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Remarks on the genus *Tagenostola* REITTER (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae)

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Abstract

Morphological characters of the genus *Tagenostola* REITTER and the two known species are presented. *Tagenostola turkestanica* REITTER is reported from Nepal for the first time, *T. seriepilosa* FAIRMAIRE is reported from the Ivory Coast and Sudan for the first time.

Key words: Coleoptera, Tenebrionidae, *Tagenostola*, taxonomy, distribution

Introduction

The tribe Stenosini with 29 described genera is distributed from Africa and southern Europe to Central Asia, India and South-East Asia. One of the little known genera is *Tagenostola* REITTER (type species: *T. turkestanica* REITTER, by original description) with only two species. *Tagenostola* was so far recorded from North Africa, Central Asia, and North India. REITTER (1916) gave only a very short and superficial diagnosis of this genus. Later, KOCH (1935) and MEDVEDEV (1991) provided more detailed redescriptions. KOCH (1940) transferred *Stenosis seriepilosa* FAIRMAIRE to *Tagenostola* and named several characters to distinguish the two species.

The aim of the present paper is to describe the morphological characters of *Tagenostola*, to provide the first illustrations and to update the known distribution.

Tagenostola REITTER

Morphological diagnosis: Colour reddish to brown. Head long and slender, basally evenly constricted; surface punctate, without keels; eyes very large, not divided and not constricted by temporal canthus (Fig. 2); postocular groove lacking. Pronotum slender, subcylindrical, much narrower than elytra, punctate, without keels. Apophysis of prosternum elongate, surpassing level of anterior trochanter. Elytra very slender, strongly narrowed to apex; shoulders oblique, truncate (Fig. 1); all striae very flat, consisting of rows of distinct punctures and rows of densely arranged whitish hairs between them; scutellary striae present. Epipleura with a row of distinct punctures. Mesal process of abdominal sternite I reaching anterior level of metacoxae. All abdominal sternites with equally large, superficially impressed punctures. Legs with short yellow bristles, tarsus I much shorter than tarsus IV; metatibia of male with minute, not very distinct spinulae on inner side. Aedeagus (Fig. 3) regularly narrowed to apex, pointed, with latero-apical setae.

Discussion: Some of REITTER's (1916) diagnoses concerning *Tagenostola* (e.g. "last antennomere smaller than penultimate one" and "eyes not visible in dorsal view in their full size") are misleading.

Tagenostola is distinguished from *Stenosis* HERBST most readily by the oblique shoulders.

All characters of the genus *Tagenostola* must be regarded as plesiomorphic for the Stenosini, except the very slender, long head. Probably, *Tagenostola* split off relatively early from the remaining Stenosini genera.

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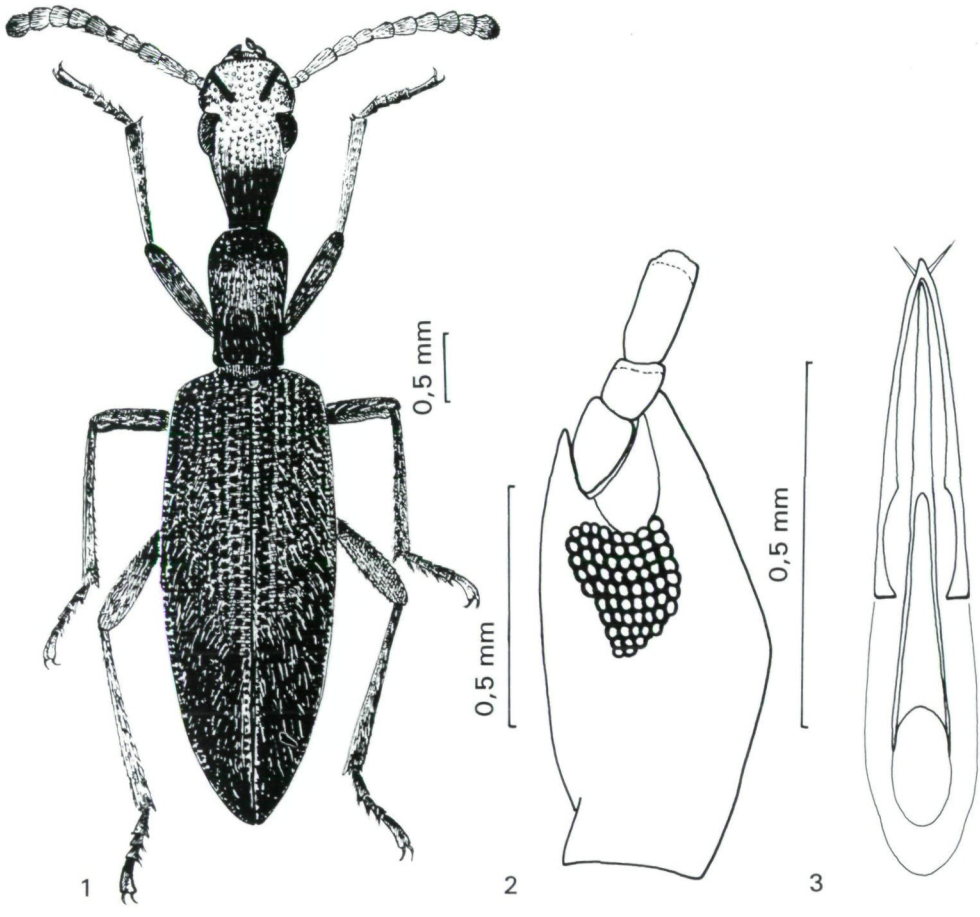

