

Two new species of Buprestidae from coastal Natal (Coleoptera)

by

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Two new species of Buprestidae, *Discoderoides pygmaeus* (Agrilinae: Coroebini) and *Ankareus natalensis* (Mastogeniinae), are described from north-eastern Natal. Both species are discussed in context to recent comments regarding generic identity.

INTRODUCTION

A recent collecting trip to the north-eastern coast of Natal produced a number of interesting species of Buprestidae, some very rarely encountered. Two new buprestids are described herein because I have recently (Bellamy 1986, 1987) defined their respective genera and discussed the status of the genera in higher buprestid classification.

The type material will be deposited in the collections of the Transvaal Museum (TMPS) and my colleague, Hans Mühle, of Pfaffenhofen, West Germany (HMCG). Size ranges given in the descriptions are for maximum length vs. width.

Discoderoides pygmaeus, sp. nov., Figs 1, 2

FEMALE HOLOTYPE. Small, 4.5 × 1.3 mm; elongate; flattened above, feebly transversely convex below; nitid black on both surfaces; pronotum irregularly striolate, striae partially concentric; elytra rugose; dorsal surface moderately covered with short recurved black setae, elytra with silver setae in patches and fasciae as in Fig. 1; ventral surface sparsely covered with short adpressed silver setae.

Head: slightly produced between eyes; frontovertex feebly longitudinally depressed; supra-antennal groove entire, biarcuate, confluent medially to narrow vertical groove on base of frontoclypeus; frontoclypeus broadly arcuately emarginate. **Antennae:** with antennomere 2 subequal in length to 3 + 4; 4 subequal to 3; 5-10 serrate, width vs. length increasing distally; 11 oblong, arcuate.

Pronotum: slightly less than 1.4 × as wide as long, widest at middle; anterior margin evenly arcuate, with compressed median convexity; basal margin bisinuate; laterobasal angles obtusely rounded; lateral margins arcuate in basal 1/3, subparallel in middle before narrowing slightly to apex; one feebly elevated bisinuate prelateral carina on either side from base to past apical 1/2; disc flattened with one median depression anteriorly transverse mid-line, one laterobasal depression on either side mid-way between middle and lateral margin. **Scutellum:** triangular; longer than wide; basal margin arcuate; disc impunctate, with very slight transverse depression just past base.

Elytra: wider than pronotum, widest before apical $1/3$; basal angles rounded; sides subparallel to past opposite humeri, before narrowing to middle, then gradually widening to before apical $1/3$, then gradually attenuate to separately rounded apices; lateroapical margin serrulate; disc flattened; base depressed between humeri and scutellum.

Pygidium (Fig. 2): lateroapically emarginate on either side of median posteriorly projecting spine.

Underside: *mentomnière* moderately bilobed; prosternal process angulate laterally, broadly attenuate apically; mesosterna reduced, partially hidden beneath prosternal process; mesepimera laterally swollen, partially visible from above; metacoxal plate with trisinate distal margin; abdominal sternites 1 distally and 2 entirely discally swollen, 3–5 declivous to apex; suture between 1 and 2 only indicated laterally; 5 arcuate lateroapically, subtruncate apically.

Legs: femora fusiform; tibiae flattened with parallel striae; metatibiae with setal 'comb' on apical $1/2$ of external edge; tarsi with tarsomere 1 subequal in length to $2 + 3$; 1–4 each with ventral pulvillus; 5 narrow, elongate; claws bifid, inner pair short, curving inward.

Ovipositor: typical of most Coroebini, with one ventral pair of opposing dense setal 'brushes'.

MATERIAL EXAMINED. Holotype, female (TMPS): SOUTH AFRICA, Natal, Sordwana Bay, 9–13.xi.1986, D. d'Hotman and A. Nel.

