

New species and findings of Scaritinae (Coleoptera: Carabidae) from Madagascar

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Abstract. Results of recent Madagascan expeditions are given. Three new species and two subspecies of the genus *Antireicheia* Basilewsky, 1951 (*A. ambondrombe* sp. n., *A. vohidray* sp. n., *A. basilewskyi* sp. n., *A. andohahelana vonickai* ssp. n., *A. descarpentriensi imaha* ssp. n.), eight new species of the genus *Brachypelus* Putzeys, 1866 (*B. rolandi* sp. n., *B. vohidray* sp. n., *B. basilewskyi* sp. n., *B. vonickai* sp. n., *B. betsileo* sp. n., *B. fisheri* sp. n., *B. ambondrombe* sp. n., *B. newtoni* sp. n.) as well as *Prodyscherus basilewskyi* sp. n., *Dyscherus ambondrombe* sp. n. and *Crepidopterus pipitzi kalanbatritra* ssp. n. are described, illustrated and compared with related species. The genus *Brachypelus* is keyed. New findings of other rare Madagascan Scaritinae (*Antireicheia grandis* Basilewsky, 1971, *Prodyscherus androyanus* Jeannel, 1946, *Dyscherus storthodontoides* Bänninger, 1935, *Typhloscaris descarpentriensi* Basilewsky, 1972 and *Crepidopterus seyrigi* (Alluaud, 1935)) are given.

INTRODUCTION

The present paper concurs papers of Basilewsky (1971, 1972, 1973, 1976 and 1978) where all until known species of Madagascan Scaritinae, including genera *Brachypelus*, *Antireicheia*, *Prodyscherus* Jeannel, 1946, *Dyscherus* Chaudoir, 1855 and *Crepidopterus* Chaudoir, 1855, were described or revised. In 1996, 1998, 2001 and 2004 the authors found several next specimens of the above genera; five additional *Brachypelus* specimens were collected by Dr. F. L. Fisher in 1997. The main purpose of this article is to describe and illustrate 16 new Scaritinae species or subspecies and to compare them with known taxa. We added some comments to taxonomy and bionomy of Madagascan Scaritinae, especially to the genera *Antireicheia* and *Brachypelus*, as well as we have mentioned new findings of next rare species.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

All new taxa were found in eastern part of Madagascar, in region Fianarantsoa or Fort Dauphin (Taolanaro): five new species in Mt. Ambondrombe near town Ambalavao, two species and one subspecies east of Betroka in Kalambatritra Mts., five in Andringitra region - three of them in Vohidray ridge of northern part of Andringitra Mts. and two near Ivohibe; remaining three in Anosyenne Mts. north of Fort Dauphin. All specimens of the genera *Brachypelus*, *Antireicheia*, *Dyscherus* and new subspecies of *Crepidopterus pipitzi* Fairmaire, 1884 were collected in rain

forest in stout fold of humus (10-40 cm) covered by moss and pervasioned by rootlets, mostly by bottom of the stouter trees whereas new *Prodyscherus* species and *Crepidopterus seyrigi* (Alluaud, 1935) were collected in degraded secondary steppe very near to rain forest area. We compared new species with material borrowed from MRAC in Tervuren, Belgium and MNHN in Paris; Dr. M. de Meyer and Dr. T. Deuve kindly loaned us specimens of all the known *Brachypelus* and *Antireicheia* species (mostly holotypes and/or paratypes) as well as a major part of *Prodyscherus* species. All borrowed material was designated or determined by Dr. P. Basilewsky who described or revised all Madagascan species of quoted genera.

The methods of measurement of total length and proportions of different body parts follow Fedorenko (1996). We did not find any important measurement differences between males and females. Length of body is quoted with accuracy 0.05 mm by small species and 0.5 mm by species of genera *Prodyscherus*, *Crepidopterus* and *Dyscherus*; length of median lobe of aedeagus with accuracy 0.01 mm by HT of small species and 0.05 mm by HT of new *Prodyscherus* and *Dyscherus* species. For measurement were mostly used all available specimens; exceptions are defined within descriptions of new species. Male genitalia (aedeagus) were embedded in Canada Balsam (by all HT of genera *Antireicheia* and *Brachypelus* and by a few PT) or were fixed with watersoluble glue (remaining specimens).

List of used abbreviations:

cA	in all authors collections
cB	collection P. Bulirsch (Praha)
cBa	collection M. Balkenohl (Denzlingen, Germany)
cD	collection A. Dostal (Wien, Austria)
cM	collection P. Magrini (Firenze, Italy)
cS	collection R. Sciaky (Milano, Italy)
MNHN	Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France
MRAC	Musée Royal de l'Afrique central, Tervuren, Belgium
FMNH	Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, USA
aver.	= average
HT	= holotype(s)
PT	= paratype(s)

RESULTS

In the following text there are described all new taxa and cited new findings of other interesting or rare Madagascan Scaritinae species. *Brachypelus* species are keyed.

***Antireicheia* Basilewsky, 1951**

The genus, also known from south and east Africa, belongs according to Basilewsky (1973) to the tribe Clivinini. Ten species have been described from Madagascar yet. We examined HT of *A. gracilis* Jeannel, 1958 (Andringitra) and *A. descarpentriesi* Basilewsky, 1972 (Anosyennes): both loaned from MNHN, Paris and PT of remaining eight species from MRAC, Tervuren: *A. pauliani* Jeannel, 1958 (Andringitra), *A. antsifotrae* Basilewsky, 1971 (Andringitra), *A. viettei* Basilewsky, 1976 (Andohahelo), *A. peyrierasi* Basilewsky, 1972 (Anosyennes), *A. andoha-*

helana Basilewsky, 1976 (Andohahelo), *A. subgrandis* Basilewsky, 1976 (Ambatofitorahana near Ambohitra), *A. grandis* (Andringitra) and *A. transitata* Basilewsky, 1976 (Andohahelo). Four species have been described from Andringitra Mts. We collected in Vohidray ridge of Andringitra Mts. three *Antireicheia* species: one of them, *A. grandis*, is distributed in both areas, whereas remaining two are new, well recognizable; one of them, *A. vohidray* sp. n., is similar to *A. ambondrombe* sp. n. from Ambondrombe Mts., not to any species from Andringitra. Research of new species from Anosyenne Mts. is very interesting as well. Five known species have been described from 2 localities: three of them from Andohahelo Mts., southern ridge of these mountains and remaining two from its northern part. In 2004 we collected two species in intermediate area near the second locality. Five specimens of the first species are very close, probably conspecific, to *A. descarpentriesi* known only in female HT from northern locality, whereas three specimens of second species are surprisingly closely related to *A. andohahelana* from the southern locality, being its subspecies. It would be very useful to collect next material in whole mountain area northwards of Fort Dauphin.

All below described taxa perfectly fit with genus specification in Basilewsky (1973, 1976).

Antireicheia grandis Basilewsky, 1971

Material examined. „E Madagascar, N Andringitra: Vohidray rdg., 10.-11.iv.2001, 3-4 km SSE of Amboarafibe, 1600-1700 m, P. Bulirsch lgt.“, 1 ♂, 7 specimens; „E Madagascar, N Andringitra: Vohidray rdg., 12.-18.iv.2001, 3-5 km SE of Amboarafibe, 1750-1850 m, P. Bulirsch lgt.“, 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (cB, cM). All of these specimens perfectly fit (including aedeagal structure) with specimens from type locality.

Basilewsky (1971, 1973, 1976) described and cited this species from Andringitra region.

Antireicheia ambondrombe sp. n.

(Figs 1, 1a)

Type material. Holotype (♂) labelled: „Madagascar Est, 1300-1400 m, Massiv Ambondrombe, 1 km ouest de la cote 1579, forêt humide, tamisages, camp 4, 14.iii.1996, J. Janák + P. Moravec lgt.“ (cB). Paratypes: (10 ♂♂, 13 ♀♀, 6 specimens) with the same data as holotype; (14 ♂♂, 14 ♀♀) with the same data as holotype, except: „1500-1600 m, cote 1579, camp 5, 15.-18.iii.1996“; (6 ♂♂, 8 ♀♀) labelled: „Madagascar Est, 1600-1700 m, Massiv Ambondrombe, versant sud-ouest, forêt humide, tamisages, 17.iii.1996, J. Janák + P. Moravec lgt.“; (1 ♂) labelled: „Madagascar Est, 1300-1400 m, Massiv Ambondrombe, Ikoka env., crête Amboasa, forêt humide, tamisages, camp 3, xii.-13.iii.1996, J. Janák + P. Moravec lgt.“; (2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀) labelled: „E Madagascar, Mt. Ambondrombe, 1 km W of peak 1579, camp 4, 1300-1400 m, 23.-24.iii.2001, P. Bulirsch lgt.“; (1 ♀) labelled: „E Madagascar, Mt. Ambondrombe, 29.iii.2001, S slope 1 km S of peak 1936 m, 1800-1850 m, P. Bulirsch lgt.“; (10 ♂♂, 8 ♀♀) labelled: „E Madagascar, Mt. Ambondrombe, 26.iii.-2.iv.2001, camp 6, 1500-1600 m, P. Bulirsch lgt.“; (4 specimens) with the same data but lgt. J. Janák; (12 ♂♂, 15 ♀♀) with the same data except: „25.iii.-3.iv.2001, SW slope and ridge, 1600-1800 m, P. Bulirsch lgt.“; (11 specimens) with the same data as preceding but lgt. J. Janák (cB, cA, cMRAC, cBa, cD, cM, cS, cFMNH).

Description. Body as in (Fig.1); dark rusty brown, antennae and mouthparts dark yellow, legs, mainly fore, a bit darker. Length of body 2.55-3.20 mm (HT 3.00 mm, aver. of 32 measured specimens 2.89 mm).

Head. Relatively short and broad, anterior margin of clypeus straight, frons with facial furrows rather short, shallow and broad. Oblique impressions of clypeus very broad and superficial, often hardly visible. Eyes strongly reduced, perceptible only as small, unfacetted fields in front of strongly protruding genae. Vertex moderately reticulated. Antennae with antennomere 2 almost as long as 3 and 4 together, antennomere 6-10 moniliform, as long as wide to very faintly longer. Mandibles short, its apical part rather short and rather slightly curved. Ultimate maxillary palpomere very long, hatchet-like.

Pronotum. Moderately convex, moderately to rather smooth; microsculpture, especially on disk, irregular, reticulation rather slightly visible. Sides faintly rounded and slightly to very slightly attenuating forward; maximum width at posterior third; posterior angles relatively shortly rounded. Lateral bead entire, extended from slightly protruding anterior angles towards base of pronotum as a praebasal groove. Median line strongly impressed, distinct almost to base; front transverse impression wanting. Episterna slightly visible from above in apical part only. Width : length ratio 0.88-0.98 (HT 0.95, aver. 0.93).

Protibia. Apical spine bent outward in dorsal view, apical spur of almost equal length, slightly curved. Lower marginal tooth moderately distinct, upper one slightly distinct, obtuse.

Elytra. Convex, outline slightly ovate, maximum width just before middle. Base straight, with distinct granule; parascutellar setiferous puncture more or less connected with striae 1-2; suture rather strongly depressed. Shoulders shortly rounded, rather distinct. Lateral bead very wide, its margin with 1-3 small humeral teeth, mostly without rests of next denticulation. Elytral striae 1-7 relatively very deep and coarsely punctate; only by few paratypes external striae slightly or exceptionally moderately weakening; all, mainly external, striae slightly to moderately weakening just before apex. Striae 1-5 distinctly up to base, stria 6 and especially 7 shortened. Intervals moderately convex, especially in basal part. Dorsal setiferous punctures not recognizable. Length: width ratio 1.53-1.68 (HT 1.63, aver. 1.61); elytra : pronotum length ratio 1.79-2.00 (HT 1.96, aver. 1.88); elytra : pronotum width ratio 1.18-1.33 (HT 1.19, aver. 1.26).

Ventral part. Last visible ventral segment by males slightly reticulated at apical half, by females relatively roughly reticulated at two apical third.

Aedeagus. As on (Fig.1a); by HT 0.62 mm long; median lobe with apical part moderately long and rather narrow; laterally rather strongly arcuated; apex rounded. Paramere 2-setose.

Diagnosis. Medium sized, not elongated species, with distinct, coarsely punctate striae and with 1-3 humeral denticles.

