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A peculiar new species of the genus *Sphallomorpha* WESTWOOD from northern Australia (Coleoptera, Carabidae, Pseudomorphini)*

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Abstract

A peculiar new pseudomorphine carabid species is described from the far North-west of the Northern Territory of Australia: *Sphallomorpha curta* nov. sp. The new species is introduced in the most recent key to the genus.

Zusammenfassung

Eine eigentümliche neue Art der Carabiden-Tribus Pseudomorphini wird aus dem nordwestlichen Teil des Northern Territory Australiens beschrieben: *Sphallomorpha curta* nov. sp. Die neue Art wird in den jüngsten Gattungsschlüssel eingeführt.

Introduction

Through courtesy of Jiri HAJEK and Svata BILÝ (Prague) I received a number of Australian carabid specimens for identification which, *inter alia*, included a peculiar, extremely short-bodied, new species of the pseudomorphine genus *Sphallomorpha* WESTWOOD, 1837. In spite of the presence of a single specimen which, moreover, is a female, this peculiar

* 13th supplement to the "Revision of the Pseudomorphinae of the Australian Region".

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species is described, mainly to direct collectors in the far North of Australia to this species and to intensify sampling activities.

Pseudomorphini (or -inae, according to the opinion of the respective workers) is a moderately large tribe (or subfamily) of Carabidae of outstanding shape and structure, and with a very specialized biology, that mainly occurs in Australia and America. Most species are more or less flattened, possess depressed legs and a reduced chetotaxy. According to the genera to which they belong, their habitus either is very similar to that of water beetles of the families Dytiscidae or Hydrophilidae, or to that of wood inhabiting scolytids or even colydiids. The species of most genera are larviparous which mode of reproduction is very rare within Carabidae and generally within beetles.

Members of six genera occur in Australia, and that continent presently houses by far the largest number of species, whereas the pseudomorphine fauna of America is not yet well worked, but may be nearly as rich as that of Australia (ERWIN & GERACI 2008). Very few species of the genera *Sphallomorpha* WESTWOOD, 1837 and *Adelotopus* HOPE, 1834 have been recorded from New Guinea, Java, and the Moluccas, and one species of the genus *Cryptocephalomorpha* RITSEMA, 1875 even occurs in southern Africa, whereas most species of this small genus live in southern and south-eastern Asia.

In Australia the number of species is about 300, and pseudomorphine beetles occur in all parts of the country. Almost all species live either under the bark of bark shedding trees (mainly eucalypts) or in deep crevices in the bark of other trees, including non-eucalypts, in more or less open forest and woodland, but a few even have invaded rain forest, where they may be found on the bark of moss covered trees. The habits of the single species of *Paussotropus* WATERHOUSE, 1877 and the single Australian species of *Cryptocephalomorpha* RITSEMA, 1875 are not recorded, but it is suggested that all pseudomorphine species live in connection with ants, a few even with termites (BAEHR 1992, 1997). But actually this is recorded from only few species. The larviparous reproduction of most genera probably is likewise related to the myrmecopholous habits of the larvae. Similarly the increasing trend towards development of physogastric larvae in the higher evolved genera is regarded an adaptation to that mode of life.

Methods

In the taxonomic survey standard methods are used. For dissecting the female genitalia, the specimen was relaxed overnight in a jar under moist atmosphere, then cleaned for a short while in 10% KOH. The habitus photograph was obtained by a digital camera using ProgRes CapturePro 2.6 and AutoMontage and subsequently was worked with Corel Photo Paint 14.

Measurements were taken using a stereo microscope with an ocular micrometer. Body length was measured from apex of labrum to apex of elytra, length of pronotum along

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midline, length of elytra from the most produced part of the humerus to the most produced part of the apex.

For the chetotaxy which is very important for the identification of species of *Sphallomorpha*, the abbreviations as used in BAEHR (1992) are repeated below.

The holotype of the new species is stored in Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin (NTD).

