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Three New *Stenaesthetus* Species from Ethiopia (Insecta, Coleoptera: Staphylinidae)

55th Contribution to the Knowledge of Euaesthetinae

With 12 Figures

VOLKER P U T H Z
Schlitz/Hessen

The Euaesthetine genus *Stenaesthetus* SHARP has a worldwide distribution. Until today from Africa there are known 11 species, most of them winged. Amongst unidentified materials of the BMNH I found the first records from Ethiopia: three new apterous species which are described below. My thanks are due to the authorities of the BMNH for their continuous collaboration.

Stenaesthetus scotti sp. n.

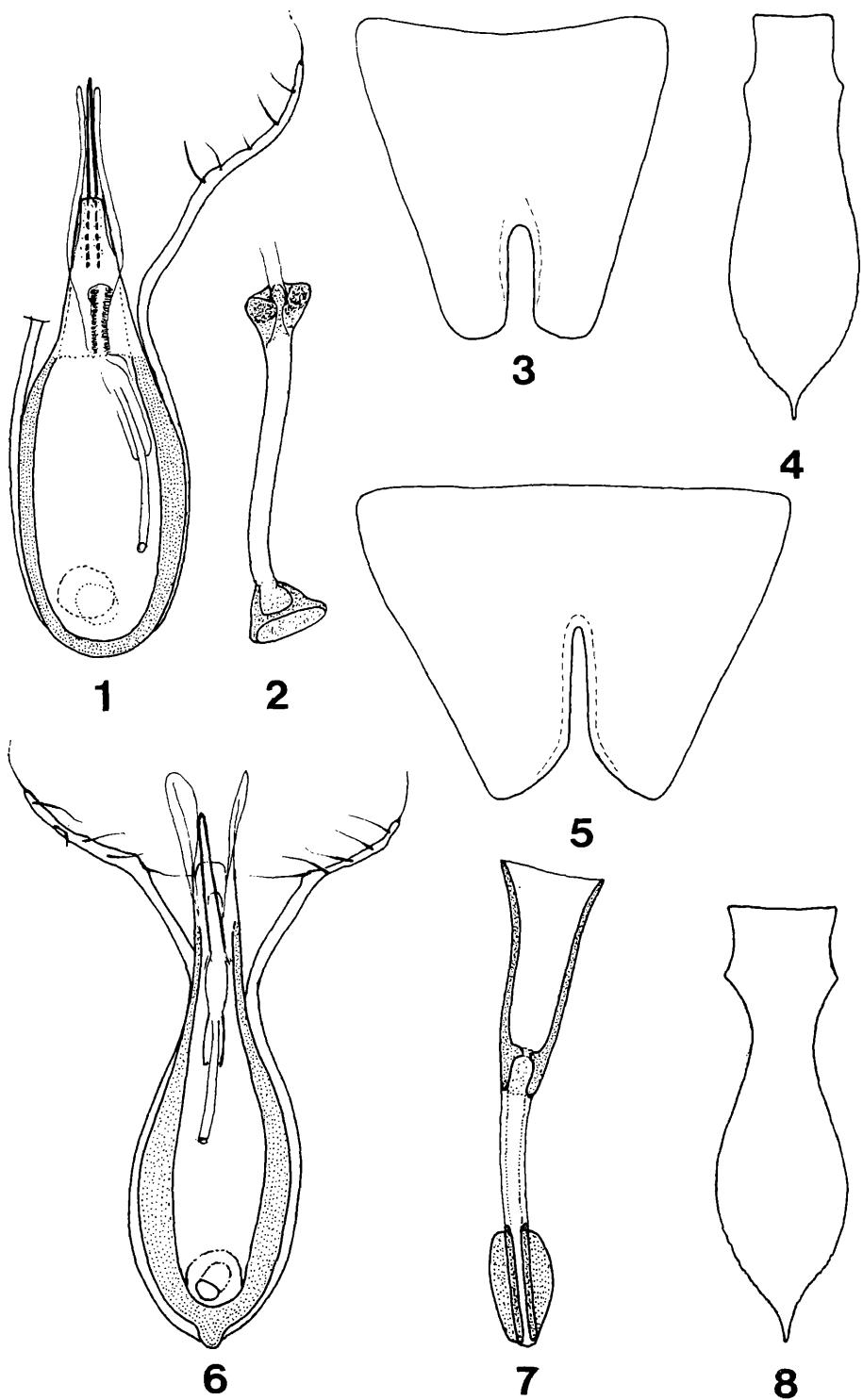
Length of body: 1.5–1.8 mm. Apterous, reddish-brown, moderately shining, head deeply reticulate with faint puncturation, pronotum and elytra distinctly punctured, punctures longitudinally coalescent; pubescence short and dense. Antennae and palpi whitish-yellow, legs brownish-yellow.