Differential diagnosis. It is not closely related to any described species but very similar to the following species. *A. ambondrombe* sp. n. differs from *A. antsifotrae* by larger body, by coarsely (not finely) punctate elytral striae, not vanishing before apex, by broader and superficial facial furrows and by very different apex of aedeagal lobe; from *A. descarpentriasi* by antennae with antennomere 6-10 not distinctly wider than long and by larger body with much deeper elytral striae; from *A. peyrrierasi* by stouter body, by head with distinct microsculpture and by much deeper

striae; from *A. viettei* by larger, stouter body and deeper elytral striae; from *A. andohahelana* by in average smaller body, by smaller, not rising eyes, and by deeper striae. All Madagascan species (except *A. descarpentriesi* and *gracilis* known only in females) differ from *A. ambondrombe* sp.n. by shape of median lobe of aedeagus: (Figs 1-5a), Basilewsky, (1973, Figs 117 a-d), (1976, Figs 22 a-d).

Name derivation. The new species is named after Mt. Ambondrombe near Ambalavao, type locality of all specimens.

Antireicheia vohidray sp. n.

(Figs 2, 2a)

Type material. Holotype (♂) labelled: „E Madagascar, N Andringitra: Vohidray rdg., 2 km S of Ambondro, 1350-1500 m, 17.-18.iv.2001, P. Bulirsch lgt.“ (cB). Paratypes: (7 ♂♂, 7 ♀♀) with the same data as holotype (cB, cMRAC, cM).

Description. Body as in (Fig. 2); rusty brown, antennae and mouthparts yellow, legs, mainly fore, a bit darker. Length of body 2.75-3.25 mm (HT 3.00 mm, aver. 2.98 mm).

Head. Relatively short and broad, anterior margin of clypeus straight, frons with facial furrows rather short and moderately broad. Oblique impressions of clypeus broad and moderately impressed. Eyes strongly reduced, perceptible only as a very small, unfacetted field in front of rather protruding genae. Vertex moderately reticulated. Antennae with antennomere 2 a bit shorter than 3 and 4 together, antennomere 6-10 moniliform, as wide as long. Mandibles short, apical part rather short and moderately curved. Ultimate maxillary palpomere very long, hatchet-like.

Pronotum. Rather convex, moderately smooth, microsculpture regular, reticulation moderately visible. Sides very faintly rounded, from not to slightly attenuating forward; maximum width at or before posterior third; posterior angles moderately shortly rounded. Lateral bead entire, extended from slightly protruding anterior angle towards base of pronotum as a praebasal groove. Median line strongly impressed almost to base; front transverse impression wanting. Episterna slightly visible from above in apical part only. Width : length ratio 0.88-1.00 (HT 0.91, aver. 0.91).

Protibia. Apical spine bent outward in dorsal view, apical spur of almost equal length, slightly curved. Lower marginal tooth distinct, upper one slightly distinct, obtuse.

Elytra. Rather convex, outline from very slightly ovate to almost oval, maximum width at or just before middle. Base in average less straight, with distinct granule; parascutellar setiferous puncture not or slightly connected with striae 1-2; suture very strongly depressed. Shoulders moderately rounded, less distinct. Margin of very wide lateral bead with 1-3 small humeral denticles, often with rests of irregular and slight denticulation. Elytral striae 1-5 moderately to rather deep and moderately punctate, striae 6 and namely 7 often finer than inner ones; all, mainly external, striae slightly to moderately weakening apicad. Striae 1-2 distinctly up to base, stria 3-6 and especially 7 shortened. Intervals also in basal half fairly convex. Dorsal setiferous punctures not recognizable. Length: width ratio 1.55-1.67 (HT 1.61, aver. 1.61); elytra : pronotum length ratio 1.79-2.00 (HT 1.80, aver. 1.90); elytra: pronotum width ratio 1.17-1.28 (HT 1.22, aver. 1.22).

Ventral part. Last visible ventral segment by males slightly reticulated at apical half, by females relatively roughly reticulated at two apical third.

Aedeagus. As on (Fig. 2a); by HT 0.63 mm long, median lobe laterally moderately arcuated; apical part rather short and broad; apex rounded. Paramere 2-setose.

Diagnosis. Medium sized, not elongated species, with well marked, rather coarsely punctate striae and with 1-3 humeral denticles.

Differential diagnosis. It is rather similar to *A. ambondrombe* sp. n. described above. *A. vohidray* sp. n. differs by paler body, by in average shorter antennomeres 6-10, by in average finer striae and its punctation (mainly outer ones especially in apical half), by irregularly and slightly denticulated elytral lateral margin and by rather short and broad apical part of only moderately arcuated median lobe of aedeagus whereas by *A. ambondrombe* sp. n. is apical part rather long and narrow and median lobe is rather strongly arcuated. As by preceding species, all Madagascar species (except *A. descarpentriasi* and *gracilis* known only in females) differ by shape of aedeagus: (Figs 1-5a), Basilewsky, (1973, Figs 117 a-d), (1976, Figs 22 a-d).

Name derivation. New species is named after Vohidray ridge, its type locality.

***Antireicheia basilewskyi* sp. n.**

(Figs 3, 3a)

Type material. Holotype (♂) labelled: „E Madagascar, N Andringitra: Vohidray rdg., 3km SSE of Amboarafibe, 1500-1600 m, 8-9.iv.2001, P. Bulirsch lgt.“ (cB). Paratypes: (1 ♂) with the same data as holotype; (1 ♀) labelled: „E Madagascar, N Andringitra: Vohidray rdg., 2 km S of Ambondro, 1350-1500 m, 17-18.iv.2001, P. Bulirsch lgt.“ (cB).

Description. Body as in (Fig. 3); rusty brown, antennae and mouthparts yellow, legs, mainly fore, a bit darker. Length of body: HT 3.90 mm, PT 4.00, 4.10 mm.

Head. Relatively long and narrow, anterior margin of clypeus straight, frons with facial furrows moderately long and rather narrow. Oblique impressions of clypeus broad and moderately impressed. Eyes very strongly reduced, perceptible only as very small, unfacetted fields in front of rather protruding genae. Vertex rather strongly reticulated. Antennae with antennomere 2 slightly longer as 3 and 4 together, antennomeres 5-7 markedly, 8-10 only very faintly longer than wide. Mandibles long, its apical part long and rather strongly arcuated. Ultimate maxillary palpomere very long, hatchet-like.

Pronotum. Convex, moderately smooth, strongly elongated; microsculpture irregular, reticulation slightly to moderately visible. Sides very faintly rounded and not attenuating forward; maximum width just after middle; anterior angles blunt with very small flattened area, posterior angles very broadly rounded. Lateral bead entire, extended from slightly protruding anterior angles to base of pronotum as a praebasal groove. Median line strongly impressed, markedly towards base; front transverse impression wanting. Episterna moderately visible from above in apical part only. Width : length ratio HT 0.86, PT 0.87, 0.90.

Protibia. Apical spine bent outward in dorsal view, apical spur of almost equal length, slightly curved. Lower marginal tooth distinct, upper one moderately distinct, rather obtuse.

Elytra. Moderately convex, outline very long oval, sides very slightly rounded, maximum width at about middle. Base narrow, strongly sloping towards very broadly rounded, slightly protruding shoulders, with distinct granule and with another oblong granule in interval 3 near big parascutellar setiferous puncture, more or less connected with striae 1-2. Lateral bead very wide, its margin with about 10 distinct and long humero-lateral denticles; denticulation disappearing at about middle of elytra. Elytral striae 1-7 relatively very deep and coarsely punctate; inner striae weakening just before apex, outer ones more shortened. Striae 1-2 distinct up to base, stria 3-6 and mainly 7 shortened. Intervals moderately convex. Dorsal setiferous punctures not recognizable. Length : width ratio HT 1.86, PT 1.85, 1.89; elytra : pronotum length ratio HT 1.93, PT 1.89, 1.98; elytra : pronotum width ratio HT 1.21, PT 1.18, 1.22.

Ventral part. Last visible ventral segment by males slightly reticulated at apical half, by female relatively roughly reticulated at two apical third.

Aedeagus. As on (Fig. 3a); by HT 0.88 mm long, median lobe strongly arcuated, apical part very long, blunt, moderately broad, very strongly and fluently arcuated ventrally; apex broadly rounded. Paramere 2-setose.

Diagnosis. *A. basilewskyi* sp. n. is big sized, very narrow species with very broadly rounded hind pronotal angles and with denticulated basal part of lateral margin of elytra.

Differential diagnosis. *A. basilewskyi* sp. n. differs from similar sized *A. subgrandis* and *A. grandis* by much narrower body, by elytra with deep, coarse punctate striae, by elytra with several humero-lateral denticles and by form of aedeagus; from *A. pauliani* by larger and narrower body and by broadly rounded shoulders and from most similar *A. gracilis* by much larger body, by deeper, coarse punctate elytral striae and by bigger humero-lateral denticles finishing at about middle of elytral lateral margin (by *A. gracilis* are denticles much finer, well visible only in first third of lateral margin). All Madagascan species (except *A. descarpentriesi* and *gracilis* known only in females) differ by shape of aedeagus: (Figs 1-5a), Basilewsky, (1973, Figs 117 a-d), (1976, Figs 22 a-d).

Name derivation. The new species is dedicated to the memory of Dr. Pierre Basilewsky, world-famous expert in Afrotropical beetles including Madagascan Scaritinae.

***Antireicheia andohahelana vonickai* ssp. n.**

(Figs 4, 4a)

Type material. Holotype (♂) labelled: „SE Madagascar: Chaînes Anosyennes, 7 km S of Imaha, 1400-1600 m, 8.-12.ii.2004, 24°16'S, 46°57'E, P. Bulirsch lgt.“ (cB). Paratypes: (1 ♂, 1 ♀) with the same data as holotype (cB).

Description. As nominotypical subspecies except as follows. Body as in (Fig. 4); rusty brown, antennae and mouthparts yellow, legs, mainly fore, a bit darker; slightly immature female lighter. Length of body: HT 2.85 mm, PT 2.80, 2.95 mm.

Head. Rather smooth, surface only slightly and irregularly reticulated. Frons with facial furrows rather long, deep and moderately broad. Oblique impressions of clypeus disappeared. Eyes

strongly reduced, perceptible only as very small, unfacetted fields in front of moderately protruding genae. Antennomere 2 as long as 3 and 4 together, antennomeres 5-10 moniliform, as long as width.

Pronotum. Moderately convex, rather smooth, microsculpture, especially on disk, irregular, reticulation almost invisible. Sides faintly rounded and slightly attenuating forward; maximum width at posterior third; posterior angles moderately rounded. Lateral bead entire, extended from slightly protruding anterior angles to base of pronotum as a praebasal groove. Median line strongly impressed, distinct almost towards praebasal groove; front transverse impression wanting. Episterna slightly visible from above in apical part only. Width : length ratio HT 1.00, PT both 1.02.

Elytra. Convex, outline shortly egg shaped, rather vaulted, maximum width just before middle. Base slightly oblique, smooth; parascutellar setiferous puncture not connected with striae 1-2; suture rather strongly depressed. Shoulders shortly rounded, rather distinct. Lateral bead very wide, not prolonged to basal groove; its margin with single, big humeral denticle, practically without rests of denticulation. Elytral striae 1-4(5) fine, moderately to rather coarse but sparsely punctate, stria 5 and mainly 6-7 finer, both later almost vanishing; striae punctuation disappearing apicad; apex and outer apical half of elytra smooth. Length : width ratio HT 1.50, PT 1.48, 1.52; elytra : pronotum length ratio HT 1.92, PT 1.90, 2.00; elytra : pronotum width ratio HT 1.28, PT 1.25, 1.31.

Ventral part. Last visible ventral segment by males slightly reticulated at apical half, by female relatively roughly reticulated at two apical thirds.

Aedeagus. As on (Fig. 4a); by HT 0.55 mm long, median lobe rather slightly arcuated, apical part very broad, with short and rather narrow, dorsally arcuated apex. Paramere 2-setose.

Differential diagnosis. Closely related to nominotypical subspecies known from Andohahelo Mts. New subspecies differs by a bit darker, smaller body (2.80-2.95 mm v. 3.20-3.40 mm), by disappeared oblique impression on head, by more protruding genae; by more convex outline of pronotum; by shorter elytra (ratio about 1.50 v. 1.56) with broader lateral bead, by more protruding shoulders and by more convex elytral outline with shorter and broader apex. Aedeagus is practically identical by both subspecies: (Fig. 4a), Basilewsky (1976: Fig. 22a).

Name derivation. This subspecies is named after our friend Pavel Vonička from Liberec, who collected together with both first authors all specimens of new subspecies.