Chetotaxy

supraorb	supraorbital seta (either side)
preorb	preorbital seta (either side)
clyp	clypeal seta (either side)
labr	labral setae (common)
ment.med	medial mental setae, at base of mental excision or mental tooth (common)
ment.lat	lateral mental setae, on wings of mentum (either side)
gloss	glossal setae, on ventral rim of apex of glossa (either side)
gul	gular setae, inside of gular suture (either side)
postorb	postorbital setae, posteriorly of eye on a conspicuous rim (either side)
suborb	suborbital setae, below eye, laterally of gular suture (either side)
pron.ant	anterior pronotal setae, near anterior angle of pronotum (either side)
pron.post	posterior pronotal setae, near posterior angle of pronotum (either side)
proeps	proepisternal setae, longitudinally and transversally on proepisternum (either side)
marg	marginal setae, along margin of elytra (either side)
st VI	setae on posterior border of sternum VI, the penultimate visible sternite (either side)
#m st VII	setae of male sternum VII, the terminal visible sternite (either side)
#f st VII	setae of female sternum VII, the terminal visible sternite (either side)

Genus *Sphallomorpha* WESTWOOD

WESTWOOD, 1837: 414. – For additional literature records and diagnosis see BAEHR (1992).

T y p e s p e c i e s: *Sphallomorpha decipiens* WESTWOOD, 1837, by monotypy.

D i a g n o s i s: Wide, depressed species with prognathous head, elongate legs, comparatively complete chetotaxy, normal shaped, not foliaceous female gonocoxites, and not physogastric larvae. As far as it was recorded, all species of this genus are oviparous. In males the terminal sternum is excised, and in both sexes it bears a variable number of elongate setae at the apical margin.

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N o t e. As BAEHR (1994a) demonstrated, *Sphallomorpha* in many character states is plesiomorphic as compared with the other pseudomorphine genera, and thus it represents the adelphotaxon of all other genera of Pseudomorphinae.

The genus *Sphallomorpha* presently includes 156 species of which only 8 occur outside of Australia in New Guinea (BAEHR 1992, 1993a, b, 1994b, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2009a, b, 2010). Species of *Sphallomorpha* usually are wide and rather depressed, they are either unicolourous black or piceous, or bear various, sometimes very vivid colour patterns on elytra and/or pronotum. In Australia they occur in a great variety of habitats, provided that some tree growth is present, but apparently they are very rare in rain forest. The Australian species are known to live under the loose bark of tree trunks of various eucalypts or in deep bark crevices on rough-barked eucalypt and non-eucalypt trees. They are extremely agile, fast running beetles which fly deliberately, but are quite rarely encountered at light. The larvae of the very few species of which the larvae were recorded, apparently live by ants (MOORE 1974), but are not decidedly physogastric as are the recorded larvae of the other pseudomorphine genera (BAEHR 1997).

BAEHR (1992) divided the genus into a number of putative monophyletic species groups which combine species that share certain synapomorphic character states of the external or genitalic morphology. The species described below belongs to the *unicolor*-group of the revision, according to certain character states of external and female genitalic morphology.

***Sphallomorpha curta* nov. sp.** (Figs 1, 2)

H o l o t y p e: ♀, "AUSTR NT, 100km E of Kununurra, 29.11.08 13°57'S, 129°33'E, 76m, Sv. Bilý leg." (NTD).

E t y m o l o g y: The name refers to the extremely short, rather triangular hind body and elytra of this curious species.

D i a g n o s i s: Very short and wide, depressed, unicolourous black species without mental tooth, with evenly convex gular sutures, and without visible elytral striae. Probably closely related to *S. quadrata* BAEHR, 1992, but distinguished by narrower head, even shorter and, at the same time, more triangular elytra, absence of the anterior pronotal marginal seta, and lesser number of marginal elytral setae.

D e s c r i p t i o n:

Measurements: Length: 6.9 mm; width: 4.3 mm. Ratios: Width pronotum/head: 2.05; width elytra/pronotum: 1.07; width/length of pronotum: 2.67; length/width of elytra; 0.97; length elytra/pronotum: 2.80.

Colour (Fig. 1): Black, only labrum, mouth parts, antenna, and tarsi dark reddish-piceous, lateral margins of pronotum and elytra inconspicuously paler.