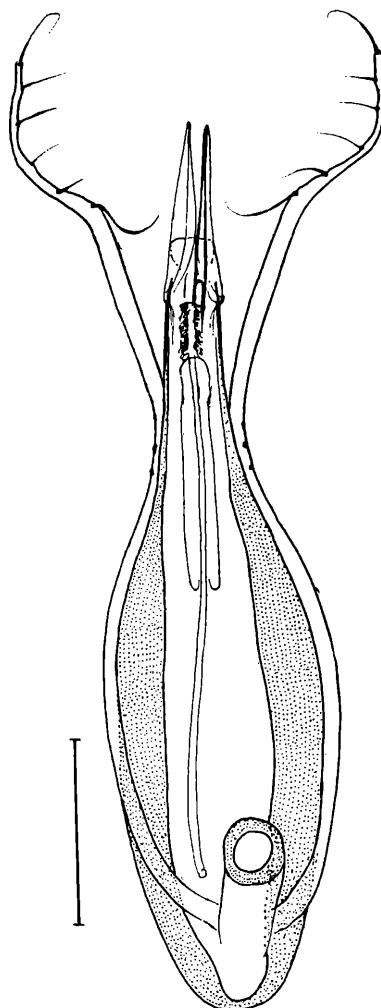
Head narrower than pronotum (43.5 : 46), distance between eyes: 37.5, eyes relatively small, twice as long as temples (10 : 5); front dull, very densely and deeply reticulate, puncturation faint, very shallow, diameter of punctures as large as widest cross-section of 3rd antennal segment, interstices much smaller than (laterally), as large as (medially), or larger than diameter of punctures (anteriorly); pubescence of front somewhat erect, turned into different directions, mostly towards medial line, but anteriorly turned to outer directions. Pronotum about as long as broad (46.5 : 46), constricted in posterior third, a very narrow longitudinal furrow at each side, which nearly extends to the middle of pronotal length, and 4 small holes, not very distinct in the coarse sculpture; puncturation moderately fine, very dense, longitudinally coalescent. Elytra very short, considerably broader than long (52 : 31), shoulders oblique, posterior margin broadly emarginate (sutural length: 23); puncturation slightly coarser and less coalescent than on pronotum. Abdomen anteriorly with distinct puncturation which becomes to be extinguished from tergite 5 towards apex; ground-sculpture dense and shallow, gives the abdomen a fatty lustre.

Male 8th sternite (fig. 3), 9th sternite (fig. 4), sperm-pump (fig. 2). Edeagus (Fig. 1):

Material examined Holotype ♂, Ethiopia: Gamo Province, Gughé highlands, south of Bonghé, ca. 9.500–10.000 ft., from humus under old Kosso tree (*Hagenia*), in small patch of forest, 31. XII. 1948, H. SCOTT (BMNH); ♂ - paratype (same data) (BMNH); ♂ - paratype: Gamo Province, Mt. Tola (Gughé highlands), ca. 10.600 ft., under roots of ferns and damp grass-tufts, 18. XII. 1948, H. SCOTT (BMNH); ♂ - paratype (same locality), from humus under bamboos, 25. XII. 1948, H. SCOTT (coll. m.).

This species is named after Sir Hugh SCOTT, the famous entomological explorer of Ethiopia, who collected this species and one of the following two in the montanous areas of Ethiopia.

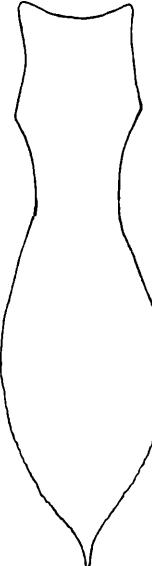




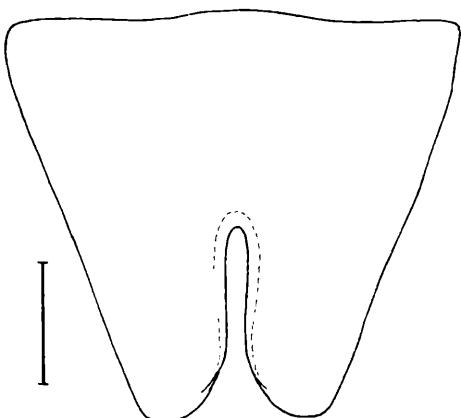
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10



11



12

Figs. 9–12: *Stenaesthetus aethiopicus* sp. n. (holotype and paratype). 9: dorsal view ofedeagus; 10: sperm-pump; 11: 9th sternite of male; 12: 8th sternite of male.

Scales: 0.1 mm

It is easily distinguished from most African *Stenaesthetus* species by being apterous; from the apterous species it is different as follows: from *S. thrips* PUTHZ and *S. leleupi* (KIST.) by having only two pronotal furrows, from the other two species by its minor length, smaller eyes, and the male sexual characters.



