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Notes on type-material of Meliponini (Hymenoptera: Apidae: Apinae) from the Horn of Africa deposited in the Natural History Museum Vienna, Austria

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Abstract

Syntypes of *Liotrigona bottegoi* (MAGRETTI, 1895) from Ethiopia and *Meliplebeia beccarii* (GRIBODO, 1879) from Eritrea have been found in the Natural History Museum Vienna (Austria) and marked as paralectotypes.

K e y w o r d s : *Liotrigona bottegoi*, *Meliplebeia beccarii*, paralectotypes, Eritrea, Ethiopia

Introduction

Compiling a catalogue of the family Apidae of Eritrea I found a note in FRIESE (1909: 446) that the author had seen five workers of *Trigona beccarii* GRIBODO, 1879 from Bogos (Eritrea), which is the area around Keren (type locality), deposited in the Natural History Museum Vienna. Subsequently I searched for material from the Horn of Africa and found specimens of *Trigona bottegoi* MAGRETTI, 1895 and *Trigona beccarii* GRIBODO, 1879, which were part of the syntype series. As the lectotypes of both species have been designated by PAULY & HORA (2013) I attached red paralectotype labels on each pin, because it is not possible to recognize them as types based on the attached labels.

Material

***Liotrigona bottegoi* (MAGRETTI, 1895)**

Trigona Bottegoi n.sp.: MAGRETTI 1895: 156 (description worker, Ethiopia: Arussi Galla, Ganale Gudda).

Trigona bottegoi MAGRETTI, 1895: FRIESE 1909: 444 (catalogue Africa), 455 (taxonomy, description worker, Ethiopia: Arussi Galla, Ganale Gudda), 468 (catalogue Africa).

Trigona (Hypotrigona) bottegoi (MAGRETTI, 1895): COCKERELL 1934: 55 (taxonomy, Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia (not Kenya; Arussi Galla, Ganale Gudda), Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Zimbabwe).

Liotrigona bottegoi (MAGRETTI, 1895): MOURE 1961: 223 (typus generis), 224 (taxonomy, description worker, Cameroon (?), Ethiopia (Arussi Galla, Ganale Gudda), Namibia, Tanzania, Zimbabwe).

Liotrigona bottegoi (MAGRETTI, 1895): EARDLEY 2004: 84 (figs 38-40), 88 (fig. 41: map), 89 (taxonomy, type designation, biology, Chad, Ethiopia (Arussi Galla, Ganale Gudda), Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe, table 4: taxonomy).

Liotrigona bottegoi (MAGRETTI, 1895): EARDLEY & URBAN 2010: 481 (catalogue Afrotropical region).

Liotrigona bottegoi (MAGRETTI, 1895): PAULY & HORA 2013: 18 (key, taxonomy, type designation, figs 15a, b, biology, Ethiopia: Arussi Galla, Ganale Gudda and further localities), 19 (figs 16a-d, 17a,b), 20 (figs 18a,b, 19a,b (both maps)), 21 (figs 20a-f, all biology).

Type material examined: Ethiopia: Arussi Galla: Ganale Gudda 1 worker leg Bottego (labels see fig. 1).

Type specimens of *Liotrigona bottegoi* are deposited in Museo Civico di Storia Naturale "Giacomo Doria" in Genova (Italy), Natural History Museum in Vienna (Austria), private collection of H. Friese, which is deposited in Museum für Naturkunde der Humboldt-Universität in Berlin (Germany) and United States National Museum in Washington (U.S.A.).

***Meliplebeia beccarii* (GRIBODO, 1879)**

Trigona Beccarii n.sp.: GRIBODO 1879: 340 (description worker, Eritrea: Keren).

Trigona beccarii GRIBODO, 1879: FRIESE 1909: 444 (catalogue Africa), 445 (key worker, taxonomy, description worker, Eritrea: Keren), 468 (catalogue Africa).

Trigona beccarii GRIBODO, 1879: FRIESE 1915: 267 (biogeography), 276 (Eritrea without locality, Keren).

Trigona (Meliponula) beccarii GRIBODO, 1879: COCKERELL 1934: 58 (taxonomy, description worker, Eritrea: Keren).

Meliplebeia beccarii (GRIBODO, 1879): MOURE 1961: 229 (typus generis), 231 (taxonomy, description worker, Keren).