***Antireicheia descarpentriesi imaha* ssp. n.**

(Figs 5, 5a)

Type material. Holotype (♂) labelled: „SE Madagascar: Chaînes Anosyennes, 6 km S of Imaha, 1350-1500 m, 5.-12.ii.2004, 24°16' S, 46°57' E, P. Bulirsch lgt.“ (cB). Paratypes: (2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀) with the same data as holotype (cB).

Description. As nominotypical subspecies except as follows. Body as in (Fig. 5); rusty brown, antennae and mouthparts yellow, legs, mainly fore, a bit darker. Length of body 2.15-2.30 mm (HT 2.30 mm, aver. 2.24 mm).

Head. Relatively long and narrow, anterior margin of clypeus straight, frons with facial furrows rather long and rather narrow. Oblique impressions of clypeus broad, moderately impressed. Eyes very strongly reduced, perceptible only as very small, unafaceted fields in front of strongly protruding genae. Vertex strongly reticulated. Antennae with antennomere 2 very slightly shorter than 3 and 4 together, antennomeres 5-7 slightly, 8-10 markedly wider than long. Mandibles rather long, their apical parts moderately strongly curved. Ultimate maxillary palpomere long, hatchet-like.

Pronotum. Moderately convex, rather smooth, microsculpture, especially on disk, irregular, reticulation rather slightly visible. Sides faintly to moderately rounded and not to very slightly attenuating forward; maximum width at posterior third; posterior angles moderately rounded. Lateral bead entire, extended from slightly protruding anterior angles to base of pronotum as a praebasal groove. Median line strongly impressed, distinct almost towards praebasal groove; front transverse impression wanting. Episterna slightly visible from above in apical part only. Width : length ratio 0.97-1.01 (HT 1.00, aver. 0.99).

Protibia. Apical spine bent outward in dorsal view, apical spur of almost equal length, slightly curved. Lower marginal tooth very distinct, upper one rather distinct, not obtuse.

Elytra. Convex, outline almost ovale, maximum width just before middle. Base oblique, without distinct granule; parascutellar setiferous puncture big, not to very slightly connected with striae 1-2; suture shortly depressed. Shoulders moderately rounded and moderately distinct. Lateral bead wide, on base extended to basal groove; elytral margin with 1-3 small humeral teeth, with almost invisible rests of next denticulation. Elytral striae 1-3 fine, striae 4-5 very superficial and irregularly impressed, striae (5)6-7 created only by row of fine to very fine punctures; striae 1-6 moderately, stria 7 very fine punctate; striae 1-3(4) distinctly up to base; striae 5-6, and especially 7, shortened before base. Striae, mainly outer ones, disappearing apicad; apex, except a few fine striae punctures, and outer basal part almost smooth; intervals almost flat. Dorsal setiferous punctures 3 in interval 3. Length : width ratio 1.58-1.65 (HT 1.59, aver. 1.62); elytra : pronotum length ratio 1.89-2.00 (HT 1.90, aver. 1.92); elytra : pronotum width ratio 1.18-1.3 (HT 1.21, aver. 1.21).

Ventral part. Last visible ventral segment by males slightly reticulated at apical half, by females relatively roughly reticulated at two apical thirds.

Aedeagus. As on (Fig. 5a); by HT 0.50 mm long, median lobe rather strongly arcuated, apical part rather broad, apex rounded, very slightly arcuated ventrally. Paramere 2-setose (by HT left paramera with an additional, subapical seta).

Differential diagnosis. New subspecies differs from closely related nominotypical subspecies (described after one female from Mt. Ranomandry in northern part of Anosyenne Mts.) by narrower pronotum (ratio 0.97-1.01 v. 1.03 - according to our measurement), with sides slightly to moderately attenuating forward and with less convex outside (by nominotypical subspecies sides are not attenuating forward and outline is more convex). Elytral base less truncate, shoulders less protruding; elytral striae more coarsely punctate.

For final decision about species or subspecies status of above described taxa is necessary to collect next (male) material in type locality or even in intermediate area.

Name derivation. This subspecies is named after village Imaha close to type locality with very friendly people.

Brachypelus Putzeys, 1866

A very rare endemic genus with 5 known species from east part of Madagascar that belongs according to Basilewsky (1973) to tribe Clivinini. We have seen HT or PT of all of them: HT of *B. obesus* Putzeys, 1866 (from MNHN, Paris) and PT of *B. microphthalmus* Basilewsky, 1976, *B. minor* Alluaud, 1935, *B. pauliani* Basilewsky, 1976 and *B. reticulatus* Basilewsky, 1976 (all from MRAC, Tervuren). Six of eight newly described species have been found in 2 areas: three in Ambodrombe Mts. and three in Andringitra Mts. region: one of them from Vohidray, its northern ridge and two from Ivohibe region, south of Central Andringitra. It is very interesting that each species from Ambodrombe has related species from Andringitra. The most similar and very hardly recognizable are *B. rolandi* sp. n. and *B. vohidray* sp. n. from the closest localities; on the other hand, remaining two couplets, *B. andondrombe* sp. n. v. *B. newtoni* sp. n. as well as *B. betsileo* sp. n. v. *B. fisheri* sp. n. (from Ambondrombe and Ivohibe) are easy to recognize; it is interesting that both species from Ivohibe have pronotal disk not reticulated and its lateral bead very broad whereas species from Ambondrombe have this bead rather narrow and pronotal disk regularly reticulated. Specimens of *B. obesus* placed in MNHN and MRAC collections are very diverse. We examined HT with general label „Madagascar“, one specimen from locality „Beforona“ as well as two specimens from „Ambatodrahely (distr. Mananara)“: all specimens was determined or revised by Basilewsky (1973, 1976) as *B. obesus*. Specimen from Beforona is very near to HT (although slightly differs especially by shape of pronotum) but remaining two specimens strongly differ by numerous dorsal setiferous punctures in intervals 3, 5 and 7, by strongly vaulted intervals up to apex and by well visible transversal furrow on head; HT and specimen from Beforona have this transversal furrow disappearing, only one setiferous puncture in interval 3 and intervals slightly vaulted apicad. It is necessary to study complete material of this species or even to find next specimens to decide about its taxonomic position. All below described taxa perfectly fit with genus specification in Basilewsky (1973, 1976). We have found new, very important taxonomic figure during study of material: amount of setae on labrum. *Brachypelus* species have either 6 or 7 setae; this amount is constant by all specimens of each species.

Brachypelus rolandi sp. n.

(Figs 6, 6a,b,c)

Type material. Holotype (♂) labelled: „Madagascar Est, 1300-1400 m, Massiv Ambondrombe, Ikoka env., forêt humide, tamisages, 12.-13.iii.1996, J. Janák + P. Moravec lgt.“ (cB). Paratypes (1 ♂, 3 ♀♀) labelled: „Madagascar Est, 1500-1600 m, Massiv Ambondrombe, cote 1579, camp 5, forêt humide, tamisages, 15.-18.iii.1996, J. Janák + P. Moravec lgt.“; (2 ♂♂, 1 ♀) labelled: „E Madagascar, Mt. Ambondrombe, 1 km W of peak 1579, camp 4, 1300-1400 m, 23.-24.iii.2001, P. Bulirsch lgt.“ (cB, MRAC).

Description. Body as in (Fig.6). Surface dark piceous, antennae, mouthparts rusty brown, legs dark rusty brown; underside piceous. Length of body 6.70-7.20 mm (HT 6.80 mm, aver. 6.93 mm).

Head. Smooth, convex, with very fine micropunctures. Anterior margin of clypeus nearly straight, bordered, lateral lobes protruding forward, slightly but clearly separated off moderately convex supraantennal plates. Transversal furrow very deep, facial furrows deep and narrow. Eyes very broad, evidently broader than width of antennomere 2. Antennae moniliform, with antennomeres 5 to 10 nearly globose, as long as wide. Labrum 7-setose.

Pronotum. Slightly transversal, fairly smooth, without microsculpture except narrow reticulated area along lateral margin, only with fine micropunctures; rather slightly vaulted from lateral view. Lateral bead moderately broad and entire; sides moderately rounded, rather strongly attenuating forward; maximum width behind second third of its length; posterior angles broadly rounded. Front transverse impression almost wanting, median line strongly impressed and broad, distinct towards base. Width : length ratio 1.16-1.24 (HT 1.18, aver. 1.19).

Protibia. Relatively broad from lateral view. Length and form of apical spine (bent outward in dorsal view), apical spur, lower and upper teeth are almost uniform by all species of this genus, without taxonomic value.

Elytra. Convex, outline almost elliptical, maximum width before middle; strongly sloping from base towards very broadly rounded, only very slightly protruding shoulders. Basal prescutellar setiferous puncture very distinct, distinctly connected with stria 1. Two outer intervals, base and apex reticulated, disk smooth, only with irregular fine micropunctures. Lateral bead very wide, its margin with distinct humeral denticle, at base extended to stria 4. Elytral striae moderately depressed, slightly punctate, weakening in apical fifth and adjoining strait before apex. Stria 3 with one dorsal setiferous puncture in apical fourth. Intervals moderately convex in basal half, almost flat in apical half. Length: width ratio 1.56-1.60 (HT 1.56, aver. 1.57); elytra : pronotum length ratio 2.00-2.07 (HT 2.03, aver. 2.04) and elytra width : pronotum width ratio 1.07-1.13 (HT and aver. 1.10).

Ventral part. Sternite in middle not reticulated, last visible sternite by females with fine to moderately deep and dense wrinkles, by males almost without wrinkles, rather smooth. Epipleura of elytra reticulated, episterna shining.

Aedeagus. As on (Figs 6a,b,c); by HT 1.31 mm long with basal sclerite 0.26 mm long, median lobe strongly curved in apical third but only slightly curved in median third; its right side in sub-apical part rather strongly bulging. Apex simple, long, narrowly rounded from dorso-apical view. Paramere 2-setose. Basal sclerite of median lobe as on (Fig. 6c).

Diagnosis. Very large species with relatively smooth disk of elytra, with 7-setose labrum, with broadly rounded shoulders with evident tooth, with moderately deep but only slightly punctate striae, with one dorsal setiferous puncture and with 2-setose paramere.

Differential diagnosis. Differences against all other species, especially against following, closely related species, are indicated in key below; the main differences are shape of aedeagus – bulging of right side of median lobe before apex (by *B. rolandi* sp. n. relatively finer than by *B. vohidray* sp. n. as on Figs 6b and 7b); shape of basal sclerite (Figs 6c and 7c) and body length (6.70-7.20 mm v. 6.20-6.70 mm).

Name derivation. This species is named after Roland, son of Mr. A. Peyrieras, our friend and excellent collector of Madagascan Scaritinae.

***Brachypelus vohidray* sp. n.**

(Figs 7, 7a,b,c)

Type material. Holotype (♂) labelled: „E Madagascar, N Andringitra: Vohidray rdg., 2 km S of Ambondro, 1350-1500 m, 17.-18.iv.2001, P. Bulirsch lgt.“ (cB). Paratypes: (3 ♂♂, 1 ♀) with the same data as holotype; (3 ♂, 1 ♀) labelled: „E Madagascar, N Andringitra: Vohidray rdg., 3 km SSE of Amboarafibe, 1500-1600 m, 8.-9.iv.2001, P. Bulirsch lgt.“ (cB).

Description. Body as in (Fig. 7). Surface piceous, antennae, mouth parts rusty brown, legs dark rusty brown; underside piceous. Four PT slightly, two PT (probably immature) distinctly paler, rusty brown. Length of body 6.20-6.70 mm (HT 6.40 mm, aver. 6.46 mm).

Head. Smooth, convex, with very fine micropunctures. Anterior margin of clypeus nearly straight, lateral lobes protruding forward, moderately separated off rather convex supraantennal plates. Transversal furrow moderately deep, facial furrows deep and narrow. Eyes broad, evidently broader than width of antennomere 2. Antennae moniliform, with antennomeres 5 to 10 nearly globose, as long as wide. Labrum 7-setose.

Pronotum. Slightly transversal, fairly smooth, without microsculpture, except irregular reticulation along lateral margin, only with fine micropunctures; moderately vaulted from lateral view. Lateral bead moderately broad and entire; sides moderately rounded, rather strongly attenuating forward; maximum of width in second third of its length; posterior angles broadly rounded. Front transverse impression almost wanting, median line strongly impressed and broad, distinct towards base. Width: length ratio 1.13-1.19 (HT 1.13, aver. 1.16).

