

A new buprestine genus and species from Zululand (Coleoptera: Buprestidae)

C. L. BELLAMY

Bellamy, C. L. 1991. A new buprestine genus and species from Zululand (Coleoptera: Buprestidae). *J. Afr. Zool.* 105: 77-80.

Zulubuprestis rehiquta gen. & spec. nov., is described from Zululand, Natal, illustrated and briefly discussed in relation to other tribal members.

Un nouveau genre et une nouvelle espèce de Buprestidae du Zululand (Coleoptera. - Une nouvelle espèce et un nouveau genre, *Zulubuprestis rehiquta* gen. & spec. nov., sont décrits du Zululand (Natal). Ils sont illustrés et brièvement discutés par rapport aux autres membres de la tribu.

Key words: Zululand, Coleoptera, Buprestidae, Buprestinae

C. L. Bellamy, Department of Entomology NHB 169, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560, U.S.A.

INTRODUCTION

The status of the genera, subtribes and tribes of the nominate subfamily Buprestinae is currently in an active flux with several recent and planned works variously commenting on different hierarchical schemes. Since the works of Toyama (1987), Kurosawa (1988) and Holynski (1988) along with comments of Kurosawa (*in litt*) and Bellamy (in press) partially overlap and yet conclude in different directions, the higher classification of this group and the family as a whole still awaits the development and acceptance of a contemporary paradigm. Fortunately, Levey (*in litt*) is nearing completion of the anticipated seminal work on this subject which will consider the entire subfamily cladistically, and will at least provide a basis for restructuring the classification of the remainder of the family.

It is, thus, necessary at this time to describe a new genus and species belonging to the taxon in question which,

© 1991 AGAR Publishers

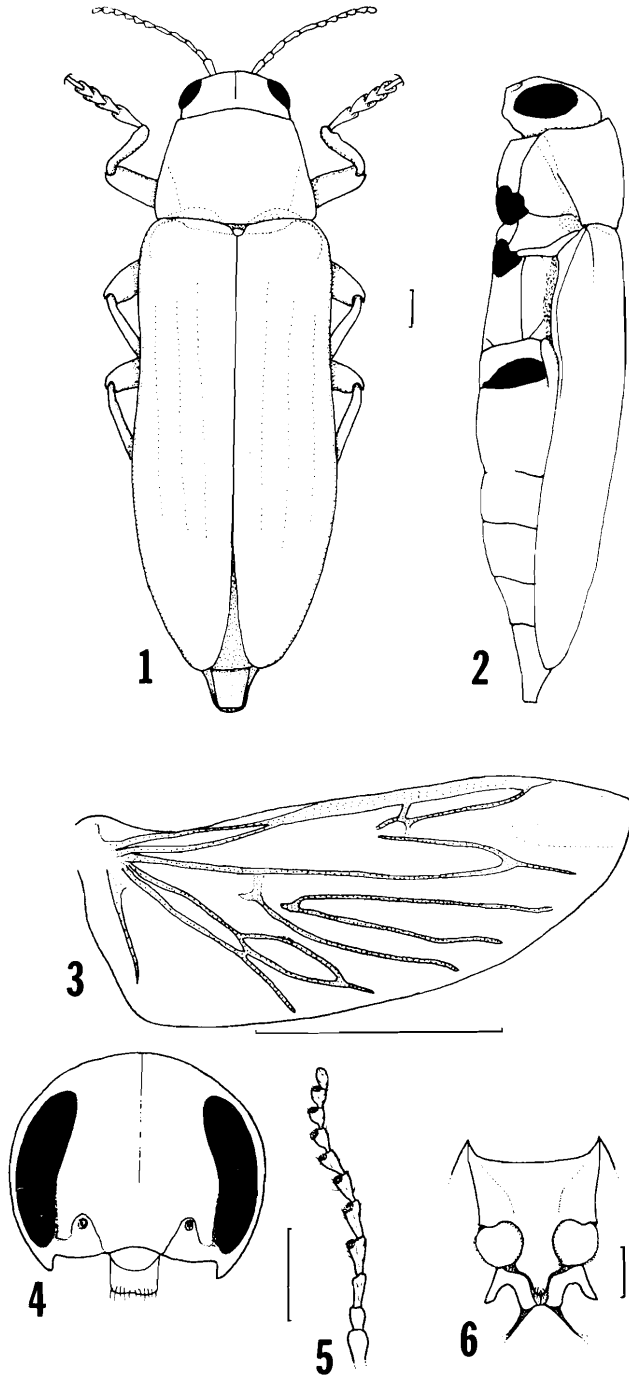
Elongate, ovoid, flattened, subcylindrical; iridescent; surface variously punctate, feebly striate transversely; vestiture sparse.

