A new species of *Tribolium* Macleay from Namibia
(Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae: Triboliini)

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**Abstract**

*Tribolium namibiensis* n. sp. from Namibia is described and compared with *T. sulmo* Hinton, 1948. A checklist of the species of the genus *Tribolium* Macleay, 1825 is presented.

**Keywords:** Tenebrionidae, *Tribolium*, new species, taxonomy, checklist, Namibia.

**Zusammenfassung**


**Contents**

1 Introduction .................................................. 371

2 *Tribolium namibiensis* n. sp. ........................................ 371

3 References .................................................. 374

**1 Introduction**

The genus *Tribolium* Macleay, 1825 is a member of the tribe Triboliini, subfamily Tenebrioninae (BOUCHARD et al. 2005). According to HINTON (1948), the type species is *Colydium castaneum* Herbst, 1797.

HINTON (1948) published a synopsis of the genus and listed 26 species. According to this paper *Tribolium risbeci* described by LEPESME (1943) is a damaged specimen of *Alphitobius laevigatus* (Fabricius, 1781). Subsequently additional species were described by GRIDELLI (1950), NEBOIS (1962), NAKANE (1963), HALSTEAD (1969), TRIPLE-HORN (1978), KASZAB (1982), and GRIMM (2001). Taxonomical changes were indicated by HALSTEAD (1967a, b) and GRIMM (2001).

A new species of *Tribolium* from Namibia is described in the present paper, and a checklist of all species of the genus *Tribolium* is provided (Tab. 1), including distributional data.

**Acknowledgements**

Cordial thanks are due to Dr. WOLFGANG SCHAWALLER (Stuttgart) for the loan of material under his care and for reading the manuscript. Thanks are extended to Dr. OTTO MERKL (Budapest) for reviewing the manuscript and JOHANNES REIBNITZ (Stuttgart) for producing the photographs.

**2 *Tribolium namibiensis* n. sp.**

*Holotype:* ♂, N Namibia, 45 km SE Okakarara, Farm DIECKMANN, at light, 1300 m, 24.–25.IV.2005, leg. W. SCHAWALLER; Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde, Stuttgart.

*Paratypes:* Same data as holotype; 1 specimen in Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde, Stuttgart; 1 specimen in Transvaal Museum, Pretoria.

**Etymology**

Named after Namibia where the type series was collected.

**Description**

Body (Fig. 1) subparallel, moderately convex, with elytral disc nearly flat; dark reddish brown, only feebly shining. Body length 3.75–4.25 mm, body width 1.35–1.65 mm.

Head widest at about middle of genae; punctures distinct, round or nearly so, usually separated by less than one half puncture diameter; surface between punctures with micro-reticulation, appearing almost matt; margin above eye flexed upwards, ridge-like. Clypeus with anterior margin very feebly emarginated, nearly truncate; surface sculptured like middle of head, but with punctures slightly smaller. Narrowest part of eye where divided by genal canthus as broad as three facets; eyes separated ventrally by more than the transverse diameter of ventral part of eye. Antenna with club abruptly 5-segmented.

Pronotum broadest at about middle, transverse convex, width/length ratio 1.42–1.48 (measured in each case in the middle), base broader than apex. Sides arched and distinctly sinuate before posterior angles which are prominent; anterior angles projecting beyond apex. Lateral sides margined, apex unmarginated, but with sides curved inwards at apex so that the extreme lateral part of apex appears to be margined. Disk with mostly round punctures,
separated by a distance of a half to one puncture diameter, with many punctures on mid-disc region separated by one diameter; punctures at sides always separated by less than one diameter; surface between punctures weakly micro-reticulated.

Elytra with intervals 2–9 strongly carinate from base to apex, sutural interval flat on disk but distinctly carinate near base and apex. Discal strial punctures arranged in rather irregular rows and longitudinally separated mostly by one to two diameters; intervals with indistinct punctures smaller than strial punctures near the top of carinae, and with numerous shallow, transverse or oblique wrinkles.

Comparison

T. namibiensis n. sp. (Fig. 1) is quite similar in general appearance to T. sulmo Hinton, 1948 (Fig. 2), but may be easily distinguished as follows: Pronotum slightly more
convex with puncturation shallower, but slightly larger and less dense; space between punctures wider and even (in *T. sulmo* the punctures are smaller, denser and deeper; the space between punctures appearing ridge-like). The fused parameres of the aedeagus are longer in *T. namibiensis* n.sp. (Fig. 3), shorter and stouter in *T. sulmo* (Fig. 4).

3 References


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