Protibia. Relatively broad from lateral view but slightly narrower than by preceding species.

Elytra. Convex, outline nearly elliptical, maximum width before middle; moderately strongly sloping from base towards broadly rounded, slightly protruding shoulders. Basal prescutellar setiferous puncture distinct, slightly or not connected with stria 1. Two outer intervals, base and apex slightly reticulated; reticulation of base irregular and often almost invisible; disk smooth, only with irregular and fine micropunctures. Lateral bead very wide, its margin with very distinct humeral denticle. Elytral striae moderately punctate but finer than by preceding species, weakening in apical fourth and adjoining further before apex. Stria 3 with one dorsal setiferous puncture in apical fourth or without one; this pore missing in both elytra by three PT, in one elytron by another PT. Intervals slightly convex in basal half, flat in apical part. Length : width ratio 1.52-1.59 (HT 1.53, aver. 1.55); elytra : pronotum length ratio 1.98-2.09 (HT 2.09, aver. 2.04) and elytra : pronotum width ratio 1.11-1.17 (HT 1.17, aver. 1.12).

Ventral part. Sternite in middle not reticulated, last visible sternite by females with fine to moderately deep and dense wrinkles, by males almost without wrinkles, almost smooth. Epipleura of elytra reticulated, episterna shining.

Aedeagus. As on (Figs 7a,b,c); by HT 1.29 mm long with basal sclerite 0.20 mm long, median lobe strongly curved in apical third but only slightly curved in median third; its right side in sub-apical part very strongly bulging. Apex simple, long, narrowly rounded from dorso-apical view. Paramere 2-setose. Basal sclerite of median lobe as on (Fig. 7c).

Diagnosis. Large species with relatively smooth disk of elytra, with 7-setose labrum, with rather broadly rounded shoulders, with evident tooth in ones, with shallow but moderately punctate striae, without or with one dorsal setiferous puncture and with 2-setose paramere.

Differential diagnosis. Differences against all other species (especially against preceding, closely related species) are indicated by preceding species and, especially, in the key below.

Name derivation. The new species is named after Vohidray ridge; locality of all collected specimens.

***Brachypelus basilewskyi* sp. n.**

(Figs 8, 8a,b)

Type material. Holotype (♂) labelled: „E Madagascar, 19.-23.xii.1998, 30 km SEE of Betroka, 1600 m, Vohitrosa forest: 2 km NEE of peak 1825 m, P. Bulirsch lgt.“ (cB). Paratypes: (8 ♂, 10 ♀♀) with the same data as holotype; (1 ♂, 2 ♀♀) labelled: „E Madagascar, 29.xii.1998, 38 km SEE of Betroka, Kalambatritra forest, 3 km SSE of Ambaro, 1400 m, P. Bulirsch lgt.“ (cB, MRAC, cM).

Description. As in (Fig. 8). Surface piceous, antennae, mouth parts rusty brown, legs dark rusty brown; underside piceous. Length of body 6.10-6.70 mm (HT 6.40 mm, aver. 6.39 mm).

Head. Smooth, convex, with fine micropunctures. Anterior margin of clypeus nearly straight, lateral lobes protruding strongly forward, clearly separated off moderately convex supraantennal plates. Transversal furrow well marked, facial furrows moderately broad. Eyes moderately broad, mostly slightly broader than width of antennomere 2, only by one PT as broad as one. Labrum 7-setose.

Pronotum. Moderately transversal, shining, not reticulated, only with fine micropunctures; moderately vaulted from lateral view. Lateral bead moderately broad and entire; sides slightly to moderately rounded and mostly strongly attenuating forward; maximum width in last fourth of length; posterior angles relatively shortly rounded. Width : length ratio 1.19-1.28 (HT 1.21, aver. 1.23).

Protibia. Rather broad from lateral view, apical half only slightly narrower than by *B. rolandi* sp. n.

Elytra. Slightly ovate, convex, maximum width just before middle. Surface slightly, by some PT (mainly by females) moderately, and almost regularly reticulated. Reticulation of outer intervals as well as of apex only slightly stronger than the same on disk; only base reticulated distinctly stronger. Shoulders relatively distinct and shortly rounded, elytral base broadly rectangular. Lateral bead very wide, its margin with distinct humeral denticle. Elytral striae 1-4 or 5 moderately impressed, outer striae very fine (especially stria 7 and often also stria 6); moderately punctate, strongly weakening or disappearing before apex; outer striae disappearing in apical third, stria 7 often in apical half. Third stria with one dorsal setiferous puncture, intervals slightly convex in basal part and almost flat apicad. Length: width ratio 1.48-1.55 (HT 1.53, average 1.52); elytra: pronotum length ratio 2.03-2.18 (HT 2.15, aver. 2.11) and elytra : pronotum width ratio 1.10 –1.16 (HT 1.16, average 1.13).

Ventral part. Very similar by both sexes. Sternite shining, essentially not reticulated in middle; last visible sternite shining, without wrinkles, smooth. Epipleura of elytra shining, not reticulated; episterna shining.

Aedeagus. As on (Figs 8a,b); by HT 1.42 mm long with median lobe rather strongly curved in apical third but only slightly curved in median third; its both side in subapical part moderately bulging. Apex simple, long, narrowly rounded from dorso-apical view. Paramere 2-setose.

Diagnosis. Large species with relatively smooth disk of elytra, with 7-setose labrum, with shortly rounded shoulders, with evident tooth in ones, with moderately deep and moderately punctate striae, with one dorsal setiferous puncture and with 2-setose paramere.

Differential diagnosis. Differences against other species, especially against most similar both preceding species, are indicated in following key; the most important difference is form of shoulders shortly rounded and protruding by this new species against broadly rounded and slightly protruding by both preceding species as in (Figs 6-8).

Name derivation. The new species is dedicated to the memory of Dr. Pierre Basilewsky, world-famous expert in afrotropical beetles including Madagascan Scaritinae.

***Brachypelus vonickai* sp. n.**

(Figs 9, 9a,b)

Type material. Holotype (♂) labelled: „SE Madagascar, 5.5 km NNW of Fort Dauphin (= Taolanaro), 350-450 m, 16.-20.ii.2004, 24°59'S, 46°58'E, P. Bulirsch lgt.“ (cB).

Description. As in (Fig. 9). Surface piceous, antennae, mouth parts rusty brown, legs dark rusty brown; underside piceous. Length of body 4.95 mm.

Head. Smooth, convex, with fine micropunctures. Anterior margin of clypeus nearly straight, lateral lobes protruding forward, moderately separated off rather convex supraantennal plates; its outline strongly vaulted. Transversal furrow fine but distinct, facial furrows deep and rather narrow. Eyes rather narrow, hardly as broad as width of antennomere 2. Labrum 7-setose.

Pronotum. Strongly transversal, shining, not reticulated, only with fine micropunctures; rather flattened from lateral view. Lateral bead extraordinary broad; outline rather slightly but regularly rounded and strongly attenuating forward; maximum width in last third of length; anterior angles rounded but strongly protruding, fore pronotal margin strongly emarginate; hind angles rather shortly rounded. Width : length ratio 1.32.

Protibia. Rather broad from lateral view, apical half only slightly narrower than by *B. rolandi* sp. n.

Elytra. Shortly ovate, slightly flattened from lateral view, its maximum width just before middle. Surface shining, without reticulation; only base and lateral bead very slightly and irregularly reticulated. Shoulders relatively distinct and shortly rounded, elytral base broadly rectilinear. Lateral bead very wide, its margin with distinct humeral denticle, outline moderately vaulted. Elytral striae 1-7 strongly impressed, outer striae, especially stria 7, fine, inner striae coarse punctate, strongly weakening and disappearing before apex; outer striae disappearing in

apical fifth. Stria 3 with dorsal setiferous puncture, intervals rather strongly convex in basal part and slightly convex to flat apicad. Length: width ratio 1.42; elytra : pronotum length ratio 2.05 and elytra : pronotum width ratio 1.09.

Ventral part. Sternite shining, practically not reticulated in middle; last visible sternite shining, without wrinkles, smooth. Epipleura of elytra shining, not reticulated; episterna shining. Female not known.

Aedeagus. As on (Figs 9a,b); by HT 1.10 mm long, median lobe rather strongly and regularly curved in its whole length; its right side in subapical part very slightly bulging. Apex simple, rather long, broadly rounded from dorso-apical view. Paramere 2-setose.

Diagnosis. Small and broad species with smooth pronotum and elytra, with 7-setose labrum, with shortly rounded shoulders with evident tooth, with deep and coarse punctate striae, with very broad lateral pronotal bead, with one dorsal setiferous puncture and with 2-setose paramere.

Differential diagnosis. Differences against all other species are indicated in following key; this species is not closely related to any other.

Name derivation. This species is named after our friend Pavel Vonička from Liberec, who collected together with both first authors in Madagascar in year 2004.

***Brachypelus betsileo* sp. n.**
(Figs 10, 10a,b)

Type material. Holotype (♂) labelled: „E Madagascar, 26.iii.-2.iv.2001, Mt. Ambondrombe, SW slope and ridge, 1600-1800 m, P. Bulirsch lgt.“ (cB). Paratypes: (1 ♂, 3 ♀♀) with the same data as holotype; (2 ♀♀) labelled: „Madagascar Est, 1600-1700 m, Massiv Ambondrombe, versant sud-ouest, forêt humide, tamisages, 17.iii.1996, J. Janák + P. Moravec lgt.“; (1 ♀) labelled: „E Madagascar, 31.iii.2001, Mt. Ambondrombe, the nearest env. of peak 1936 m, 1900-1936 m, P. Bulirsch and J. Janák lgt.“ (cB).

Description. Body as in (Fig. 10). Surface piceous, antennae, mouthparts rusty brown, legs dark rusty brown; underside piceous. Length of body 6.40-7.80 mm (HT 7.25 mm, aver. 7.21 mm).

Head. Moderately smooth, convex, with fine micropunctures. Anterior margin of clypeus nearly straight, lateral lobes protruding forward, separated off strongly vaulted supraantennal plates. Transversal furrow rather fine, facial furrows moderately deep and broad. Eyes moderately broad, slightly broader than width of antennomere 2, only by one female a bit narrower; as broad as this antennomere. Labrum 6-setose.

Pronotum. Slightly transversal, slightly shining, moderately reticulated; microsculpture slightly less imprinted on disk, but it still regularly reticulated; moderately strongly vaulted from lateral view. Lateral border moderately broad and entire, sides slightly but regularly rounded and slightly to moderately attenuating forward; maximum width about third fourth of length; posterior angles broadly rounded. Front transverse impression almost wanting, median line strongly impressed and broad, distinct towards base. Width : length ratio 1.12-1.20 (HT 1.12, aver. 1.16).

Protibia. Relatively narrow from lateral view, apical half distinctly narrower than by *B. rolandi* sp. n.

Elytra. Convex, outline almost oval, maximum width before middle; strongly sloping from base towards broadly rounded, only slightly protruding shoulders. Surface with distinct microsculpture; two outer intervals, base and apex rather strongly, disk slightly but almost regularly reticulated. Lateral bead wide, its margin with distinct humeral denticle; outline regularly rounded; base with distinct setiferous puncture. Elytral striae moderately deep, almost impunctate, weakening just before apex. Stria 3 without dorsal setiferous puncture; intervals moderately convex. Length: width ratio 1.46-1.53 (HT 1.52, aver. 1.51); elytra : pronotum length ratio 2.03-2.20 (HT 2.08, aver. 2.10); elytra : pronotum width ratio 1.16-1.28 (HT 1.20, aver. 1.23).

Ventral part. Sternite by males very fine and irregular, by females distinctly reticulated, last visible sternite by females with deep and dense wrinkles, by males only with rest of wrinkles, almost smooth. Epipleura of elytra reticulated, episterna shining.

Aedeagus. As on (Figs 10a,b); by HT 1.66 mm long, median lobe strongly arcuated in its median third; its right side in subapical part moderately convex, not evidently bulging. Apex simple, very broadly rounded from dorso-apical view. Paramere 2-setose.

Diagnosis. Very large species with reticulated disk of elytra, with 6-setose labrum, with broadly rounded shoulders, with evident tooth in ones, with well marked but almost impunctate striae, without dorsal setiferous puncture and with 2-setose paramere.

Differential diagnosis. Differences against other species, especially the most related following new species, are indicated in following key; the most important differences are on pronotum (by *B. betsileo* sp. n. is pronotal bead moderately narrow and disk regularly reticulated whereas by *B. fisheri* sp. n. is lateral bead very broad and disk almost not reticulated).