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Chetotaxy: Supraorb: 1; preorb: 1, clyp: 1; labr: 4; ment.med: 2; ment.lat: 7-8; gloss: 5; gul: 2; postorb: 3-4; suborb: 5-6; pron.ant: -; pron.post: 1; proeps: 1 + 2-3; marg: 11-12; st VI: 2; ♂ st VII: ?; ♀ st VII: 2-3.

Head: Narrow in comparison to pronotum, short, fairly depressed, without distinct frontal impressions. Eyes large but laterad barely projected. Clypeus very slightly concave, clypeal suture indistinct, in middle widely interrupted. Lateral border of head very oblique, feebly convex, slightly incurved in front of eyes. Labrum moderately wide, laterally convex, anteriorly straight, in middle feebly raised. Mentum without mental tooth. Wings of mentum short, wide, apex obtuse, subapically convex, medially oblique. Glossa feebly excised, barely excavate, border obtuse. Dorsal part barely surpassing ventral, medially slightly excised, with few, delicate hairs. Gular sutures gently convex. Terminal palpomere of labial palpus rather elongate, narrow, with oblique apex, but not securiform; terminal palpomere of maxillary palpus elongate, almost parallel-sided, apex slightly oblique. Galea elongate, moderately large. Antenna very narrow and elongate, median antennomeres almost 4 x as long as wide. Microreticulation of surface dense, fine though distinct, isodiametric, punctures fairly dense, fine, but very difficult to detect within the micromeshes. Surface almost devoid of strioles inside of the eyes, with rather dense, short, erect pilosity, rather dull. Palpi very sparsely pilose. Galea with some very short hairs along anterior border and at apex. Ventral surface with very short, sparse, erect pilosity.

Pronotum: Very wide, moderately convex, slightly triangular, lateral margins not explanate. Apex wide, with rather deep excision. Anterior angles projected, but rounded. Sides slightly but evenly convex, widest immediately in front of the posterior marginal seta. Basal angles widely rounded. Base almost straight. Lateral margin anteriorly with distinct border line, which becomes very fine towards base. Apex and base only laterally very finely bordered. No discal impressions visible. Microreticulation dense and fine, slightly silky, isodiametric, punctures moderately dense, extremely fine, barely perceptible, surface with some fine, irregular strioles, with rather dense, short, erect pilosity, rather dull.

Elytra: Very short, virtually wider than long, markedly triangular, widest shortly behind base, dorsally moderately convex. Lateral margins almost evenly convex, not explanate. Apex very narrow, slightly oblique and faintly convex. No striae perceptible, in middle only with few extremely shallow depressions. Series of marginal pores rather spaced in middle. Microreticulation distinct, isodiametric, dense, not coarser than on head and pronotum. Punctures rather dense but almost invisible within the microreticulation. Surface with moderately dense, short, erect pilosity, rather dull.

Lower surface: Prosternal process elongate, narrow, apex almost straight, ventral surface convex, straight to apex, apparently impilose. Metepisternum c. 2 x as long as wide at apex. Terminal abdominal sternum in female slightly convex, with 2-3 elongate setae on either side.

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Legs: Elongate, slender. Metatarsus as long as metatibia. 1st tarsomere of metatarsus slightly shorter than 2nd and 3rd tarsomeres together. Pilosity of male protarsus unknown.

Male genitalia: Unknown.

Female gonocoxites (Fig. 2): Gonocoxite 1 elongate, apex without setae. Gonocoxite 2 triangular, markedly curved, with acute apex; with two small, narrow ventro-lateral ensiform setae situated about at middle, additional three rather elongate nematiform setae at the ventro-lateral base, 4-5 rather elongate nematiform setae in basal half of the dorso-median side, and a rather thick, elongate nematiform seta in apical third originating from an about circular pit.

Variation; Unknown.

D i s t r i b u t i o n: Northern-western part of Northern Territory, Australia, close to the border of Western Australia. Known only from the type locality.

C o l l e c t i n g c i r c u m s t a n c e s: Not recorded. Probably a bark inhabiting species like its congeners.

