A new species of *Philonthus* from Madagascar  
(Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Philonthina)  

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**Abstract:** *Philonthus janaki* nov.sp. is described from the Madagascar and compared with the similar *P. hapalemur* HROMÁDKA & JANÁK 2011. The male genitalia and important external male characters of both species are illustrated.  

**Key words:** Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Philonthina, *Philonthus*, Madagascar, taxonomy, new species.  

**Introduction**  

The genus *Philonthus* belongs to the tribe Staphylinini and is the largest genus in the subtribe Philonthina occurring in all zoogeographical regions. Members of this genus are predators of tiny insects and their larvae. They live in rotting vegetable material, animal corpses, manure and moss. Many species are typical inhabitans of riversides, some live exclusively in nests of birds and small underground mammals, some are found only in mountains, in still water and salt marshes.  

The genus *Philonthus* STEPHENS 1829 is represented in the Madagascar by about 26 species.  

**Material, methods and measurements**  

The material referred in this study is deposited in the following private collection:  
cJRC ..............private collection Jiří Janák, Rytíře nad Bílinou (Czech Republic)  

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

*Philonthus janaki* nov.sp. (Figs 1-3)


**Description:** Body length 10.4 mm, length of fore body (to end of elytra) 5.0 mm.

**Colouration:** Body anthracite black, labial palpomeres black, maxillary palpomere 3 black-brown, remaining palpomeres, antennae, femora and tibiae black, tarsi brown.

Head rounded, wider than long (ratio 34: 31), posterior angles indistinct, bearing one long black and several short bristles. Four coarse punctures present between eyes, distance between medial punctures four times as large as distance between medial and lateral puncture. Eyes flat, as long as temples, posterior angles with two coarse punctures, temporal area with several varying large punctures. Surface without microsculpture, with many microscopic dots.

Antennae slender and long, reaching posterior margin of pronotum when reclined. Antennomeres 1-3 distinctly longer than wide, antennomeres 4-7 and 11 slightly longer than wide, antennomeres 8-10 as long as wide.

Pronotum highly convex, anterior angles conspicuously deflexed, vaguely obtusely rounded, posterior angles markedly rounded. Each dorsal row with four punctures, distance between punctures 2 and 3 larger than distance between punctures 1 and 2 and between punctures 3 and 4. Each sublateral row with two punctures, puncture two distinctly shifted to the lateral margin. Surface without microsculpture.

Scutellum very finely and densely punctured, diameter of punctures approximately as large as eye-facets, separated by distance smaller than one puncture diameter.

Elytra wider than long (ratio 54: 50), very slightly widened posteriad. Punctation larger than that on scutellum, transverse interstices smaller than one puncture diameter, many punctures contiguous. Surface without microsculpture; setation black. Sides bearing two long and several short black bristles.

Legs. Metatarsus longer than metatibia (ratio 36: 32), metatarsomere 1 longer than metatarsomere 5, as long as metatarsomeres 2-3 combined.

Abdomen wide, from visible tergite III very slightly anteriad and distinctly posteriad narrowed. First three visible tergites with two basal lines, elevated area between lines finely and densely punctured. Punctation at base of all tergites slightly finer and denser than that on elytra, becoming sparser towards posterior margin of each tergite. Surface without microsculpture; setation similar to that on elytra.

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

Female. Unknown.

**Comparative notes:** *Philonthus janaki* nov.sp. is similar to *P. hapalemur* HROMÁDKA & JANÁK 2011 (Figs 4-6), but it differs in having narrower head, shorter
antennae, less numbers of punctures in dorsal rows, denser punctation of elytra and by
the different shape of the aedeagus.

E t y m o l o g y : It is my pleasure to dedicate this new species to my friend, Czech
entomologist Ing. Jiří Janák, specialist on the Staphylinidae.

D i s t r i b u t i o n : Madagascar.

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of the Madagascarian material and for valuable comments on the manuscript.

Zusammenfassung

Philonthus janaki nov.sp. (Madagascar) wird beschrieben und von der ähnlichen P. hapalemur
HROMÁDKA & JANÁK 2011 unterschieden. Die äußeren sowie die männlichen Geschlechtsmerk-
male der zwei Arten werden abgebildet.

References

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Figs 1-3: Philonthus janaki nov.sp.: (1) aedeagus, ventral view; (2) aedeagus, lateral view; (3) apex of paramere with sensory peg setae, ventral view.

Figs 4-8: Philonthus hapalemur HROMÁDKA & JANÁK 2011: (4) aedeagus, ventral view; (5) aedeagus, lateral view; (6) apex of paramere with sensory peg setae, ventral view; (7) aedeagus, ventral view, transmitted light; (8) apex of paramere with sensory peg setae, ventral view.
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