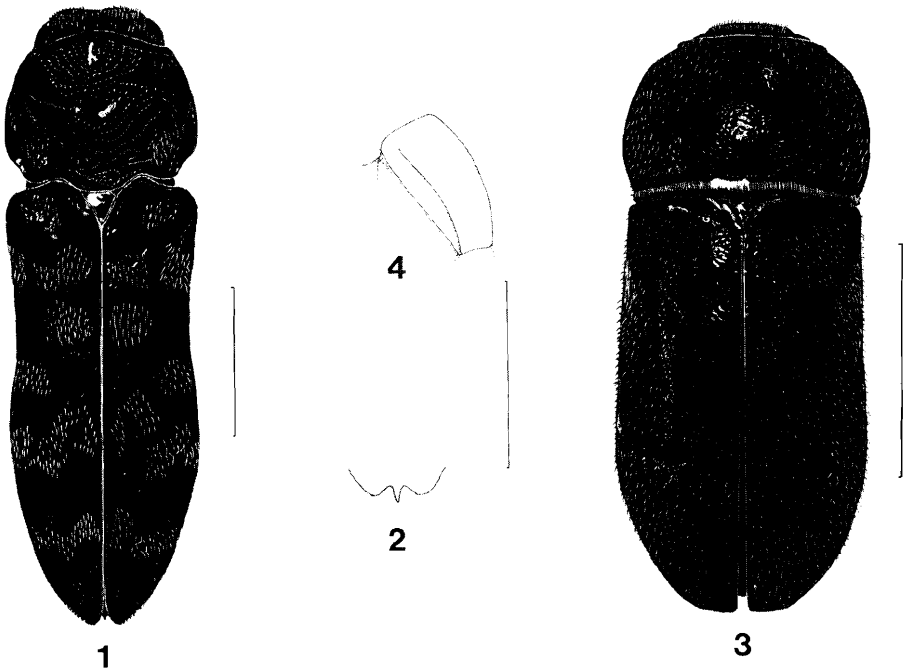
D. pygmaeus is so-named for its small size, as well as being the smallest member of the genus. *D. pygmaeus* comes closest to *D. grewiae* Théry and *D. immunitus* (Fahraeus). It can be separated from them by its smaller size, configuration of prelateral pronotal carinae, by the setal pattern of the elytra and shape of the pygidium. It can further be separated from all other congeners by use of the following modification to the recent key to the species in Bellamy (1986).

- 11 Pygidium feebly emarginate, apical tooth extends more than $1/2$ its length past margin . . . (Sudan, Zaïre) *D. grewiae*
 — Pygidium more deeply emarginate, apical tooth extends only to, or very slightly past margin 12
 12 Elytra with two setose fasciae on apical $1/3$, which are partially confluent . . . (southern Africa) *D. immunitus*
 — Elytra with only one setose fascia on apical $1/3$. . . (Natal) *D. pygmaeus*

Ankareus natalensis, sp. nov., Figs 3, 4

Female holotype. Small, 2.4×1.0 mm; elongate ovoid; convex above, flattened below; surface black with aeneous reflection; head and pronotum moderately punctate, elytra subrugose; dorsal surface and antennae moderately covered with semi-erect white setae; ventral surface punctate and moderately covered with short adpressed setae.

Head: produced between widely separated eyes; frontoververtex broadly excavated, slightly narrowing between small, widely separated antennal cavities; eyes moderate, slightly converging dorsally; frontoclypeus feebly emarginate distally; gena with narrow depressed area beneath eye for reception of basal antennomeres in repose. *Antennae*: moderately long, reaching to about basal $1/3$ of pronotum when laid along side; black; antennomere 1 narrow, feebly geniculate; 2 shorter than 1, strongly fusiform in



Figs 1-2. *Discoderoides pygmaeus*, sp. nov., Fig. 1, dorsal habitus; Fig. 2, distal portion of pygidium, dorsal view.

