

**Checklist of the Malgasy *Helochares*
with description of a new species
(Coleoptera: Hydrophilidae)
by FRANZ HEBAUER**

ABSTRACT

The members of the Hydrophilid genus *Helochares* MULSANT, 1844 in the Malgasy archipelago are listed and a new and presumably endemic species is described and illustrated.

KEY WORDS

Coleoptera, Hydrophilidae, *Helochares* MULSANT, *Helochares fratrís* sp.n., Madagascar; check-list Malgasy islands.

INTRODUCTION

Madagascar separates from Africa in the Middle Jurassic c. 100 million years ago. The sub-continent is considered to be a part of Africa. It has developed a high degree of endemism (46% in Hydrophilidae). In some genera such as *Helochares* the species list is comparable with that of Africa, containing only a few endemics.

The smaller islands of the Malgasy area (Mauritius, Réunion, Rodriguez and Seychelles) are of different origin and generally more distant from Africa; therefore they have a higher percentage of endemics (*Helochares sechellensis*, *H. melanophthalmus*, etc.). Within the genus *Helochares* (s.l.) of Madagascar there are until now known only two endemics, *H. interjectus* and *H. madli*. A third presumably endemic species *H. fratrís* is described here.

Actual checklist of the *Helochares* spp. of the Malgasy islands:

Species	Mad	Mau	Ré	Ro	Se
<i>Helochares</i> (s.str.)					
<i>dollmani</i> BALFOUR-BROWNE, 1950	+	-	-	-	-
<i>dilutus</i> (ERICHSON, 1843)	+	+	+	+	-
<i>longipalpis</i> (MURRAY, 1859)	+	-	-	-	-
<i>madli</i> HEBAUER, 2002	end.	-	-	-	-
<i>pallens</i> (MACLEAY, 1825)	+	-	-	-	-
<i>Helochares</i> (<i>Helocharimorphus</i>)					
<i>sharpi</i> (KUWERT, 1890)	+	-	-	-	-
<i>Helochares</i> (<i>Hydrobaticus</i>)					
<i>bohemani</i> D'ORCHYMONT, 1936	+	-	-	-	-
<i>congruens</i> D'ORCHYMONT, 1939	+	-	-	-	-
<i>crenatostratus</i> RÉGIMBART, 1903	+	-	-	-	+
<i>densepunctus</i> RÉGIMBART, 1907	+	-	-	-	-
<i>fratrís</i> sp.n.	end.	-	-	-	-
<i>interjectus</i> HEBAUER, 1988	end.	-	-	-	-
<i>melanophthalmus</i> (MULSANT, 1844)	-	-	-	-	+
<i>nigrifrons</i> (BRANCSIK, 1893)	+	-	-	-	+
<i>sechellensis</i> RÉGIMBART, 1903	-	-	-	-	end.
<i>strictus</i> D'ORCHYMONT, 1939	+	-	-	-	-
<i>structus</i> D'ORCHYMONT, 1936	+	-	-	-	-

Notes: a) The African *Helochares* are revised by HEBAUER, 1996 with additions by HEBAUER, 1998, 1999, 2002.

b) Synonyms and further distributions are given by HANSEN, 1999.

c) A comprehensive paper on the Hydrophiloidea of the Malgasy islands is provided by BAMEUL, 1986.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Thanks are due to my brother Hans Hebauer, for enabling the description of the new species. Thanks are also to Prof. Garth N. Foster, Scotland for reading the English manuscript.

CHG Coll. F. HEBAUER, Grafling,
CHH Coll. H. HEBAUER, Rain-Duernhart,

Helochares (Hydrobaticus) fratris sp.n.

Holotypus (male): "SW Madagascar, Morondave distr., Miandrivazo, 246 km W of Antsirabe, 5.01.2002, D. Hauck leg." (CHG).- Paratypes: 7 females: same label data as holotype (CHH, CHG).

DIAGNOSIS

General appearance as in many species of that genus, especially so with moderately coarsely seriate elytra, black labrum and of similar size. Females are difficult to identify without a male from the same locality. By the male genitalia however this species cannot be confused with any other *Helochares*.

DESCRIPTION

Total length: 5.0 - 5.5 mm; total width: 2.7 - 2.9 mm.- Broadly oval, moderately convex, widest behind the middle. Surface dirty yellow, with black labrum and black shoulder bumps. Maxillary palpi unicoloured yellow, moderately long, reaching as far as the middle of pronotum. Clypeus antero-medially widely but shallowly impressed. Pronotum with two pairs of black spots, the basal ones clearly impressed. Elytra with black suture. Underside black, generally also the tibiae and the fronto-clypeal suture so. Head and pronotum moderately coarsely, but very densely punctate; punctural interstices less wide than diameter of punctures. Elytral intervals distinctly finer punctate than head and pronotum, much finer than elytral series; the latter moderately coarse and very densely arranged, but not striate; intervals wide and plain. Elytra c. 1 1/3 x as long as their combined width behind the middle, slightly explanate in posterior half. Aedeagus with characteristically hatch-shaped and widened ends of the parameres; median lobe distinctly constricted behind the middle, almost as long as the parameres (Fig. 1).

ETYMOLOGY

This species is dedicated to my brother Hans Hebauer, from whom I got the type series and many other interesting and new Hydrophilids in the past.

DISTRIBUTION

Presumably endemic.

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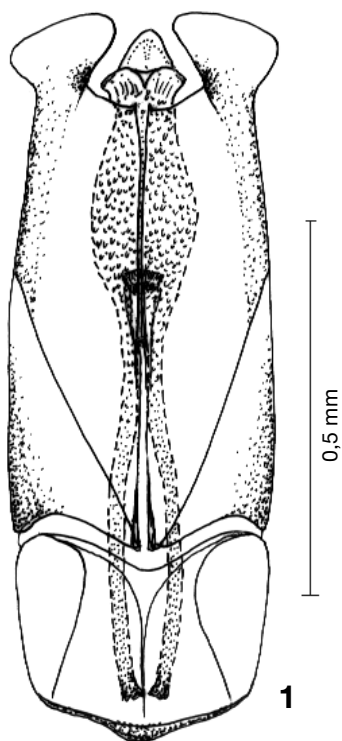


Fig. 1. *Helochares* (s.str.) *fratrīs* sp.n., male genitalia

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Zeitschrift/Journal: [Acta Coleopterologica](#)

Jahr/Year: 2003

Band/Volume: [19_1](#)

Autor(en)/Author(s): Hebauer Franz

Artikel/Article: [Checklist of the Malgasy Helochaeres with description of a new species \(Coleoptera: Hydrophilidae\) 67-69](#)