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Mitt. Münch. Ent. Ges.	**105**	41-43	München, 15.10.2015	ISSN 0340-4943

A new species of *Corticeus* PILLER & MITTERPACHER, 1783 from Madagascar

(Coleoptera; Tenebrionidae; Hypophlaeini)

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Abstract

A new species of *Corticeus* PILLER & MITTERPACHER, 1783, from Madagascar is described and illustrated: *Corticeus quantilius* **sp. n.**

Introduction

Several years ago I revised the genus *Corticeus* PILLER & MITTERPACHER, 1783 of Madagascar and of the Mascarene Islands (BREMER 1985, 1987) and also of Africa south of the Sahara (BREMER 1995). In these papers I redescribed and illustrated formerly described species, described and illustrated new species, and provided determination keys. No species known from the African Continent has been found yet in the Malgassian Region, and no species known from the Malgassian Region is known to occur in Africa.

One more species from Madagascar is described and illustrated in this paper.

Acronym

ZSM = Zoologische Staatssammlung, Munich, Germany

Description of the new species

***Corticeus quantilius* sp. n.** (Fig. 1)

Holotype, sex not determined, ZSM: SW Madagascar, 15-30 km S of Toliara, 50 m, 23.-27.XI.1996, BEDNAØIK leg.

Paratype: Madagascar, Toliara Distr., Kirindi, 23.-25.XI.1997, JIØI STOLARCZYK leg. (sex not determined, ZSM).

Diagnosis. This tiny species with a large yellow macula on each elytron is near *Corticeus vinsoni* BREMER, 1985 from Mauritius which is also small and also presents a large yellow macula on each elytron. However, *C. quantilius* is smaller than *C. vinsoni* (1.96-2.12 mm vs. 2.41-2.56 mm); the frons is narrower (width of head/width of frons in *C. quantilius* 1.95-2.09 vs. 1.79-1.84 in *C. vinsoni*). On frons *C. vinsoni* possesses laterally two bumps', not so *C. quantilius*; the genae are well separated from the transversely convex clypeus in *C. vinsoni*, the genae of *C. quantilius* are narrower and not so well discernible. Both species present a tarsal formula of 4-4-4.

Corticeus hovanus (ARDOIN, 1970) from the Eastern part of Madagascar, is another similar species with a large macula on each elytron. *C. hovanus* is also larger than *C. quantilius* (body length 2.6-2.7 mm) and, in contrast to *C. quantilius*, the pronotum of *C. hovanus* is wider than long (length/width ≈0.91:1); furthermore, the elytral macula of *A. hovanus* is larger than that of the holotype of *C. quantilius*, and reaches the basal margin of elytra at the shoulders, insofar it resembles the form of maculae of the paratype of *C. quantilius*. *Corticeus hovanus* does not possess two bumps' on frons; concerning this character it resembles *C. quantilius*.

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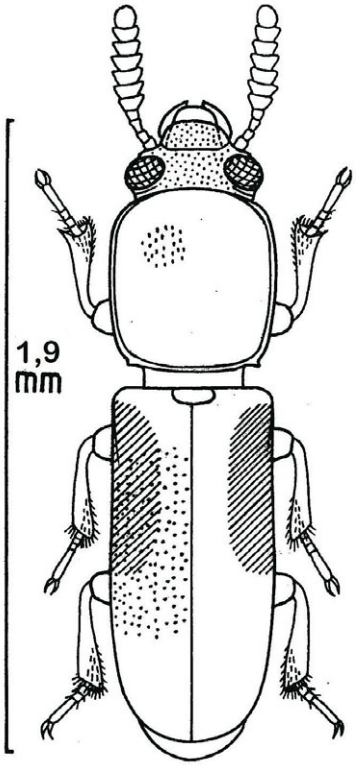

Fig. 1: *Corticeus quantilius* **sp. n.**, drawing based on holotype. **Fig. 2:** *Corticeus quantilius* **sp. n.**: Photo based on paratype.

Description. Body length: 1.96-2.12 mm. Body width: 0.53-0.60 mm.

Ratios. Pronotum: length/width 1.10-1.12 (of *C. vinsoni* 1.06-1.09). Elytra: length/width 2.10-2.15 (of *C. vinsoni* 1.86-2.08); length elytra/length pronotum 2.00-2.03 (of *C. vinsoni* 1.94-2.09).

Coloration. Under side brown; legs including femora yellow; upper side darker brown and in hind part of elytra nearly black, somewhat lustrous; the large elytral macula yellow. These maculae do not reach the median suture; posteriorly the maculae terminate at approximately 60 per cent of length of elytra.

Head. Upper side of head microreticulated. Eyes large, roundedly projecting laterad, and laterally wider projecting than genae. Frons of medium width, somewhat convex longitudinally, with small, distinct, not very closely set punctures. Genae posteriorly terminating at about 40 per cent of the anterior margin of eyes; the genae are not well separated from the slightly transversely convex clypeus. Clypeus not as closely punctured as frons. On under side of head the eyes just touch the outer margin of base of maxillary palpes. Mentum small, transversal, slightly indented. Under side of neck with a few small punctures.

Pronotum. Cylindrical, somewhat longer than wide, with straight lateral margins. Front corners rounded, anterior margin slightly projecting towards head in the middle. Hind corners with a clear, obtuse angle. Surface with small, distinct, moderately closely set punctures.

Scutellum. Transversely oval.

Elytra. Long, cylindrical. Anterior margin straight; posteriorly rounded. Elytral rows with small punctures with are not well linearly arranged.

Pygidium. Half-elliptic; with minute, not very closely set punctures.

Prosternum. Disc in front of apophysis clearly convex transversely, with a few small punctures which are the origin of rising hairs of medium length. Episterna with coarse, closely set punctures. Apophysis between procoxae narrow, widened triangularly posteriorly and bent downwards just caudad of procoxae.

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Mesosternum. The anterior, slightly impressed part is closely punctured. The posterior part between mesocoxae is narrow and slightly ascending.

Metasternum. Median suture only translucent, neither incised nor impressed. Disc with small, widely distributed punctures; lateral parts more microreticulated, with larger, closer set punctures.

Sternites. Disc of sternites 1-4 with small, not very closely set punctures. Disc of sternite 5 with large, very closely set punctures.

Antennae. Short, scarcely reaching to the middle of pronotum. Antennomeres 5-11 widened, wider than long; antennomere 11 irregularly round.

Legs. Short. Outer side of tibiae sharp-edged; protibiae only terminating apically in a tooth, mesotibiae apically with a sharp corner, metatibiae apically rounded. Tarsal formula 4-4-4.

Etymology. Quantilius (Lat.) = noticeable concerning length (shortness, tallness).

Zusammenfassung

Eine neue *Corticeus*-Art (Coleoptera, Tenebrionidae, Hypophlaeini) aus Madagascar wird beschrieben und abgebildet: *Corticeus quantilius* **sp. n.**

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Zeitschrift/Journal: Mitteilungen der Münchner Entomologischen Gesellschaft

Jahr/Year: 2015

Band/Volume: 105

Autor(en)/Author(s): Bremer Hans-Joachim

Artikel/Article: A new species of Corticeus PILLER &MITTERPACHER, 1783 from Madagascar (Coleoptera; Tenebrionidae; Hypophlaeini) 41-43