Figs. 1–4: *Stenaesthetus scotti* sp. n. (paratypes). 1: Dorsal view ofedeagus; 2: sperm-pump, 3: 8th sternite of male; 4: 9th sternite of male. — Figs. 5–8: *Stenaesthetus apterus* sp. n. (holotype). 5: 8th sternite of male; 6: dorsal view ofedeagus — 7: sperm-pump; 8: 9th sternite of male.

Stenaesthetus aethiopicus sp. n.

Length of body: 2.0–2.3 mm. Apterous, brownish, moderately shining, head deeply reticulate with a very faint puncturation, pronotum and elytra distinctly punctured, punctures longitudinally coalescent on pronotum; pubescence short and dense. Antennae whitish-yellow, palpi yellowish, legs reddish-yellow.

H e a d narrower than pronotum (50 52,5), distance between eyes: 39, eyes large, temples distinct, about one quarter as long as eyes (3.5 13); front dull, very densely and deeply reticulate, puncturation nearly indistinct; pubescence of front in posterior two thirds transversely directed, in anterior third turned to various directions. **P r o n o t u m** about as long as broad (52 52,5), distinctly constricted in posterior two fifths; a fine longitudinal furrow on each side beginning at pronotal base and extending to about the middle of pronotal length, and 6–8 small basal holes which nearly disappear in the coarse sculpture; puncturation moderately coarse, moderately deep, and extremely dense, longitudinally coalescent, the whole surface deeply reticulate. **E l y t r a** considerably broader than long (62 37), shoulders oblique, posterior margin broadly emarginated (sutural length: 28); puncturation moderately fine and dense, diameter of punctures about as large as cross-section of 1st segment of mesotarsi, interstices mostly smaller than diameter of punctures but can be also as large as diameter of punctures. The whole **a b d o m e n** with a very dense reticulation.

M a l e 7th sternite medially with a pretty narrow longitudinal impression which becomes shallower towards the posterior margin of sternite, posterior margin medially with a very shallow and narrow emargination. 8th sternite (fig. 12), 9th sternite (fig. 11), sperm-pump (fig. 10). Edeagus (fig. 9).

M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d Holotype ♂, Ethiopia: Kaffa Province, Belleta F. 40 km S. W. Jimma, 2100 m, under plants and stones at edge stream, XI. 1971, R. O. S. CLARK (BMNH); ♂ - paratype (same data) (coll. m.).

This new species is easily distinguished from most of the African *Stenaesthetus* species by total lack of wings; from *S. scotti* sp. n. it can be separated by greater length, larger eyes, coarser sculpture of pronotum, and the male sexual characters, from *S. apterus* sp. n. by much coarser puncturation and the male sexual characters, from other apterous species by having only two furrows at the pronotum.

Stenaesthetus apterus sp. n.

Length of body: 1.8–2.1 mm. Apterous, reddish-brown, slightly shining, head deeply reticulate with shallow puncturation, pronotum densely reticulated and shallowly punctured, elytra with shallow microsculpture and more distinct puncturation; pubescence short and dense. Antennae and palpi yellow. Legs reddish-yellow.

H e a d slightly narrower than pronotum (54,5 55), distance between eyes: 42, eyes large, temples indistinct (length of eyes length of temples = 18 2); front dull because of deep and dense reticulation, puncturation shallow but distinct, very dense. **P r o n o t u m** about as long as broad (54,5 55), distinctly constricted in posterior half; on each side basally a very fine, nearly indistinct longitudinal furrow, which extends nearly towards the middle of pronotal length, also about 8 small holes at the base of pronotum, which hardly can be separated from ground sculpture; puncturation fine and dense, diameter of punctures about as large as cross-section of 3rd antennal segment, interstices smaller than diameter of punctures, often smaller than half the diameter of a puncture, not coalescent, ground sculpture deeply reticulate. **E l y t r a** transverse, much broader than long (66 38), shoulders oblique, posterior margin shallowly curved-emarginated (sutural length: 28); puncturation fine and dense, about as on pronotum, but microsculpture less distinct, nearly extinguished. **A b d o m e n** with a very dense and deep ground sculpture.

Male 7th sternite medially extremely densely reticulate, dull, posterior margin in the middle with a narrow and shallow emargination. 8th sternite (fig. 5), 9th sternite (fig. 8), sperm-pump (fig. 7). Edeagus (fig. 6).

Material examined Holotype ♂, Ethiopia: Wolamo Province, spur of Mt. Damota, over 8000 ft., from peat-soil under boulders sunk in turf, 28. X. 1948, H. SCOTT (BMNH).

This new species can be distinguished from both other apterous *Stenaesthetus* species of Africa with having only two pronotal furrows as follows: from *S. scotti* sp. n. by its major length, broader head, separated pronotal puncturation, and larger eyes, from *S. aethiopicus* sp. n. by less coarse puncturation, especially that of pronotum, by its broader head, and shorter temples, from both by male sexual characters.

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