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Two new species of the genus *Philonthus* from Central African Republic (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Philonthina)

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Abstract: *Philonthus eremitalpa* nov.sp. and *Philonthus heliosciurus* nov.sp. from Central African Republic are described and male characters are illustrated.

Key words: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Philonthina, *Philonthus*, Central African Republic, taxonomy, new species.

Introduction

In the study presented here, two new species from Central African Republic are described. *Philonthus eremitalpa* nov.sp. belongs in the species group characterized in *P. marginipennis* HROMÁDKA (2009) *Philonthus heliosciurus* nov.sp., based on external characters and morphology of genitalia, is not possible to affiliate species to any herto defined species group.

Material, methods, and measurements

The following acronyms are used to refer to the collections mentioned:

cHPCLubomír Hromádka, private collection, Praha (Czech Republic)

NMPC.....National Museum, Praha, Czech Republic (Jiří Hájek)

A double slash (//) is used to divide separate labels of the type specimens. All measurements were taken from the beetles with extended abdomen. Ratios mentioned in the descriptions can be converted to lengths using the following formula: 20 units = 1 mm.

Results

Philonthus eremitalpa nov.sp. (Figs 1-2)

Type material: Holotype: ♂: République Centrafricaine, Bozo lumière, 21.v.1981, leg. N. Degallier, //Holotype *Philonthus eremitalpa* nov.sp. Hromádka det. 2012, [red oblong label printed] (NMPC), Paratypes: 2♀♀: same locality as holotype (cHPC, NMPC), [all paratypes with red oblong labels printed].

Description : Body length 7.3 mm, length of fore body (to end of elytra) 3.2 mm.

Colouration : Body and antennae black, mandibles, palpomere three of maxillary and labial palpi brown, remaining palpomeres black-brown, femora brown-yellow, tibiae black, tarsi black-brown.

Head slightly wider than long (ratio 23: 20), posterior angles markedly rounded, bearing one long black bristle. Clypeus with round shallow depression medially. Between eyes four punctures, medial punctures shifted anteriorly, distance between medial punctures five times larger than distance between medial and lateral puncture. Eyes shorter than temples (ratio 7: 10), posterior margin with two setiferous punctures. Temporal area with single unequal punctures. Surface with fine microsculpture consisting of transverse waves.

Antennae long reaching posterior margin of pronotum when reclined. Antennomeres 1-3 and 11 distinctly longer than wide, antennomere 4 slightly longer than wide, antennomeres 5-10 as long as wide.

Pronotum longer than wide (ratio 28: 23), parallel-sided, anterior angles obtusely and posterior angles markedly rounded. Each dorsal row with six punctures, punctures 2-6 approximately equidistant, distance between punctures 1-2 slightly larger than distance between previous punctures. Each sublateral row with two punctures, puncture two distinctly shifted to the lateral margin. Several varying long bristles in anterior half of sides. Surface with microsculpture similar to that of head.

Scutellum finely and sparsely punctured, diameter of punctures as large as eye-facets, separated by much larger distance than a puncture diameter.

Elytra as long as wide, distinctly widened posteriorly, relatively coarsely and densely punctured, diameter of punctures distinctly larger than that on scutellum, separated by one puncture diameter or smaller. Surface without microsculpture; setation brown.

Legs. Metatibia longer than metatarsus (ratio 31: 26), metatarsomere 1 shorter than metatarsomere 5 and much shorter than metatarsomeres 2-3 combined.

Abdomen wide, from visible tergite III gradually narrowed posteriorly. First three visible tergites with two basal lines, elevated area between lines with scattered punctures. Punctuation at base of all tergites much finer than that on elytra, becoming much sparser towards posterior margin of each tergite. Surface without microsculpture; setation similar to that on elytra.

Male. Protarsomeres 1-3 simple, moderately dilated. Aedeagus (Figs 1-2).

Female. Protarsomeres 1-3 similar to that on male.

Comparative notes : *Philonthus eremitalpa* nov.sp. may be distinguished from all species of the special goupe *Philonthus marginipennis* by its different number of punctures in dorsal rows and by the different shape of the aedeagus.

Etymology : The name of this species, a noun in apposition, is the Latin generic name of the African Grands golden mole *Eremitalpa Granti* (BROOM 1907).

Distribution : Central African Republic.

***Philonthus heliosciurus* nov.sp. (Figs 3-5)**

Type material: Holotype: ♂: République Centraafricaine, Bozo lumiere, 21.v.1981, leg. N. Degallier, //Holotype *Philonthus heliosciurus* nov.sp. Hromádka det. 2012 [red oblong label printed] (NMPC).

Description: Body length 9.2 mm, length of fore body (to end of elytra) 4.1 mm.

Colouration: Head black, pronotum and scutellum black-brown, elytra straw-coloured, suture narrowly black. Maxillary and labial palpi and mandibles dark brown, antennae black-brown. Femora brown-yellow, tibiae brown-black, tarsi dark brown, paler distally.

Head small, rounded, slightly wider than long (ratio 25: 22), posterior angles markedly rounded, bearing two long black bristles. Between eyes four fine punctures, distance between lateral and medial punctures as large as one puncture diameter, distance between medial punctures seven times larger than distance between lateral and medial puncture. Eyes flat and large, distinctly longer than temples (ratio 11: 7). Posterior margin with three punctures arranged in a shape like the pyramid, temporal area with scattered punctures. Surface without microsculpture.

Antennae long, exceeding posterior margin of pronotum by the length of antennomeres 1-2 combined, all antennomeres longer than wide, antennomere 1 longer than antennomere 11, antennomere 2 shorter than antennomere 3.

Pronotum wider than long (ratio 39: 35), distinctly narrowed anteriorly. Anterior angles obtusely rounded, bearing several varying long bristles, posterior angles markedly rounded.