Type-species: Zulubuprestis rehiquta, spec. nov.

GENUS NOV.

The holotype of this new taxon is preserved in the South African National Collection of Insects, Plant Protection Research Institute, Pretoria (= SANCO). The label data was partially illegible to me and I thank Dr. Brian Levey for his help in determining the locality. The locality information was confirmed by using the Reader's Digest Atlas of Southern Africa, 1984.

The holotype of this new taxon is preserved in Zululand. The holotype is a small, isolated forest tract single female specimen collected over 50 years ago in a small, isolated forest tract due to its apparent relict nature and distant relationships, may affect the character state polarity in the planned phylogenetic reassessment. Unfortunately, this description is made from a single female specimen collected over 50 years ago in a small, isolated forest tract in Zululand.



Figs. 1-6. - *Zuluwuprestis reliquia* spec. nov. (1) dorsal aspect; (2) lateral aspect; (3) wing venation; (4) head, frontal aspect; (5) antenna, ventral aspect; (6) thoracic sternites, ventral aspect (scale lines = 1 mm).

Head: convex between large eyes; eyes with inner margins sinuate, converging dorsally; antennal cavities small, widely separated; frontoclypeus obliquely narrowed between antennae; distal margin concave; anteclypeus partially visible; labrum bilobed; antennae serrate from antennomere 4, sensory pores concentrated in one distal fovea on ventral side of each serrate antennomere.

Pronotum: wider than long; trapezoidal; scutellum small, ovoid.

Elytra: wider than pronotum; sides bisinuate; apices separately rounded; disc with feebly indicated longitudinal costae; pygidium projecting beyond apex.

Ventrites (fig. 6): prosternum trapezoidal, process trilobed; sternal cavity formed by large lateral mesosternal lobes, metasternum basally; mesepisternum large, broad; mesepimeron short, angled; metacoxal plate short laterally, posterior margin arcuately emarginate; sutures between abdominal sternites transverse.

Legs: femora subfusiform; tibiae longer than femora, with two apical spines; profemora with distal lobe; tarsomeres 1-4 with ventral pulvilli, pulvillus on 1 only extends from base to midpoint; 5 elongate, slender, claws simple.

Wing (fig. 3): radial cell elongate; radiomedial crossvein from base of radial cell; 1stA and 2dA1 fused basally; 2dA2 free, feebly attached to cubitus; anal cell present, closed.

Ovipositor: elongate, membranous.

This genus is designated as feminine with the name indicating both the regional locality and the putative genus-group relationship. *Zulubuprestis* keys to Buprestini in the recent tribal key (Bellamy *et al.* 1987), based on the partially visible anteclypeus and the

presence of the anal cell on the wing. The only other member of this tribe in sub-Saharan Africa is *Aristosoma* Saunders, which differs by being more flattened and ovoid, depressed frontovertex, costate elytra, position of the radiomedial crossvein and fusion of the anal veins. This recent key is modified below to allow the inclusion of this new taxon and to separate the two members of the African Buprestini.

Modification of key to tribes of Afrotropical Buprestinae
(from Bellamy *et al.* 1987)

- 3. - Anteclypeus partially visible; body flattenedBuprestinae3a
- Anteclypeus not visible; body subcylindricalBubastini
- 3a. - Body more ovoid, strongly flattened; elytra obviously costate; pygidium not visible past elytra; wing with radiomedial crossvein connecting between radial sector and median veins (Cape Province).....
.....*Aristosoma*
- Body more elongate, transversely convex; elytra striatopunctate; pygidium visible past elytral apex; wing with radiomedial crossvein connecting between radial cell and median vein (Natal)
.....*Zulubuprestis*

Two more likely candidates for sister-group are the Australian genera *Balthasarella* Obenberger and *Neobuprestis* Kerremans. Cobos (1974) figured *Balthasarella* including the wing venation and recently Kurosawa (1988) has placed *Neobuprestis* within the *Buprestis* L. generic-group. Levey (*in litt.*) has confirmed this relationship.

