

Studies of Tiger Beetles. CXXXVIII.
Note on *Juengeria juengeriorum* (MANDL, 1973)
(Coleoptera: Cicindelidae)

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Abstract

The single female holotype specimen of a poorly known African species, *Juengeria juengeriorum* (MANDL, 1973), was re-examined in order to assess its true taxonomic status and placement. However, its quite aberrant characters, while definitely confirming *Juengeria* as a full genus by its own, somewhat intermediate between the genera *Lophyra* and *Lophyridia*, do not allow to date any definite assessment of the genus' taxonomic place. A male has definitely to be collected in the future for hopefully stating about such a problem.

Key Words: Coleoptera, Cicindelidae, *Juengeria juengeriorum*, re-examination of the holotype specimen, taxonomic placement.

Zusammenfassung

Der Holotypus, ein einzelnes Weibchen einer kaum bekannten Art aus Afrika, *Juengeria juengeriorum* (MANDL, 1973), wurde neuerlich überprüft, um den gültigen taxonomischen Rang und seine Stellung festzulegen. Wie auch immer, die ziemlich verschiedenartigen Merkmale, zumal *Juengeria* deutlich als selbständige Gattung zwischen den Gattungen *Lophyra* und *Lophyridia* definiert wurde, erlaubt keine endgültige taxonomische Festlegung dieses Genus. Um in Zukunft Klarheit zu diesem Problem zu erhalten, müßte ein Männchen gefunden werden.

Juengeria juengeriorum (MANDL, 1973) is still probably the least known African tiger beetle species. It was described by MANDL (1973), well after RIVALIER'S revision (1957) of the African species, based on just a single female specimen collected by the famous German writer Ernst Jünger and his wife Liselotte, in October 1966, at Calulo, Angola. Due to lack of a male specimen, Mandl cautiously considered *Juengeria* to be just a subgenus of the *Cicindela* LINNAEUS, 1758, s.l.. As a matter of fact, Mandl's description appeared to be rather enigmatic and it suggested relationships with both the *Lophyridia* and *Lophyra* genera, and actually the elytral markings showed in Mandl's published figure appeared to be very similar to those of a *Lophyridia* species. In his world catalogue, WIESNER (1992) ranged *Juengeria* directly, however with a questionmark, as a subgenus of *Lophyra*.

Until recently, all I could know about the insect's general habitus was just a colour picture, kindly given to me long ago by the late Pierre Basilewsky (Tervuren, Belgium), that showed an enigmatic beetle, whose fore body parts were strongly reminiscent of a *Lophyra* species, while the elytral markings were apparently similar to those of a *Lophyridia* species. Frankly to speak, for a moment I had even doubted it to be an artifact, but, in contrast, JÜNGER himself (1967) had clearly stated that the beetle was one of the specimens collected by him on a laterite trail (see also FRANCOTTE 2000), and moreover I myself had happened to describe a new *Dromica* species (*D. juengeri*) from specimens collected by Jünger at Calulo (CASSOLA 1985; presently in the genus *Foveodromica*: CASSOLA, 2002). However,

my rough, preliminary, unchecked, merely guessing opinion was later referred to by WERNER (2000), who also published a colour picture of the *Juengeria* holotype specimen. Thus, my curiosity has been stimulated again.

Thanks to the kindness of Dr. Heinrich Schönmann (Naturhistorisches Museum, Vienna, Austria), whom I thank here very much for his assistance, the *Juengeria* precious holotype specimen could be recently located in such an institution and I have been allowed to borrow and examine it. This small female specimen (body length without labrum: 9 mm) appears to be in quite good condition, just lacking its left hind leg and the outer four antennomeres of both antennae. It bears a printed label "Angola, Calulo 29.X.66, E. Jünger", a typed red label "Holotypus", and Mandl's handwritten identification label "*Cicindela* (*Juengeria* nov. sg.) *juengeriorum* m.". Despite the greatly different appearance of its fore and hind body parts, this specimen has proved to be fully integral (i.e., with body parts not artificially assembled together nor glued to each other). Shape, colour, sculpture and setation of head and pronotum are actually strongly reminiscent of those of a *Lophyra* species, but elytral markings, in contrast, by lacking both the basal and subsutural spots, definitely prevent such a proposed taxonomic ascription and would appear to definitely be, by showing a marginal hind dot in addition to the marginal middle one, of the *Lophyridia*-type (RIVALIER 1950 a,b, 1957). Female coupling sulcus is a deep roundish pit in the upper half of mesepisternum. Underside pubescence is well developed on sides of pronotum, proepisterna, hind side of mesepisterna, mesepimera, metepisterna, metasternum, coxae, and sides of abdominal sternites. However, genae are fully glabrous, mandibles are rather short, and the large, unidentate, four-haired labrum has the hind half of disc metallic dark green instead of testaceous.

All these quite unusual characters are most certainly sufficient for confirming *Juengeria* as being a full genus by its own in the frame of subtribe Cicindelina (RIVALIER 1971, WERNER 2000), probably somewhat intermediate between the genera *Lophyra* and *Lophyridia* as argued by MANDL (1973), but in no way they allow to date any definite statement about the genus' taxonomic place. Therefore, a male specimen has auspiciously to be collected in the future for better assessing the actual, puzzling affinities of such a poorly known, rather aberrant, African species.

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