Name derivation. The new species is dedicated to Betsileo people - who live in area of Mt. Ambondrombe.

***Brachypelus fisheri* sp. n.**

(Figs 11, 11a,b)

Type material. Holotype (♂) labelled: „Madagascar: Fianarantsoa: R.S. Ivohibe, 6.5 km ESE Ivohibe, camp III, 1575 m, 22°29.8' S, 46°57.3' E, 24.-30.x.1997, FMHD#97-506, montane rainforest, sifted litter (leaf mold, rotten wood), mini-Winkler, B. L. Fisher, BF#1751, Field Mus. Nat. Hist.“ (FMNH). Paratypes: (1 ♂) with the same data as holotype (cB); (1 ♀) labelled: „Madagascar: Fianarantsoa: R.S. Ivohibe, 8.0 km NE Ivohibe, camp IV, 1200 m, 22°25.3' S, 46°53.9' E, 3.-9.xi.1997, FMHD#97-507, afromontane rainforest, sifted litter (leaf mold, rotten wood), mini - Winkler, B. L. Fisher, BF#1753, Field Mus. Nat. Hist.“ (FMNH).

Description. Body as in (Fig.11). Surface dark piceous, almost black, antennae, mouthparts rusty brown, legs dark rusty brown; underside piceous. Length of body: HT 6.60 mm, PT 6.30, 7.00 mm.

Head. Moderately smooth, convex, with fine micropunctures. Anterior margin of clypeus nearly straight, lateral lobes strongly protruding forward, moderately separated off strongly vaulted

supraantennal plates. Transversal furrow rather fine, facial furrows deep and rather narrow. Eyes moderately broad, slightly broader than width of antennomere 2. Labrum 6-setose.

Pronotum. Slightly to moderately transverse, moderately shining, slightly and irregularly reticulated in its very lateral, anterior and basal parts, disk shining; moderately strongly vaulted from lateral view. Lateral bead very broad and entire, especially in its posterior part; outline moderately to very slightly rounded and strongly to very strongly attenuating forward; maximum width below third fourth of its length; posterior angles shortly rounded. Front transverse impression almost wanting, median line strongly impressed and broad, distinct towards base. Width : length ratio HT 1.18, PT 1.23, 1.24.

Protibia. Relatively broad from lateral view, apical half distinctly broader than by *B. betsileo* sp. n.

Elytra. Convex, outline egg shaped, maximum width before middle; faintly sloping from base towards moderately rounded, rather protruding shoulders. Surface with distinct microsculpture; outer intervals, base and apex rather strongly, disk moderately but almost regularly reticulated. Lateral bead wide, its margin with distinct humeral denticle; outline only slightly convex; base with distinct setiferous puncture. Elytral striae deep, complete, slightly and sparsely punctate, very slightly weakening just before apex. Stria 3 without dorsal setiferous puncture; intervals rather strongly convex. Length: width ratio HT 1.55, PT 1.52, 1.56; elytra : pronotum length ratio HT 2.07, PT 1.96, 2.12; elytra : pronotum width ratio HT 1.13, PT 1.05, 1.10.

Ventral part. Sternite by males fine and irregular, by female distinctly reticulated, last visible sternite by female with deep and dense wrinkles, also by males with rather deep wrinkles. Epipleura of elytra roughly reticulated, episterna shining.

Aedeagus. As on (Figs 11a,b); by HT 1.46 mm long, median lobe strongly arcuated in its median third; its right side in subapical part moderately convex, very slightly bulging. Apex simple, narrowly rounded from dorso-apical view. Paramere 2-setose.

Diagnosis. Large species with not reticulated disk of elytra, with 6-setose labrum, with broadly rounded shoulders, with evident tooth in ones, with well marked and moderately punctate striae, without dorsal setiferous puncture and with 2-setose paramere.

Differential diagnosis. Differences against other species, especially the most related *B. betsileo* sp. n., are indicated by preceding species and especially in following key.

Name derivation. New species is named after Dr. B. L. Fisher, expert in Madagascan ants, who collected all the specimens.

***Brachypelus ambondrombe* sp. n.**

(Figs 12, 12a,b)

Type material. Holotype (♂) labelled: „Madagascar Est, 1300-1400 m, Massiv Ambondrombe, Ikoka env., forêt humide, tamisages, 12.-13.iii.1996, J. Janák + P. Moravec lgt.“ (cB). Paratypes: (1 ♀) with the same data as holotype; (1 ♂, 1 ♀) labelled: „E Madagascar, 26.iii.-2.iv.2001, Mt. Ambondrombe, SW slope and ridge, 1600-1800 m, P. Bulirsch lgt.“ (cB).

Description. Body as in (Fig. 12). Surface piceous, head and pronotum often slightly paler, antennae, mouthparts rusty brown, legs dark rusty brown; underside piceous. Length of body 5.00-5.40 mm (HT 5.35 mm).

Head. Convex, less shining, with fine micropunctures and rests of fine reticulation. Anterior margin of clypeus nearly straight, lateral lobes strongly protruding forward, very clearly separated off rather vaulted supraantennal plates. Transversal furrow well marked, facial furrows moderately deep and rather broad. Eyes moderately broad, faintly broader than width of antennomere 2. Labrum 6-setose.

Pronotum. Transversal, very slightly shining, rather strongly reticulated, vaulted from lateral view. Lateral bead moderately broad and entire, sides moderately strongly rounded and attenuating forward; maximum width in last third of length; posterior angles rather shortly rounded. Front transverse impression almost wanting, median line very strongly impressed and very broad, distinct towards base. Width: length ratio 1.24-1.27 (HT 1.24).

Protibia. Rather narrow from lateral view, apical half narrower than by following species.

Elytra. Very short, convex, outline egg-shaped, maximum width evidently before middle; rather strongly reticulated; reticulation of outer intervals, base and apex only slightly stronger than one at disk. Slightly sloping from base towards shortly rounded, rather protruding shoulders. Lateral bead wide, its margin with distinct humeral denticle. Elytral striae complete, slightly punctate, slightly weakening just before apex. Stria 3 without dorsal setiferous puncture; intervals slightly convex. Length: width ratio 1.37-1.43 (HT 1.39); elytra : pronotum length ratio 1.93-2.09 (HT 1.96) and elytra : pronotum width ratio 1.10-1.16 (HT 1.13).

Ventral part. Sternite by males very fine, by females distinctly reticulated, last visible sternite by females with deep and dense wrinkles, by males rather shining, almost without rest of wrinkles, almost smooth. Epipleura of elytra reticulated, episterna shining.

Aedeagus. As on (Figs 12 a,b); by HT 1.06 mm long, median lobe slightly and regularly arcuated in its whole length; its right side in subapical part rather convex, outline rather uneven, sinuoid. Apex simple, short, narrowly rounded from dorso-apical view. Paramere 2-setose (second seta by HT not recognizable, probably snapped, by PT visible).

Diagnosis. Small species with strongly reticulated pronotal disk, with 6-setose labrum, with very short elytra with shortly rounded shoulders, with evident tooth in ones, with well marked but slightly punctate striae, without dorsal setiferous puncture and with 2-setose paramere.

Differential diagnosis. Differences against other species, especially the most related following new species, are indicated in following key; the most important differences are on pronotum (by *B. ambondrombe* sp. n. is its lateral bead moderately narrow and disk regularly reticulated whereas by *B. newtoni* sp. n. is lateral bead very broad and disk almost not reticulated).

Name derivation. The new species is named after Mt. Ambondrombe, locality of this as well as of other 4 new species described here.

***Brachypelus newtoni* sp. n.**

(Figs 13, 13a,b)

Type material. Holotype (♂) labelled: „Madagascar: Fianarantsoa: R.S. Ivohibe, 9.0 km NE Ivohibe, camp V, 900 m, 22°25.6' S, 46°56.3' E, 12.-17.xi.1997, FMHD#97-510, rainforest, sifted litter (leaf mold, rotten wood), mini-Winkler, B. L. Fisher, BF#1757, Field Mus. Nat. Hist.“ (FMNH). Paratype: (1 ♀) with the same data as holotype (cB).

Description. Body as in (Fig. 13). Surface dark piceous, almost black, antennae, mouthparts rusty brown, legs dark rusty brown; underside piceous. Length of body: HT 5.60 mm, PT 5.40 mm.

Head. Convex, moderately shining, with fine micropunctures, but without rests of fine reticulation. Anterior margin of clypeus nearly straight, lateral lobes protruding very strongly forward, very clearly separated off strongly vaulted supraantennal plates. Transversal furrow well marked, facial furrows rather deep and very broad. Eyes moderately broad, distinctly broader than width of antennomere 2. Labrum 6-setose.

Pronotum. Transversal, moderately shining, slightly and irregular reticulated in its lateral and basal parts, disk almost not reticulated; rather slightly vaulted from lateral view. Lateral bead very broad and entire, especially in its basal part; sides rather strongly rounded and attenuating forward; maximum width in last third of length; posterior angles regularly and rather broadly rounded. Front transverse impression almost wanting, median line very strongly impressed and very broad, distinct towards base. Width : length ratio HT 1.28, PT 1.28.

Protibia. Rather broad from lateral view, apical half broader than by preceding species.

Elytra. Very shortly convex, outline egg-shaped, maximum width evidently before middle; rather strongly reticulated; reticulation of outer intervals, base and apex only slightly stronger than one at disk. Slightly sloping from base towards shortly rounded, rather protruding shoulders. Lateral bead wide, its margin with distinct humeral denticle. Elytral striae complete, rather deep, moderately punctate, very slightly weakening just before apex. Stria 3 without dorsal setiferous puncture; intervals moderately convex, especially in basal part. Length : width ratio HT 1.33, PT 1.35; elytra : pronotum length ratio HT 1.97, PT 1.95 and elytra : pronotum width ratio HT 1.16, PT 1.13.

Ventral part. Sternite by male very fine, by female distinctly reticulated, last visible sternite by female with deep and dense wrinkles, by male rather shining, almost without rest of wrinkles, almost smooth. Epipleura of elytra reticulated, episterna shining.

Aedeagus. As on (Figs 13a,b); by HT 1.18 mm long, median lobe moderately and regularly arcuated in its whole length; its right side in subapical part rather convex, outline almost not sinusoid. Apex simple, short, moderately rounded from dorso-apical view, turned on the right. Paramere 2-setose.

Diagnosis. Small species with very broad pronotal lateral bead, with not reticulated disk of elytra, with 6-setose labrum, with very short elytra with moderately rounded shoulders with evident tooth, with very well marked and moderately punctate striae, without dorsal setiferous puncture and with 2-setose paramere.

Differential diagnosis. Most similar to preceding species, differences are quoted by preceding species and in following key.

Name derivation. The new species is named after Dr. Alfred Newton, expert in family Staphylinidae, who kindly loaned us material from FMNH.

