezoid and with gibbous protuberances on median lobe. Prothorax shiny dark

green-metallic and glabrous, ventrally with pubescence of white hairs, proepisterna green-metallic with white hairs.

Elytra: oval, coarse, velvet black with bluish edges; color dull in the middle and more shiny with denser punctures on the outer margins; fine punctures showing golden-blue reflections. Several deeper punctures on central humeral part of elytra. Whitish elytral maculation variable as shown in Figs. 1–3. Suture prominent.

Legs: green-blue metallic with white hairs, inner sides brownish, tarsi dark brown. Profemora more densely setose.

Underside: green metallic with dense white pubescence; abdominal sternites glabrous.

Aedeagus: see Fig. 1c.

HABITAT: The two male specimens of *Euryarthron bouvieri* from 30 km east of Garsen were collected close to the Garsen to Lamu main road (Petr Smrž, pers. comm.). The tiger beetles were active in high grassy vegetation on dried loamy earth between the pools of a temporary swamp. The specimens were unable to fly, but ran very quickly, similar to individuals of the closely related genus *Dromica*.

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Alfred Puchner (Neunkirchen, Austria) and Petr Smrž (Budějovicé, Czech Republic) generously donated these extremely rare tiger beetles to my collection and supplied me with information about habitat and collecting circumstances. Peter Schüle (Herrenberg, Germany) made the drawings. Thanks to Dave W. Brzoska (Naples, Florida, U.S.A.) for proof reading the text.

Zusammenfassung

Die Wiederentdeckung von *Euryarthron bouvieri* (BABAULT, 1921) in Kenia wird gemeldet und das bis heute unbekannte Männchen beschrieben, abgebildet und fotografisch dargestellt.

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