Figs 3-4. *Ankareus natalensis*, sp. nov., Fig. 3, dorsal habitus; Fig. 4, lateral view of pronotum (scale bars = 1.0 mm except for Fig. 2 which is 2x scale of Fig. 1; scale for Fig. 4 = Fig. 3).

distal portion to more than twice thickness of 3; 3 narrow, shorter than either 2 or 4; 4-10 serrate, with width vs. length increasing distally; 11 oblong, attenuate.

Pronotum: 1.5x as wide as long, widest at about middle; apical margin very feebly, broadly arcuate; basal margin feebly concave, with impunctate transverse subelytral band, distally dentate; lateral margins arcuate, feebly explanate in basal 1/3; laterobasal angle obtuse; supralateral carinae (Fig. 4) sinuate, not reaching apical margin. *Scutellum*: triangular, basal angles rounded.

Elytra: slightly wider than pronotum, widest at about apical 1/3; humeri slightly elevated; base depressed slightly between humeri and scutellum, with transverse costa along margin; lateral margins subparallel, widening to apical 1/3, then narrowing to separately rounded apices.

Pygidium: not visible from above.

Underside: prosternum with slightly depressed propleural groove; process truncate apically; abdominal sternites with suture between 1 and 2 feebly indicated, sutures between remaining sternites each becoming slightly more arcuate towards apex.

Legs: femora fusiform; tibiae feebly arcuate, distally with two short spines; metatibiae with sparse setal 'comb' along apical 2/3 of external edge; tarsomere 1 as long as 2 + 3, subequal to 5; 1-4 each with small ventral pulvilli; 5 with claws swollen basally.

Variation. Female paratype, 2.7 × 1.1 mm; slightly more robust than holotype. The second paratype is glued to a card and was not dissected to determine the sex primarily to avoid damaging the specimen. This specimen is smaller, 2.1 × 0.9 mm, but otherwise is very close to the holotype.

MATERIAL EXAMINED. Holotype, female (TMPS): SOUTH AFRICA, Natal, Sordwana Bay, 9-13.xi.1986. D. d'Hotman and A. Nel; female paratype (TMPS): same data except Cape Vidal, 13-15.xi.1986; paratype, sex unknown (HMCG): R.S.A., Natal, St. Lucia, 10 m, 25.10.1981, leg. Klapperich.

A. natalensis differs from the recently described *A. capensis* Bellamy (1987) by being more robust and ovoid, having the head more strongly produced between the eyes, having all the antennomeres with the same ground colouration and by the widely separated areas of distribution.

Further notes on Mastogeniine classification

Subsequent to my comments on the classification of Mastogeniinae (Bellamy 1987), which were *in press* at the time, two papers by Manley (1986a, 1986b) have described, respectively, five new species of *Mastogenius* Solier from Ecuador and Peru and a new genus, *Pseudotrigonogya*, for three new species from Ecuador and Colombia and one species previously described by Fisher from Trinidad. The second paper by Manley features a discussion of generic characters and follows the congeneric amalgamation by Cobos (1981) of the majority of Neotropical mastogeniines into *Mastogenius*. Manley also disputes the validity of the configuration of thoracic sternites which form the sternal cavity, used by Toyama (1983), as being no more than species-group definitive. Manley concludes that, within the New World fauna, those species which do not have the prosternum grooved (propleural grooves of Toyama) for the antennae in repose should be placed in *Mastogenius* and those with the antennal grooves are placed in either *Trigonogya* Schaeffer or *Pseudotrigonogya*.

Material sent for determination by Hans Mühle from Kenya and Somalia, compares well with the description of *A. alluadi* Kerremans from Kilimanjaro, but are not congeneric with other examined species of *Ankareus* from South Africa, Madagascar and Mauritius. This problem along with the need for a new placement for *M. felix* Waterhouse, that I discussed previously (Bellamy 1987), requires solution which, considering the flux within the subfamily in recent years, may only be accomplished with a thorough global review of the mastogeniine genera.

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