Each dorsal row with five approximately equidistant punctures, each sublateral row with two fine punctures, arranged in a row parallel to the dorsal row and half way between it and side. One long black bristle in the middle of each side. Surface without microsculpture.

Scutellum densely and coarsely punctured, diameter of punctures larger than eye-facets, separated by one puncture diameter or larger here and there. Setation black.

Elytra wider than long (ratio 51: 43), widened posteriad, punctuation finer and sparser, diameter of punctures as large as that on scutellum, separated by one and half puncture diameters or larger here and there. Several longer and many short black bristles on sides.

Surface without microsculpture; setation black.

Legs: Metatibia longer than metatarsus (ratio 30: 28), metatarsomere 1 longer than metatarsomere 5, as long as metatarsomeres 2-3 combined.

Abdomen from visible tergite IV very gradually narrowed posteriad. First three visible tergites with two basal lines, elevated area between lines very densely and finely punctate. Punctuation of whole tergites much finer and denser than that on elytra, diameter of punctures smaller than eye-facets, separated mostly by one puncture diameter or larger here and there. Surface without microsculpture; setation dark brown.

Male: Protarsomeres 1-3 very strongly dilated and sub-bilobed, each covered with modified pale setae ventrally, protarsomere 4 narrower than preceding ones, heart-shaped. Aedeagus (Figs 3-5).

Female: Unknown to the autor.

E t y m o l o g y : The name of this species, a noun in apposition, is the Latin generic

name of the African Gambian sun squirrel *Heliosciurus gambianus* (OGILBY 1835).

D i s t r i b u t i o n : Central African Republic.

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Zusammenfassung

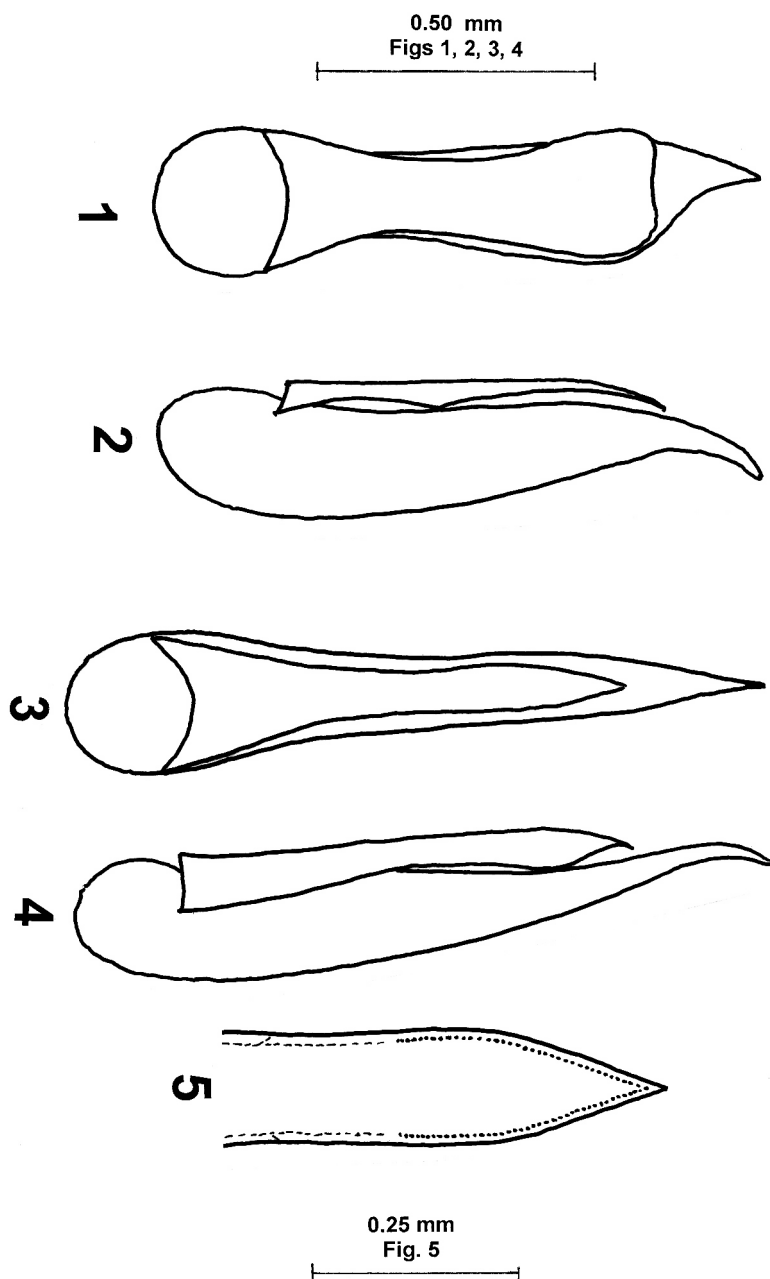
Zwei neue Kurzflügler-Arten (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Philonthina) aus der Zentralafrikanischen Republik werden beschrieben und abgebildet. *Philonthus erimitalpa* nov.sp. gehört in die Gruppe um *Philonthus marginipennis*, definiert in HROMÁDKA (2009), *Philonthus heliosciurus* nov.sp. ist aufgrund ihres äußeren Aussehens und der Form des Aedeagus in keine der bisher bekannten Gruppen einzureihen.

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Figs 1-2: *Philonthus erimitalpa* nov.sp. (1) aedeagus, ventral view, (2) aedeagus, lateral view.

Figs 3-5: *Philonthus heliosciurus* nov.sp. (3) aedeagus, ventral view, (4) aedeagus, lateral view, (5) apex of paramere with sensory peg setae, ventral view.

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