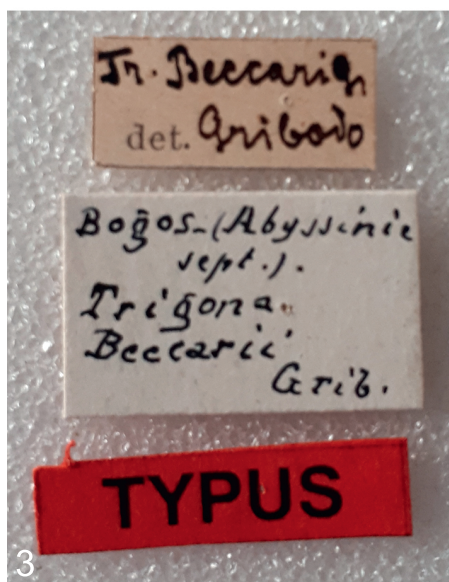
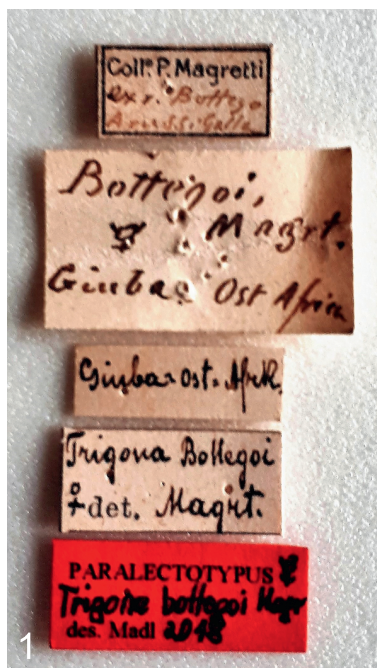
Meliponula (Meliplebeia) beccarii (GRIBODO, 1879): EARDLEY 2004: 70 (key), 75 (tax., descriptions worker, male, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea (Keren), Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania (mainland, Zanzibar), Zimbabwe), 76 (figs 20-23), 77 (fig. 25: map).

Meliponula beccarii (GRIBODO, 1879): PAULY & HORA 2013: 6 (taxonomy, type designation, biology, Eritrea (Keren), Ethiopia), 7 (figs 1a-f), 8 (figs 2a-f), 9 (figs 3a: map general distribution; b: map distribution in Ethiopia), 10 (figs 4a-c: biology), 11 (figs. 5, 6, both biology).

Meliponula (Meliplebeia) beccarii (GRIBODO, 1879): PENATI & MARIOTTI 2015: 26 (type depositories, catalogue species described by Gribodo).

Type material examined: Eritrea: Bogos, 5 workers.

The original labels are lost and only semi-printed labels are attached to the five type specimens (see fig. 2). I found also a sixth specimen identified by Gribodo, but with a hand written label in French (see fig. 3). This specimen could also belong to the type series. I doubt that fact, because there were only five specimens in the collection when Friese examined the material. Type specimens of *Meliplebeia beccarii* are deposited in Museo Civico di Storia Naturale "Giacomo Doria" in Genova (Italy), Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris (France), Natural History Museum in London (United Kingdom), Natural History Museum in Vienna (Austria) and United States National Museum in Washington (U.S.A.). Additionally I found two workers labelled Keren (Magretti-Collection) identified by P. Magretti. The material was probably collected by himself in 1900.



Figs 1-3: (1) Labels of *Liotrigona bottegoi* (MAGRETTI, 1895); (2) Labels of *Meliplebeia beccarii* (GRIBODO, 1879); (3) Labels of the sixth specimen of *Meliplebeia beccarii* (GRIBODO, 1879)
Photos 1-3: M. Madl.

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I am indebted to Manuela Vizek (Natural History Museum Vienna) for her help in searching material from the Horn of Africa in the Hymenoptera collection.

Zusammenfassung

Syntypen von *Liotrigona bottegoi* (MAGRETTI, 1895) aus Äthiopien und *Meliplebeia beccarii* (GRIBODO, 1879) aus Eritrea wurden im Naturhistorischen Museum in Wien (Österreich) gefunden und als Paralectotypen gekennzeichnet.

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