Recognition

In the key to the species of the genus *Sphallomorpha* (BAEHR 1992: 30) couplet 116 is easily reached which must be changed as following:

116 Very short and wide species (ratio length/width of elytra c. 1.0 or less); antenna elongate, median antennomeres > 3.5 x as long as wide (Fig. 1); basal margin of genital ring semicircular, without any traces of lateral angles, or male genitalia unknown 116a

- More elongate species (ratio length/width of elytra > 1.15); antenna shorter, median antennomeres < 2.5 x as long as wide; basal margin of genital ring not semicircular, lateral angles perceptible 117

116a Head wider in comparison to pronotum, ratio width of pronotum/width of head 1.87; elytra slightly longer and less triangular; anterior pronotal seta present and elongate; elytra with 15-16 marginal setae; basal margin of genital ring semicircular, without any traces of lateral angles. North-eastern Northern Territory, near western margin of Kakadu NP ..... *quadrata* BAEHR, 1992

- Head narrower in comparison to pronotum, ratio width of pronotum/width of head 2.05; elytra slightly shorter and remarkably triangular (Fig. 1); anterior pronotal seta absent; elytra with 11-12 marginal setae; male genitalia unknown. North-western Northern Territory, close to Northern Territory/Western Australia border ..... *curta* nov. sp.

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Fig. 1. *Sphallomorpha curta* nov. sp. Habitus (body length: 6.9 mm).

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Fig. 2. *Sphallomorpha curta* nov. sp. Female gonocoxites (scale: 0.25 mm).

Buchbesprechungen

LAWRENCE J.F. & A. SLIPINSKI: **Australian Beetles.** Morphology, Classification and Keys. – CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood, Australia, 2013. 561 S.

Die ältesten Käferfossilien lassen sich auf ca. 270 Millionen Jahre zurück datieren (Unteres Perm). Weltweit rechnet man mit 420000 beschriebenen Arten, die größten mit einer Länge von etwa 20cm, die kleinsten in etwa 0.3mm. Für die australische Käferfauna gehen die Autoren von mehr als 23000 beschriebenen Arten aus, mit etwa 3300 Gattungen in 117 Familien. Schätzungen gehen allerdings von über 50000 bis evt. 100000 Arten aus. Australian Beetles ist auf drei Bände konzipiert, in Teilen basierend auf den "Australian Beetles" von Lawrence & Britton (1994) und dem Kapitel "Coleoptera" in den "Insects of Australia" (Lawrence & Britton 1991).
Die Sektionen der einzelnen Familien sind aber deutlich erweitert worden, indem Adulte und Larven ausführlich beschrieben werden; die Weltverbreitung jeder Familie wird angegeben und eine Liste aller australischen Gattungen ist angefügt. Ebenfalls erweitert wurde die Sektion zur Fossilgeschichte und etwa 1175 Abbildungen illustrieren Adulte, Larven und anatomische Strukturen.
Band 1 beinhaltet neben der Einführung (Fossilgeschichte, australische Käfer und ihre

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Habitattypen, Sammeln von Käfern, Adult-Morphologie, Larven-Morphologie, Eier, Puppen, Biologie und Besonderheiten der australischen Fauna) die Klassifizierung der Familien und die sehr ausführlichen Bestimmungsschlüssel zu den Familien (z.T. auch Unterfamilien oder Triben), getrennt für Adulte und Larven. Die "family treatments" beinhalten eine kurze Darstellung der Überfamilien und die sehr umfangreiche, ausführliche Beschreibung der einzelnen Familien anhand der Adult- und Larval-Morphologie, Hinweise zur Klassifikation und Weltverbreitung sowie die Auflistung der australischen Gattungsvertreter. Schwarz-Weiß-Tafeln und 15 Farbtafeln ergänzen den Text. Das umfangreiche Literatur- und Stichwortverzeichnis beschließen den ersten Band. Für den zweiten und dritten Band sind dann Bestimmungsschlüssel zu den Gattungen und evt. zu den Unterfamilien der Larven geplant.
Eine beeindruckende und sehr empfehlenswerte Serie zu den Käfern Australiens, die in keiner international orientierten Bibliothek fehlen darf.

R. Gerstmeier

SLIPINSKI A. & H.E. ESCALONA: **Australian Longhorn Beetles** (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae). Volume 1 Introduction and Subfamily Lamiinae. – CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood, Australia, 2013. 484 S.