Figs 1 - 3: *Tagenostola turkestanica*: 1) habitus; 2) head, lateral view; 3) aedeagus.

Tagenostola turkestanica (incl. ssp. *albovillosa* KOCH) is distinguished from *T. seriepilosa* (incl. ssp. *mülleri* REITTER) by the nearly cylindrical pronotum with parallel sides (slightly heart-shaped in *T. seriepilosa*), and by the wider last antennomere. The aedeagus and characters of the elytra and the ventral surface are very similar in both species.

Distribution:

Tagenostola seriepilosa seriepilosa (FAIRMAIRE)

Mali, Badoumbé 13°42'N/10°15'W (KOCH 1940); Ivory Coast, Riv. Bagoue, Guinguéréni 9°32'N/6°36'W, Badenou S Mbingué 9°50'N/5°50'W (coll. Institute of Biogeography, Saarbrücken); Chad, Prov. Lac, Bol 13°27'N/14°40'E; Chad, Prov. Moyen Chari, Sarh (= Fort Archambault) 9°08'N/18°22'W and Niellims near Sarh (KOCH 1940).

Tagenostola seriepilosa mülleri REITTER

Egypt, along Nile; Barrage and Rhoda Island near Cairo, Helwân 29°51'N/31°20'E, Asyût 27°14'N/31°07'E (KOCH 1935); Sudan, Prov. Nile, Atbara 17°42'N/34°00'E, Prov. El Gezira, Wadi Medani 14°24'N/33°30'E (coll. Bremer, Heidelberg), Saudi Arabia, Prov. Hijâz (= Hedjar, REITTER 1916).

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Tagenostola turkestanica turkestanica REITTER

Azerbaijan, Aras Valley (= Araxes valley, on the border to Iran); Turkmenistan, Tedshen 37°26'N/60°30'E, Repetek 38°36'N/63°11'E.

Tagenostola turkestanica albovillosa KOCH

India, Uttar Pradesh, Dehra Dun 30°19'N/78°03'E, Bhagwanpur (KOCH 1940, the latter locality is not to determine exactly because there are several Bhagwanpur in northern India); Nepal, Kali Gandaki, Beni, 1000m, 28°20'N/83°32'E (1 ♂ in coll. Arndt, 1 ♀ in coll. Ferrer).

The subspecies of *Tagenostola seriepilosa* and *T. turkestanica* are not easily distinguishable by morphological characters (see KOCH 1940). Morphologically, the Nepalese specimens represent a transitional form between the subspecies of *T. turkestanica*.

Tagenostola is new for the fauna of the Ivory Coast, the Sudan in present borders and Nepal.

Thus, there are 5 genera of Stenosini known from Nepal: *Tagenostola*, *Pseudethas* FAIRMAIRE, *Tetransosis* KOCH, *Herbertfranzia* KASZAB, and *Herbertfranziella* KASZAB. As already pointed out by KASZAB (1981), the fauna of Nepal includes only archaic Stenosini.

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Zusammenfassung

Morphologische Merkmale der Gattung *Tagenostola* sowie beider Arten dieser Gattung werden beschrieben. Alle bekannten Fundorte werden aufgelistet. *Tagenostola seriepilosa* wird für die Elfenbeinküste und den Sudan, *T. turkestanica* für Nepal erstmals gemeldet.

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