KEY TO SPECIES OF GENUS *BRACHYPELUS*

- 1(4) Margin of elytral lateral bead without humeral denticle, uninterrupted from base of stria 3 or 4 to apex of elytra.
- 2(3) Labrum 6-setose. Eyes much wider, about twice wider than width of antennomere 2. Larger, length of body 5.50-7.00 mm. Elytral striae deep and intervals convex up to apex. Paramere of aedeagus 2-setose. NE part of Madagascar..... *B. obesus* Putzeys, 1866
- 3(2) Labrum 7-setose. Eyes much smaller, a bit narrower than width of antennomere 2. Smaller; length of body 4.50-4.90 mm. Elytral striae disappearing apicad, intervals almost flat in apical half of elytra. Paramere of aedeagus 1-setose. Périnet region *B. microphthalmus* Basilewsky, 1976
- 4(1) Margin of elytral lateral bead with distinct humeral denticle.
- 5(15) Labrum 7-setose.
- 5(8) Eyes narrow to very narrow, narrower than width of antennomere 2. Pronotum and elytra reticulated, paramere 1-setose.
- 6(7) Eyes very narrow, distinctly narrower than antennomere 2. Pronotum not densely and regularly reticulated on disk. Elytra longer (ratio 1.49-1.60). Length of body 4.80-5.70 mm. Périnet region. *B. minor* Alluaud, 1935
- 7(6) Eyes broader, only slightly narrower than width of antennomere 2. Pronotum distinctly reticulated on disk. Elytra shorter (ratio 1.37-1.50). Length of body 5.20-5.80 mm. Lake Alaotra region. *B. reticulatus* Basilewsky, 1976
- 8(5) Eyes broad, mostly broader than width of antennomere 2. Pronotum not reticulated. Paramere of aedeagus 2-setose.
- 9(10) Small species, length of body 4.95 mm. Lateral pronotal bead extremely broad. Elytral striae coarsely punctate. Fort Dauphin region..... *B. vonickai* sp. n.
- 10(9) Larger species, length of body over 6 mm. Lateral pronotal bead rather narrow. Elytral striae only slightly punctate.
- 11(12) Elytra slightly sloping from base towards shortly rounded, rather protruding shoulders. Elytra regularly reticulated. Kalambatritra Mts. region..... *B. basilewskyi* sp. n.
- 12(11) Elytra strongly sloping from base towards broadly rounded, slightly protruding shoulders. Elytral disk not reticulated.
- 13(14) Elytral striae finer and moderately punctate; intervals in basal part slightly vaulted. Elytral base slightly reticulated. In average, pronotum narrower, shoulders more protruding and transversal clypeal furrow shallower. Dorsal setiferous puncture missing or one. Smaller; length of body 6.20-6.70 mm. Median lobe of aedeagus as on (Figs 7a,b,c). Andringitra: Vohidray Ridge region *B. vohidray* sp. n.
- 14(13) Elytral striae deeper but only slightly punctate; intervals in basal part moderately vaulted. Elytral base distinctly reticulated. On average, pronotum broader, shoulders less protruding and transverse clypeal furrow deeper. Dorsal setiferous puncture one. Larger; length of body 6.70-7.20 mm. Median lobe of aedeagus as on (Figs 6a,b,c). Ambondrombe Mts. region *B. rolandi* sp. n.
- 15(5) Labrum 6-setose.
- 16(17) Dorsal setiferous puncture one. Pronotum and elytra relatively flat. Elytra with strongly punctate striae. Pronotum not reticulated; elytra reticulated only along lateral border and apex. Vondrozo region *B. pauliani* Basilewsky, 1976
- 17(16) Dorsal setiferous puncture missing. Pronotum and elytra relatively vaulted. Elytral striae moderately to very slightly punctate.
- 18(21) Elytra much longer (ratio over 1.45), with broadly rounded, indistinct shoulders. Larger, length of body distinctly over 6 mm.
- 19(20) Pronotum with regularly and rather strongly reticulated disk, with moderately broad lateral bead. Elytra shorter (ratio 1.46-1.53), rather convex from lateral view, its outline rather convex. Body length 6.40-7.80 mm. Ambondrombe Mts. region *B. betsileo* sp. n.
- 20(19) Pronotum with not reticulated disk, with very broad lateral bead. Elytra longer (ratio 1.52-1.56), slightly flattened from lateral view; its outline less convex. Body length 6.30-7.00 mm. Ivohibe region. *B. fisheri* sp. n.
- 21(18) Elytra very short, egg-shaped (ratio below 1.44), with distinct, shortly rounded shoulders. Smaller; length of body distinctly below 6 mm.

- 22(23) Pronotum with regularly and rather strongly reticulated disk, with rather shortly rounded hind angles and with moderately broad lateral bead. Elytra longer (ratio 1.37-1.43), with moderately deep and slightly punctate striae. Length of body 5.00-5.40 mm. Ambondrombe Mts. region *B. ambondrombe* sp. n.
- 23(22) Pronotum shining, with not reticulated disk, with rather broadly rounded hind angles and with very broad lateral bead. Elytra shorter (ratio 1.33-1.35), with deeper and moderately punctate striae. Length of body 5.40-5.60 mm. Ivohibe region *B. newtoni* sp. n.

Prodyscherus Jeannel, 1946

This endemic genus with 20 already described species belongs to the subtribe Scaritina according to Basilewsky (1973); its species are largely distributed in mainly eastern part of Madagascar.

Prodyscherus basilewskyi sp. n.

(Figs 14, 14a)

Type material. Holotype (♂) labelled: „E Madagascar, 19.-23.xii.1998, 30 km ESE of Betroka, 1450-1600 m, Vohitrosa forest: 2 km NEE of peak 1825 m, P. Bulirsch lgt.“ (cB). Paratypes: (3 ♂♂, 4 ♀♀, 7 specimens) with the same data as holotype; (4 ♂♂, 6 ♀♀, 7 specimens) labelled: „E Madagascar, 24.xii.1998, 30 km ESE of Betroka, 1600-1650 m, Vohitrosa forest: 3 km NE of peak 1825 m, P. Bulirsch lgt.“; (1 ♂) labelled: „E Madagascar, 28.-29.xii.1998, 38 km ESE of Betroka, Kalambatritra forest, 3 km E of Ambaro, 1600-1670 m, P. Bulirsch lgt.“ (cB, cA, MRAC, cD, cBa).

Description. Body as in (Fig. 14). Black, shiny, without reticulation. Length of body 26.0-34.0 mm (HT 31.5 mm, aver. of 20 measured specimens 29.9 mm).

Head. Rather broad, vaulted, surface shiny, only with fine and sparse micropunctures; supra-antennal plates distinctly incised, with deep and broad prolongation of facial furrows. Frontal furrows rather short and superficial; front of head shortly striated; some superficial and irregular striae also between eyes and prolongation of frontal furrows. Eyes relatively small, genae rather slightly marked with very sparse and fine furrows, very slightly higher than eyes. Facial furrows disappearing at about level of ocular seta, not rapidly bent down.

Pronotum. Rather narrow, shining, not reticulated, only with fine micropunctures; moderately vaulted from lateral view; outline very slightly convex, sides almost parallel; maximum width at about middle or in fore third; fore margin regularly, rather deeply emarginated, anterior angles rather sharp, posterior angles very broadly rounded. Lateral bead with one anterior, lateral, posterior and 0-6 basal marginal pores; base slightly and regularly vaulted; basal fovea small but often rather deep and sharp. Width: length ratio 1.20-1.35 (HT 1.29, aver. 1.28).

Elytra. Shining, very slightly flattened from dorsal view; outline slightly convex in basal and moderately vaulted in apical part; in basal fourth covered by interval 8. Base with very narrow and fine line of tubercles, strongly oblique; shoulders broadly rounded; basal ridge (= „crête humérale“ in Basilewsky, 1973) distinct, almost rectilinear, strongly oblique, with distinct humeral tooth. Striae 1-5 fine and narrow, stria 6 very slightly, stria 7 slightly broader; intervals 1-5 equal, broad and almost flat, interval 6 slightly narrower, vaulted in basal part, interval 7 rather narrow and vaulted just behind base, moderately vaulted apicad, interval 8 very narrowly vaulted in basal and apical part, moderately vaulted in middle. Dorsal setiferous punctures 3 in interval 3 touching stria 3; first not far of base, second it three fourth of length and last one just before apex; by

two PT (males with standard aedeagus) dorsal setiferous punctures 4 on one or both elytra. Apex slightly corrugated, distinctly less shining. Length : width ratio 1.64-1.74 (HT 1.67, aver. 1.67); elytra : pronotum length ratio 2.04-2.19 (HT 2.14, aver. 2.13) and elytra : pronotum width ratio 0.97-1.02 (HT 0.99, aver. 0.99).

Ventral part. Shining, prosternal projection without any setae.

Aedeagus. As on (Fig. 14a); by HT 5.10 mm long, median lobe relatively very narrow and long, laterally almost rectilinear from basal part to apex slightly bent just before end.

Diagnosis. Medium sized species with narrow striae 6-7, with prosternal projection without any seta, with incised supraantennal plates, with homogenous intervals 1-5, with interval 8 narrowly vaulted apicad and with only 3 dorsal setiferous punctures.

Differential diagnosis. According to Basilewsky (1973, 1976) the new species is most related to 2 species with similar characteristic. *P. basilewskyi* sp. n. differs from *P. rapax* (Fairmaire, 1883) by much narrower stria 7, by mostly 3 (instead of 4) dorsal setiferous punctures, by less developed, almost not rugate genae not distinctly higher than eyes and by longer and less convex median lobe of aedeagus: (Fig. 14a), Basilewsky, (1973, Fig. 36b); from *P. androyanus* Jeannel, 1946, collected together with new species, differs by narrower body, especially by narrower pronotum (aver. of ratio 1.3 v. 1.4), by 3 (instead of 5) dorsal setiferous punctures and by a bit longer, not distinctly vaulted median lobe of aedeagus: (Fig. 14a), Basilewsky, (1973, Fig. 36c); from *P. grandidieri* Jeannel, 1946 and *P. meridionalis* Jeannel, 1955, a bit less related species, *P. basilewskyi* sp. n. differs by excised supraantennal plates; from *P. grandidieri* moreover by a bit larger, less narrower body, by 3 (instead of 5) dorsal setiferous punctures and by longer, not very short and convex median lobe of aedeagus: (Fig. 14a), Basilewsky, (1973, Fig. 36c); from *P. meridionalis*, described by one female from SE Madagascar (Andohahelo), differs also by much larger body (26-34 mm v. 24 mm) and by first dorsal setiferous puncture in first fifth of stria 3, not just on base.

Name derivation. The new species is dedicated to the memory of Dr. Pierre Basilewsky, world-famous expert in afrotropical beetles including Madagascan Scaritinae.

Prodyscherus androyanus Jeannel, 1946

Material examined. „E Madagascar, 19.-23.xii.1998, 30 km ESE of Betroka, 1450-1600 m, Vohitrosa forest: 2 km NEE of peak 1825 m, P. Bulirsch lgt.“; „E Madagascar, 15.xii.1998, 30 km SE of Betroka, 3 km NE of Tsanerena, 900 m, P. Bulirsch lgt.“ and „E Madagascar, 25.-28.xii.1998, 32 km ESE of Betroka, 1650-1700 m, Vohitrosa forest, 0.5 km S of peak 1798 m, P. Bulirsch lgt.“, 3 single specimens (cB).

Rare species, known from Kalambatritra Mts. and Ranotsara (near Ihosy and Ivohibe).

Typhloscaris Kuntzen, 1914

This genus is known from Madagascar (4 species) and East Africa. According to Basilewsky (1973) the genus belongs to the subtribe Scaritina; its species were found in Andringitra and Anosyenne Mts.

Typhloscaris descarpentriasi Basilewsky, 1972

Material examined. „SE Madagascar: Chaînes Anosyennes, 7 km S of Imaha, 1400-1600 m, 8.-12.ii.2004, 24°16'S, 46°57'E, P. Bulirsch lgt.“, 1 ♀ (cB).

Known from north part of Anosyenne Mts.: „Mt. Ranomandry, 1050 m“ in two females only; male is unknown.

Dyscherus Chaudoir, 1855

Endemic genus with 13 already described species belongs to the subtribe Dyscherina according to Basilewsky (1973); its species are largely distributed in mainly north-eastern part of Madagascar.

Dyscherus ambondrombe sp. n.

(Figs 15, 15a)

Type material. Holotype (♂) labelled: „Madagascar Est, 1300-1400 m, Massiv Ambondrombe, Ikoka env., crête Amboasa, forêt humide, tamisages, camp 3, 12.-13.iii.1996, J. Janák + P. Moravec lgt.“ (cB). Paratypes: (1 ♀, 1 strongly immature specimen) labelled: „Madagascar Est, 1500-1600 m, Massiv Ambondrombe, cote 1579, camp 5, forêt humide, tamisages, 15.-18.iii.1996, J. Janák + P. Moravec lgt.“ (cB).

Description. Body as in (Fig. 15). Black, legs, except fore femora, antennae and mouth parts brown piceous. Head and pronotum moderately shining, elytra rather dull. Length of body: HT 24.0 mm, PT 30.0 mm (second, strongly immature PT with rather crumpled elytra, was not used for any measurement; its total length is about 27 mm).

Head. Rather broad, vaulted, surface shiny, only with very irregular rests of very slight reticulation and with fine micropunctures; frontal furrows rather short and superficial; front of head shortly striated; some superficial and irregular striae also between eyes and prolongation of frontal furrows. Frontal furrows moderately long, rather broad and shallow, only very superficially wrinkled. Eyes relatively very small and flat, genae very flat and not extend beyond eyes level. Facial furrows well marked, started in middle of rounded, not emarginated supraantennal plates and finished at about level of facial setiferous puncture.