**ZULUBUPRESTIS RELIQUIA,
SPEC. NOV.**

(figs. 1 - 6)

Holotype female. 16.0 x 5.0 mm; dorsal surface dark blue greenish, ventral surface blue greenish on thoracic sternites and legs, brown with blue green reflection on abdominal sternites.

Head (fig. 4): frontovertex with very fine narrow longitudinal costa; surface moderately punctate; moderate covering of subrecumbent silver setae on frontovertex; antennae (fig. 5) testaceous with slight bluish reflection, moderately setose; antennomere 1 elongate, subgeniculate, widest distally; 2 shorter, narrower than 1; 3 longer, narrower than 2; 4 - 10 serrate, each decreasing in length and increasing width vs. length ratio; 11 oblong.

Pronotum: 1.5x wide as long, widest just past base; anteriormargin arcuate medially, with a short margin costa; posterior margin feebly bisinuate; basolateral angles subobtuse; lateral margins carinate from base to midpoint, sides narrowing gradually; disc evenly convex, with slight basolateral depressions; coarsely punctate with feeble transverse striae.

Elytra: with mediobasal transverse costae between suture and humeral depression; lateral margins carinate, sinuate, widening to apical 1/3, then gradually narrowing to widely separated round apices; margin very finely irregularly serrulate; disc very coarsely shagreened with feebly indicated longitudinal costae.

Underside: sparsely shallowly punctate, with sparse short recumbent setae; 5th abdominal sternite narrowly attenuate from midpoint to apex.

Male unknown.

Material examined: Holotype, female (SANC): N'Kandhla Forest (S28°44', E31°08'), Zululand, R. F. Lawrence, Jan. 1937.

The specific epithet is chosen to reflect the putative generic relationships discussed previously. The regional relatives of *Z. reliquia* were discussed by

Bellamy *et al.* (1987). With the well managed park and forest system in Natal, it is hoped that more material can be collected in the future and a male specimen added to complete our knowledge of this important taxon.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This unique and intriguing specimen was conserved in the collection of the Univ. of Pretoria during my tenure there and I thank Erik Holm for the opportunity to study it and now describe it; I must also thank my colleagues Antonio Cobos, Svata Bily and Brian Levey for examining the specimen and sharing their opinions about the relationships.

REFERENCES

- Bellamy, C. L. 1990. *Oaxacanthaxia viridis*, a new genus and species (Coleoptera: Buprestidae) from Mexico with Old World affinities. *Insecta Mundi*, (in press).
- Bellamy, C. L., Hotman, D. d' & Holm, E. 1987. A review of the Afrotropical Buprestinae with the description of a new tribe, genera and species (Coleoptera: Buprestidae). *J. Ent. Soc. Sth. Afr.* 50: 217-239.
- Cobos, A. 1974. Tres enigmaticos generos de Buprestidae (Coleoptera). *Arch. Inst. Aclimatacion*, 29:103-110.
- Holynski, R. 1988. Remarks on the general classification of Buprestidae Leach as applied to Maoraxiina Hol. *Folia Ent. Hung.* 49:49-54.
- Kurosawa, Y. 1988. Reorganization of *Buprestis* and its Allies (Coleoptera, Buprestidae). *Kontyu*, 56: 261-279.
- Obenberger, J. 1958. Un genre nouveau de la sous-famille Polycestinae de l'Australie (Col. Buprestidae). *Acta Ent. Mus. Natn. Pragae*, 32:487-490.
- Toyama, M. 1987. The Systematic Positions of Some Buprestid Genera (Coleoptera, Buprestidae). *Elytra*, 15:1-11.

(Manuscript received 12 March 1990, accepted 30 July 1990)