

Africophilus jaechi sp.n. from Madagascar

(Coleoptera: Dytiscidae)

A. BILARDO & S. ROCCHI

Abstract

Africophilus jaechi sp.n. (Coleoptera: Dytiscidae) from Madagascar is described and illustrated. This new species can be compared to *A. pauliani* LEGROS, 1950, because of the peculiar shape of the aedeagus.

Key words: Coleoptera, Dytiscidae, Laccophilinae, *Africophilus*, new species, Madagascar.

Introduction

Africophilus GUIGNOT, 1948 is an African laccophilini genus based on the type species, *A. inopinatus* GUIGNOT, 1948. Sixteen species were added by LEGROS (1950), GUIGNOT (1951), OMER-COOPER & OMER-COOPER (1957), OMER-COOPER (1969), BILARDO (1976), HOLMEN (1985), SANFILIPPO & FRANCISCOLO (1988), ROCCHI (1991) and FRANCISCOLO (1994) raising the total to 17 (NILSSON 2001). FRANCISCOLO (1994) also provided the most updated key to their identification.

Recently, we received four specimens of *Africophilus* from the Naturhistorisches Museum Wien, including two males and one female which belong to an undescribed species, which is described below. The fourth specimen could not be identified because it is a female.

Acronyms and Abbreviations:

NMW Naturhistorisches Museum Wien, Austria

L	total body length	L/w	ratio of total length to greatest width
Lp	length of the aedeagus	w	greatest body width

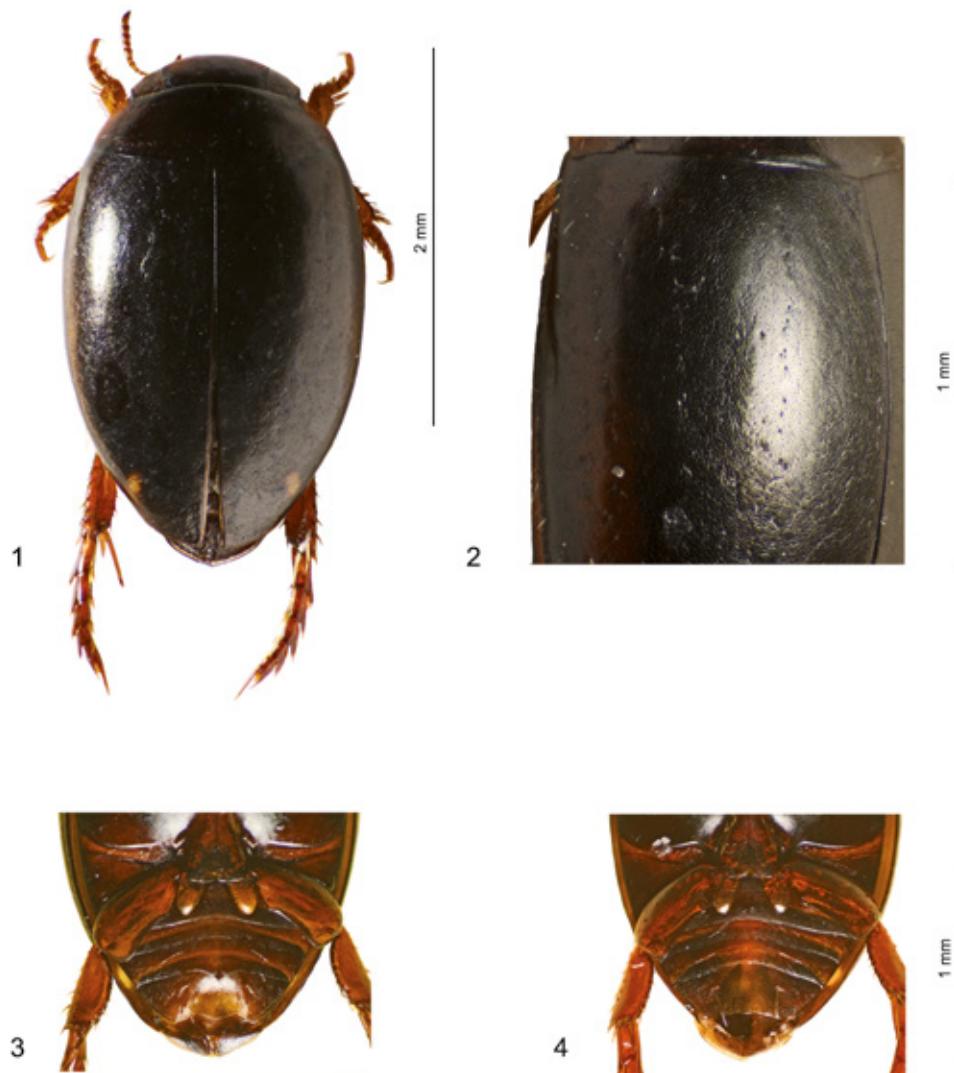
Africophilus jaechi sp.n.