Neben Europa und Nordamerika gehört die australische Fauna zu den am besten bearbeiteten Tiergruppen weltweit. Bezüglich der Insekten besteht hier allerdings durchaus noch etwas Nachholbedarf. Neben den "Australian Beetles" (Band 1) brachte CSIRO (Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation) Publishing dieses Jahr (2013) ein weiteres Käferbuch über australische Cerambycidae (der Unterfamilie Lamiinae) heraus. Bockkäfer lassen sich meist recht gut auf Familienniveau ansprechen, weltweit sind über 33000 Arten in 5200 Gattungen beschrieben. Mit über 1400 Arten in 300 Gattungen sind die Bockkäfer in Australien die 6.größte Käferfamilie. Dieser erste Band der Bockkäfer Australiens beinhaltet eine allgemein Einführung, Bestimmungsschlüssel zu allen Unterfamilien (für Imagines und Larven) und behandelt im speziellen die 536 Arten (74 Gattungen) der Lamiinae. Die in Bearbeitung befindlichen weiteren zwei Bände werden die Cerambycinae sowie die Parandrinae, Spondylidinae und Prioninae enthalten.
In der allgemeinen Einführung zu den Cerambycidae werden Morphologie (Imagines, Larven und Puppen), Biologie und Ökologie, wirtschaftliche Bedeutung, geographische Verbreitung sowie Phylogenie und Klassifikation beschrieben. Bezüglich der australischen Cerambycidae gibt es einen Überblick zur wissenschaftlichen Historie, die höhere Klassifizierung der australischen Bockkäfer, eine Diagnose und die Schlüssel zu den Unterfamilien. Im Hauptteil werden alle Gattungen der australischen Lamiinae beschrieben. Der großformatige Band ist überaus reichhaltig mit 163 Farbtafeln (Fotos von Habitus, z.T. mit morphologischen Details inkl. Genitalorgane) und 20 SEM-Tafeln illustriert, ergänzt durch 38 Farbtafeln mit Fotos der Typusexemplare.
Eine fast luxuriös ausgestattete, bibliophile Monographie, die ihresgleichen zu suchen hat - sehr empfehlenswert.

R. Gerstmeier

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KEGEL B.: **Tiere in der Stadt.** Eine Naturgeschichte. - DuMont Buchverlag, Köln 2013. 478 S.

"Tiere in der Stadt" ist eigentlich das Resultat einer relativ jungen Disziplin biologischer Wissenschaften, der Stadtökologie. Städte werden eigentlich eher als Betonwüsten, Müllproduzenten und Giftschleudern, zumindest naturfern gesehen, gipfelnd in der Bemerkung "Städte seien Friedhöfe der Natur". Bernhard Kegel belehrt uns eines besseren; unübersehbar drängt die Wildnis in die Städte: Kaninchen fressen gemütlich im Mittelstreifen einer vielspurigen Straße, Füchse und Wildschweine marschieren durch Vorgärten, Waschbären haben Kassel zu ihrer Hauptstadt erkoren und Halsbandsittiche bringen einen exotischen "touch" in unser eintöniges Großstadtleben.
Bernhard Kegel hat Biologie und Chemie studiert, als ökologischer Gutachter gearbeitet, war Lehrbeauftragter und spielte Gitarre in diversen Berliner Jazzbands. Er nimmt uns auf seine Exkursionen zur Untersuchung der Berliner Stadtbiotope mit, schreibt von seinen Erlebnissen mit "Kampfhundebesitzer" beim Eingraben durchsichtiger Joghurtbecher und verliert dabei nie wissenschaftliche Einsichten und Fakten aus den Augen. Es gibt nicht viele Fachleute, die mit solch einem schriftstellerischen Talent gesegnet sind, auf den ersten Blick eher langweilige oder gar eklige Tatsachen so amüsant wie fachlich fundiert für den interessierten Laien zu "servieren". Der Fachmann wird aber auch mit den nötigen (wissenschaftlichen) Zitaten versorgt. Müsste man "Stadtökologie" lehren, bräuchte man eigentlich keine Vorlesung halten, sondern den Studierenden nur dieses Buch in die Hand drücken.
Eine genial formulierte, spannende, witzige und informative Naturgeschichte, die eigentlich spielend alle Bestsellerlisten erklimmen sollte.

R. Gerstmeier

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