Pronotum. Transverse, surface rather shiny, on disk not regularly reticulated, only with fine punctures and wrinkles but with very large, shallow and dull basal fovea with regular and strong reticulation; disk markedly flattened from lateral view; fore margin rather deeply and regularly emarginated; fore angles forming by short but very sharp projection. Outline moderately convex and rather slightly narrowed to posterior lateral setiferous punctures, forming there very blunt,

slightly visible angle, rather convex in two third of pronotal basal part but shortly and distinctly emarginated just before flange (posteriorly produced pronotal base). Lateral bead with anterior and posterior setiferous punctures and with next 3-5 basal punctures. Anterior transverse line superficial and shortened laterally, median line moderately deep and complete, just before base crossing basal line just before flange. Width : length ratio HT 1.65, PT 1.63.

Protibia. Characteristic to this genus; each, except 2 big apical, with next 4-5 small teeth, first of them is rather big by HT and moderate by PT.

Elytra. Moderately to strongly spreading backwards, rather flattened laterally, almost complete surface dull: strongly reticulated, covered by rough and very dense granulation; only base and very basal part of interval 3 shining; base with 2-4 series of small tubercles. Outline, forming by interval 8, convex, by HT slightly, by PT moderately extended backwards. Base narrow, moderately to strongly sloping towards broadly rounded, slightly protruding shoulders with very big and rather blunt tooth. Striae 1-6 very fine and broad, fine and sparse punctate, disappearing apicad; stria 7 almost invisible; intervals characteristic: interval 1 flat, intervals 2 and 4-6 slightly, interval 3, and especially 7, moderately vaulted in basal part; interval 3 markedly elevated just behind base, interval 7 beginning by very short and sharp humeral keel connected with humeral tooth. Stria 3 with 5 dorsal setiferous punctures; first near to base, second at about middle, remaining three in apical fourth. Length: width ratio HT 1.48, PT 1.44; elytra : pronotum length ratio HT 2.24, PT 2.21 and elytra : pronotum width ratio HT 0.92, PT 0.94.

Ventral part. Prosternal projection with row of setae along its lateral and hind border, also anterior part of mesothorax with some setae. Episterna, interval 9 („pseudoepipleur“) and epipleura rather shining: fine punctate, only with rests of microsculpture. Paragenae typical for this genus: triangle, without any tooth, but internal carina well marked, only slightly finer and shorter than external one; it is unique within genus.

Aedeagus. As on (Fig. 15a); by HT 3.95 mm long, median lobe moderately long, laterally with regularly and moderately vaulted upper margin. Median lobe slightly damaged (cracked in its basal part).

Diagnosis. Medium sized species with dull elytra, with very flat eyes and genae, with both lateral setiferous punctures in pronotal bead, with relative slightly vaulted, slightly modified intervals and with prosternal projection and especially mesothorax with some setae and paragenae with well developed inner keel.

Differential diagnosis. Basilewsky (1973, 1976, 1978) described or redescribed and keyed all *Dyscherus* species. Among them there are only 3 species with similar characteristic (in his key under item 16) compared below. *D. ambondrombe* sp. n. differs from *D. pauliani* Basilewsky, 1976 and *D. punctatostratus* Basilewsky, 1976 by slightly vaulted intervals and by larger body size; from first one moreover by very short (not long) keel in interval 7 and from second one by elytra with distinct granulation. From the most similar species, *D. storthodontoides* Bänninger, 1935, differs by larger body (24-30 mm v.17-24 mm), by pronotum broader (ratio about 1.6 v. 1.4) with emarginated base, by first dorsal setiferous puncture not just in base of elytra, by shorter keel in base of interval 7 and by much longer and narrower aedeagus: (Fig. 15a), Basilewsky (1973, Fig. 47b). *D. ambondrombe* sp. n. moreover differs from all known *Dyscherus* species by distinct inner carina of paragenae. Both latest species were collected together in Mt. Ambondrombe Mts.

Name derivation. The new species is named after Mt. Ambondrombe, locality of all collected specimens.

Dyscherus storthodontoides Bänninger, 1935

Material examined. „Madagascar Est, 1500-1600 m, Massiv Ambondrombe, cote 1579, camp 5, forêt humide, tamisages (or „sous écorses“ or „feuilles en décomposition“), 15-18.iii.1996, J. Janák + P. Moravec lgt.“, 1 ♂, 4 specimens; „E Madagascar, Mt. Ambondrombe, 26.iii.-2.iv.2001, camp 6, 1500-1600 m, P. Bulirsch lgt.“, 2 specimens (cB).

Rare species from rain forests in Andringitra and Vondrozo regions.

Crepidopterus Chaudoir, 1855

Endemic genus with 13 known species from mainly central and eastern part of island. According to Basilewsky (1973) the genus belongs to the subtribe Storthodontina.

Crepidopterus pipitzi kalambatritra ssp. n.

(Fig. 16)

Type material. Holotype (♂) labelled: „E Madagascar, 28-29.xii.1998, 38 km ESE of Betroka, Kalambatritra forest, 3 km E of Ambaro, 1600-1670 m, P. Bulirsch lgt.“ (cB). Paratypes: (2 ♀♀), first with the same data as holotype (cB) and second labelled: „Madagascar Centre, Foret de Kalambatritra (E. Betroka), SE du piton 1644 –15/19.iv./19/74“ and „Coll. Mus. Tervuren (ex Muséum Paris), Coll. P. Basilewsky“ (MRAC).

Description. Body as in (Fig. 16). The same character as nominotypical subspecies except as follows. Black; head and pronotum rather shining, elytra dull. Length of body HT 33.0, both PT 35.0 mm.

Head. Differs only in mandibles with basal teeth carinated almost parallel with inner keel.

Pronotum. Relatively strongly flattened from lateral view, anterior transverse line almost invisible, fore margin fine, parallel and densely striate. Width : length ratio HT 1.70, PT 1.75, 1.78.

Elytra. Evidently and strongly flattened from lateral view; base more truncate, shoulders less rounded, outline less convex. Surface rather dull, with dense and rough granules; striae and its punctation almost invisible. Interval 3 strongly and narrowly vaulted: similar to nominotypical subspecies, but in average a bit shorter; base with next 2 small tubercles; first dorsal setiferous puncture just between ones. Width: length ratio HT 1.41, PT 1.44, 1.46; elytra : pronotum length ratio HT 2.40, PT 2.44, 2.50 and elytra : pronotum width ratio HT 1.00, both PT 0.99.

Ventral part. Disk of prosternal projection only slightly concave, not disciform.

Aedeagus. Identical with nominotypical subspecies: Basilewsky (1973, Fig. 92a).

Differential diagnosis. Nominotypical subspecies differs by mandibles with inner teeth carinated in angle ca 60°, not parallel with inner keel; by laterally rather vaulted pronotum, with anterior transverse line clearly visible and fore margin almost without striation; by pronotum width :

length ratio about 1.7, by disk of prosternal projection disciform, strongly concave; by laterally rather vaulted elytra with base less truncate, by shoulders more rounded and outline more convex; by slightly shining surface with striae punctation often well visible; by elytral base only with one, bigger tubercle and finally by first dorsal setiferous puncture between interval 3 and tubercle.

Comment. Basilewsky (1976) quoted 9 specimens of *C. pipitzi* with the same data as the latest paratype. We examined only one of them; remaining 8 specimens very probably belong to newly described subspecies as well.

Name derivation. New subspecies is named after place of finding.

Crepidopterus seyrigi (Alluaud, 1935)

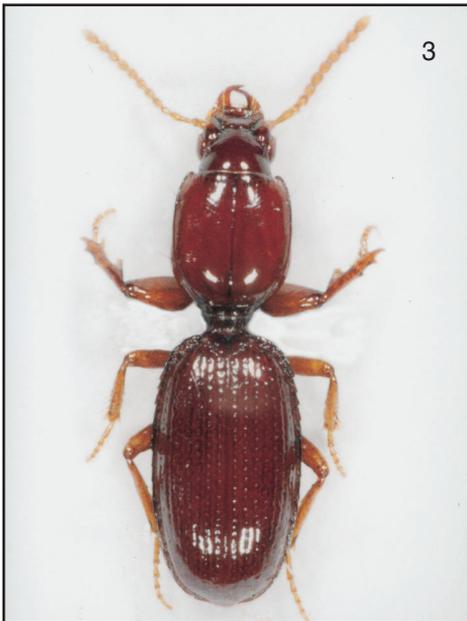
Material examined. „E Madagascar, 19.-23.xii.1998, 30 km ESE of Betroka, 1450-1600 m, Vohitrosa forest: 2 km NEE of peak 1825 m, P. Bulirsch lgt.“, 12 specimens; „E Madagascar, 24.xii.1998, 30 km ESE of Betroka, 1600-1650 m, Vohitrosa forest: 3 km NE of peak 1825 m, P. Bulirsch lgt.“, 13 specimens (cB, cA, MRAC, cD, cBa); mostly collected together with *Prodyscherus basilewskyi* sp. n. in degraded steppe very near to rests of rain forest.

Very rare species known in very few specimens from Kalambatritra Mts. and Betroka.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS. Our hearty thanks are due to Messrs Mark de Meyer, Thierry Deuve and Alfred Newton for loan of mostly type material and for donation of some doublets and to Mr. Jiří Zídek for taking pictures of habitus of all holotypes.

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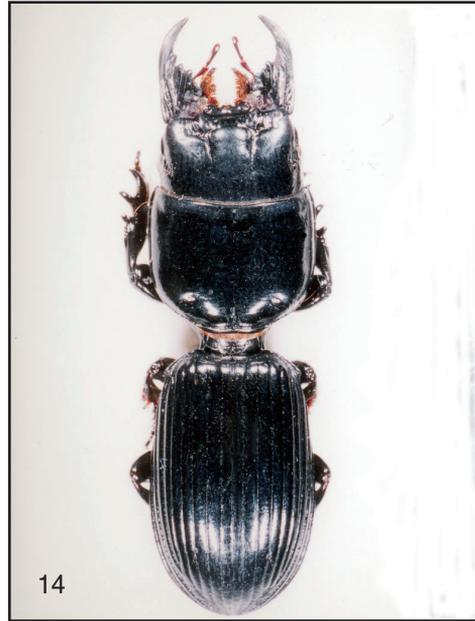
Figs 1-4. Habitus of HT (in parentheses behind name real length of body).
1: *A. ambondrombe* sp. n. (3.00 mm); 2: *A. vohidray* sp. n. (3.00 mm); 3: *A. basilewskyi* sp. n. (3.90 mm); 4: *A. andohahelana vonickai* ssp. n. (2.85 mm)



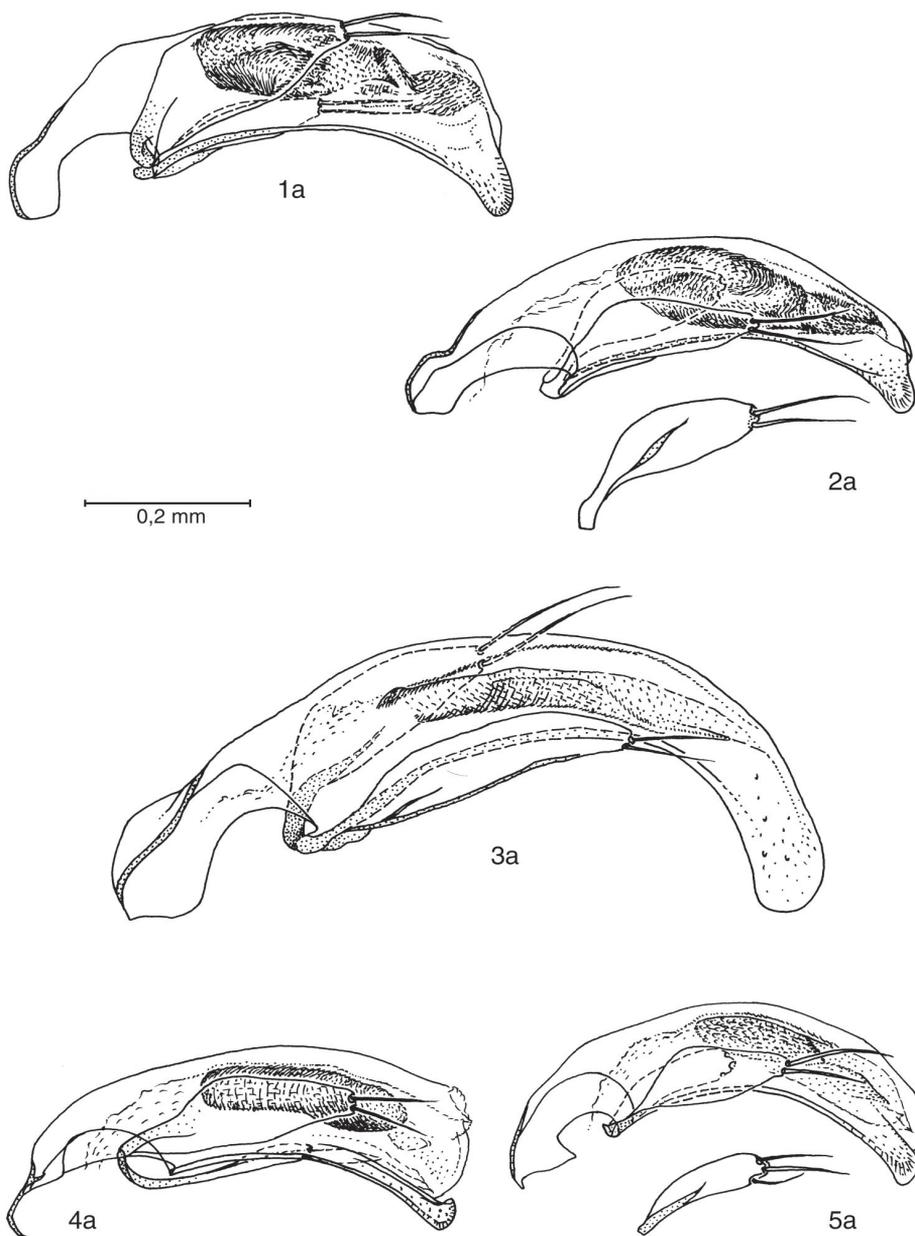
Figs 5-8. Habitus of HT (in parentheses behind name real length of body).
5: *A. descarpentriesi imaha* ssp. n. (2.30 mm); 6: *B. rolandi* ssp. n. (6.80 mm); 7: *B. vohidray* sp. n. (6.40 mm); 8: *B. basilewskyi* sp. n. (6.40 mm)