TYPE LOCALITY: Helocrenes crossing road, right hand of Cascade du Roi, S 22°08'36.7", E 46°53'17.4", 1710 m, Andringitra National Park, Fianarantsoa, Madagascar.

TYPE MATERIAL: **Holotype** ♂ (NMW): "Madagascar, Andringitra (NP), Fianarantsoa, 14.04.2011, leg. R. Gerecke (MD 208), helocrenes crossing road right hand of Cascade du Roi, S 22°08'36.7", E 46°53'17.4", 1710 m".

Paratypes (NMW): 1 ♂: "Madagascar, Andringitra (NP), Fianarantsoa, 12.04.2011, leg. R. Gerecke (MD 200), affluent to Cascade de la Reine, near Campsite, S 22°09'11.3", E 46°54'02.2", 1797 m"; 1 ♀: "Madagascar, Andringitra (NP), Fianarantsoa, 12.04.2011, leg. R. Gerecke (MD 198), hygropetric cascade stream way cascades, S 22°08'12.8", E 46°53'06.4", 1722 m".

DIAGNOSIS: A well identifiable species because of the characteristic shape of the aedeagus (Figs. 5–10), that is "apically straight and overtly spatulate" as in *A. pauliani* LEGROS, 1950 (FRANCISCOLO 1994: 289); the aedeagus of *A. pauliani* has however an evidently different shape (see GUIGNOT 1959: 592, fig. 534).



Figs. 1–4: *Africophilus jaechi*, 1) holotype, habitus, 2) holotype, microsculpture of left elytron, 3) holotype, 6th and 7th urosterna, 4) paratype ♀, 6th and 7th urosterna.

Habitus ♂ (Fig. 1). Head microreticulate, anteriorly testaceous and posteriorly piceous. Pronotum microreticulate, piceous with testaceous sides. Elytra microreticulate and with scattered punctuation (Fig. 2); a wide-meshed double reticulation appears medially, and in the basal half there are three rows of small pits. Antennae, palpi and legs testaceous.

Ventral side ferruginous. In the male the penultimate urosternite bears a median prominence, which is concave and with a sinuous posterior margin (Fig. 3). In the female the last two urosternites are concave, without sinuous margins (Fig. 4).



Figs. 5–10: *Africophilus jaechi*, holotype, penis, 5) dorsal view and inner face of parameres, 6) dorso-frontal view (viewed at 45°), 7) right side view, 8) right dorso-lateral view, 9) left dorso-lateral view, 10) left side view.

Size: holotype L 2.62 mm, w 1.62 mm, L/w 1.62, Lp 0.62 mm; paratype ♂ L 2.55 mm, w 1.54 mm, L/w 1.65, Lp 0.62 mm; paratype ♀ L 2.53 mm, w 1.56 mm, L/w 1.49.

Male genitalia: aedeagus in dorsal view straight, apically bilobate; right and left sides regularly curved, apically straight. Because of its asymmetry the aedeagus has been illustrated in different views (Figs. 5–10).

Female genitalia: we could not find any significant difference when compared to those of other *Africophilus* spp.

ETYMOLOGY: The new species is dedicated to Dr. Manfred A. Jäch of the Naturhistorisches Museum, Vienna.

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Armando BILARDO

Via De Amicis 29, I – 21012 Cassano Magnago (Varese), Italia (armandobilardo@libero.it)

Saverio ROCCHI

Museo di Storia Naturale dell'Università degli Studi di Firenze, Sezione di Zoologia "La Specola", Via Romana 17, I – 50125 Firenze, Italia (rocchisaverio@gmail.com)

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