

**A new species of the Hydrophilid genus *Crenitis* BEDEL,
(Coleoptera:Hydrophilidae)
1881 from South Africa
by FRANZ HEBAUER**

ABSTRACT

Another, probably endemic, Hydrophilid species, *Crenitis lineata* sp.n. is described from the Cape Province of Africa. The male genitalia are figured.

KEY WORDS

Insecta, Coleoptera, Hydrophilidae, genus *Crenitis* BEDEL, new species, South Africa.

INTRODUCTION

The Hydrophilid fauna of the South African Cape Province is at least striking by virtue of two features: the large number of endemics (HEBAUER, 1999) and the diversity within the genus *Crenitis* (HEBAUER, 1994).

Examination of a recent output from South Africa taken by Olaf Jäger and his cooperators from the Staatliches Museum für Tierkunde, Dresden gave me the opportunity to complete the number of localities not only for the well known species of the genus *Crenitis* but also for the description of another species.

New records of two well known endemic *Crenitis* are taken some distance away from the type locality, such as

Crenitis capensis D'ORCHYMONT, 1942: 65 exs.: South Africa, Western Cape Province, Waterval, 10 km SO Vanrhynsdorp, 08.viii.2003, leg. Klass (MTD), and *Crenitis cinnamomea* HEBAUER 1994: 3 exs.: same locality (MTD). Surprisingly the new specimens of *C. cinnamomea* were not uniformly reddish, unlike the type specimens and its subsequent name, but uniformly piceous. So the original description is somewhat misleading.

The accumulated occurrence of the African *Crenitis* in the southernmost part of Africa, with its moderate climate, must be the result of the preference of all known species for cold waters and springs

Abbreviations

CFH Coll. F. Hebauer, Plattling, Germany.

MTD Staatliches Museum für Tierkunde, Dresden.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Olaf Jäger from the Staatliches Museum für Tierkunde, Dresden for the opportunity to examine the Hydrophilidae output from the South Africa Expedition, also Prof. Garth Foster, Scotland for reading the English manuscript.

***Crenitis lineata* sp.n.**

Holotypus (male): "South Africa, Western Cape Province, The Bath, (S of Citrusdal) 32°45'S 19°03'E, 14.viii.2003, leg. Klass" (MTD).- Paratypes: 11 exs.: same data as holotype (8 MTD, 3 CFH).

Differential diagnosis

This species is separated from all other known representatives of *Crenitis* by the colour pattern of elytra and pronotum.

DESCRIPTION

Total length: 2.3 - 2.4 mm; total width: 1.1 mm.- Oblong oval, moderately convex.

Coloration: Head including labrum and maxillary palpi entirely black, shining, without preocular patches. Pronotum yellow with large black discal patch attaining the posterior margin in the middle. Elytra dirty yellow, each with five wide black lines from base to apex, sometimes more or less confluent. Underside piceous. Legs yellow with black femora. Antennal whip yellow.

low, club dark (Fig.1).

Head coarsely and very densely punctate; punctural interstices less than punctural diameter; shining, with reticulate microsculpture in posterior half. Ultimate segment of maxillary palpi twice as long as penultimate segment, asymmetrical, apically truncate (Fig. 2). Eyes large, protruding, separated by 4 times their diameter (seen from above). Antennae 9-segmented. Mentum ca 1.5 times as wide as long, posterior portion flat, sparsely punctate, anterior portion deeply excavated mesally. Pronotum twice as wide as long, moderately convex, without any depressions, posterior angles hardly recognizable, widely rounded; punctate as head, without microsculpture. Prosternum and mesosternite without any gibbosity. Elytra oblong oval, evenly attenuated in posterior third; coarsely and densely seriate from base to apex. Hydrofugic pubescence on ventral face of all femora in proximal two Thirds. Tarsi slender, about two Thirds of tibia length. Aedeagus (Fig. 3): Phallobase much longer than parameres, almost evenly attenuate and broadly rounded basally. Parameres somewhat half-moon shaped, concave on inner face. Median lobe shorter than parameres, subparallel, obtusely rounded apically; corona situated apically.

DISTRIBUTION: Known only from the type locality. Probably endemic.

REFERENCES:

HEBAUER, F. 1994: The *Crenitis* of the Old World (Coleoptera:Hydrophilidae).- Acta coleopterologica, 10(2): 3-40.

HEBAUER, F. 1999: Neue und wenig bekannte Hydrophiloidea aus dem südlichen Africa (Coleoptera:Hydrophiloidea).- Acta coleopterologica, 15(2): 7-16.

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Fig. 1: *Crenitis lineata*: Body shape.

Fig. 2: *Crenitis lineata*: right maxillary palpus.

Fig. 3: *Crenitis lineata*: Aedeagus.

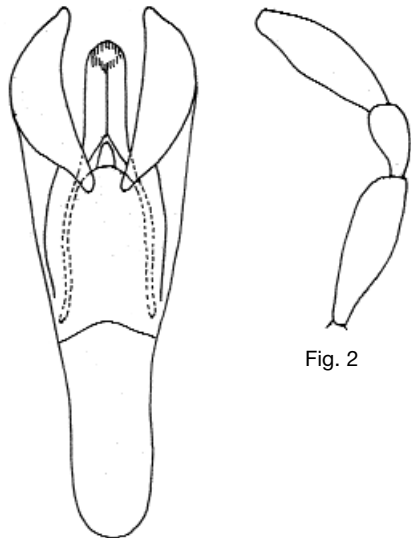


Fig. 2

Fig. 3

ZOBODAT - www.zobodat.at

Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [Acta Coleopterologica](#)

Jahr/Year: 2005

Band/Volume: [21_1](#)

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Artikel/Article: [A new species of the Hydrophilid genus Crenitis BEDEL, \(Coleoptera:Hydrophilidae\) 1881 from South Africa 41-42](#)