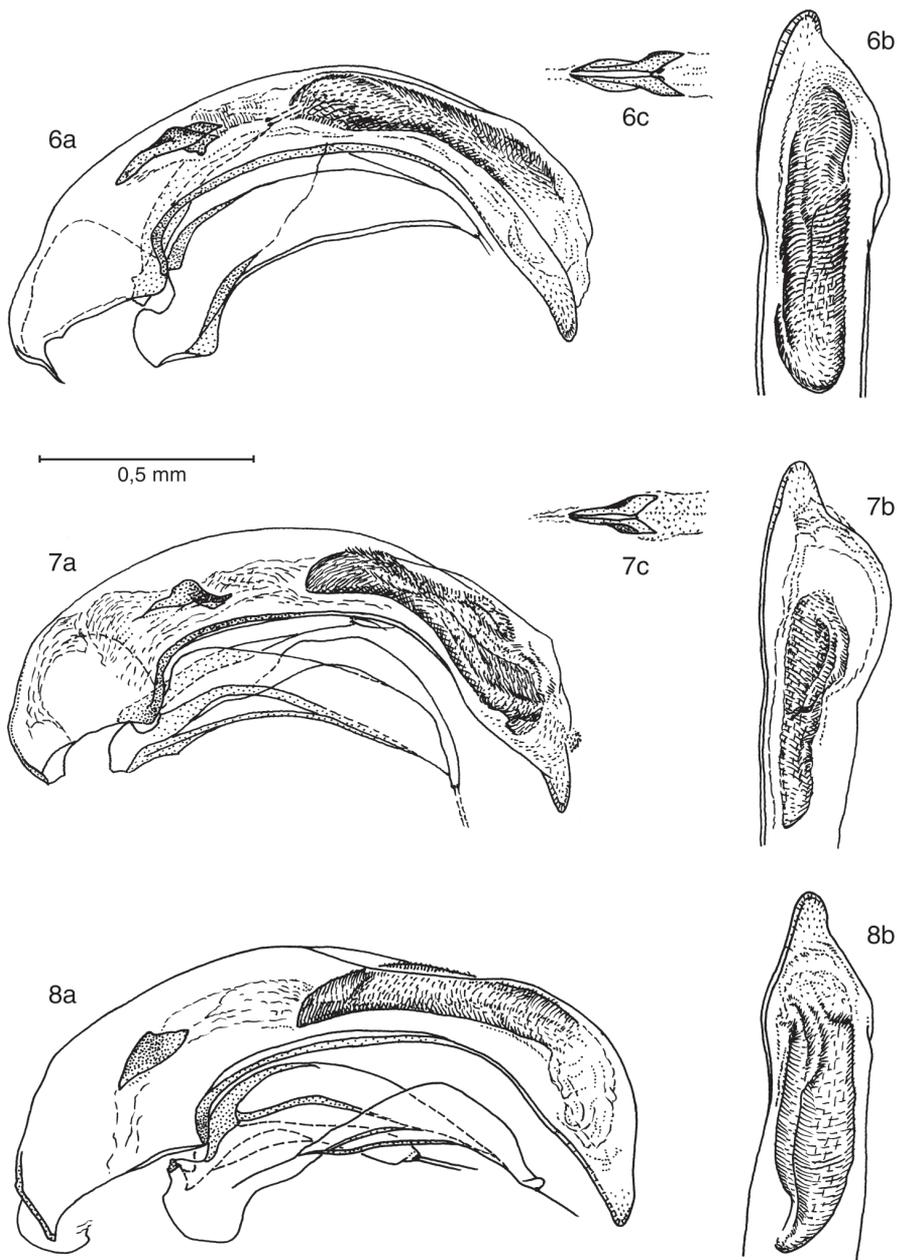
Figs 9-12. Habitus of HT (in parentheses behind name real length of body).
9: *B. vonickai* sp. n. (4.95 mm); 10: *B. betsileo* sp. n. (7.25 mm); 11: *B. fisheri* sp. n. (6.60 mm); 12: *B. ambondrombe* sp. n. (5.35 mm)



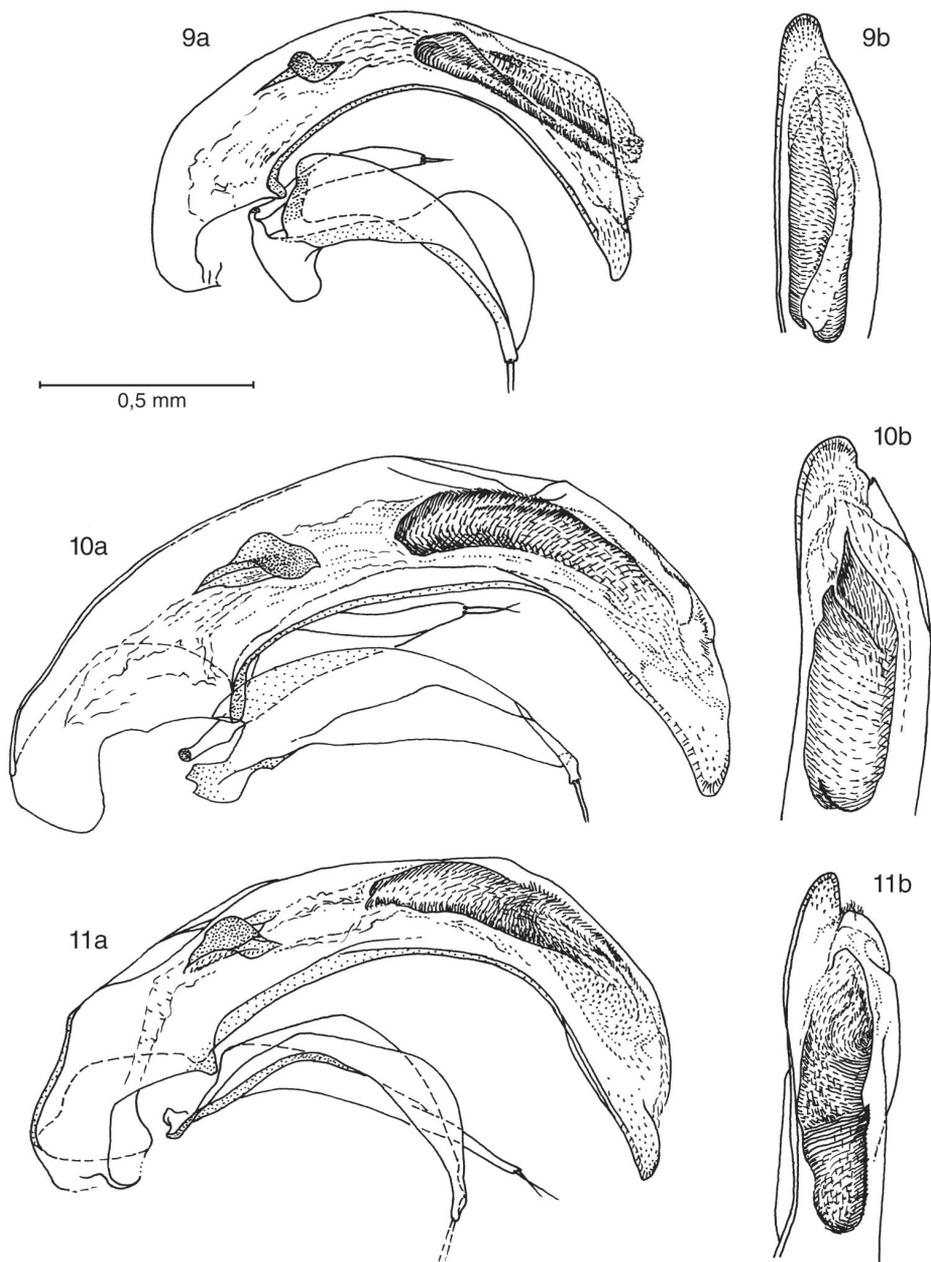
Figs 13-16. Habitus of HT (in parentheses behind name real length of body).
13: *B. newtoni* sp. n. (5.60 mm); 14: *P. basilewskyi* sp. n. (31.5 mm); 15: *D. ambondrombe* sp. n. (24.0 mm); 16: *C. pipitzi kalambatritra* ssp. n. (33.0 mm)



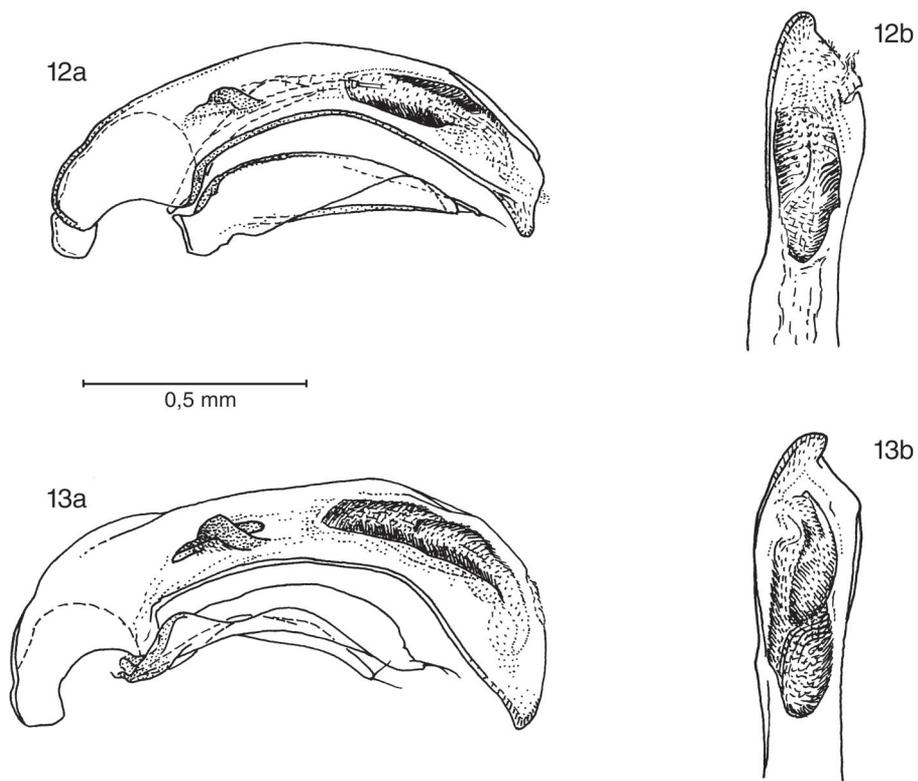
Figs 1a-5a. Aedeagus of HT from right lateral view. 1a: *Antireicheia ambondrombe* sp. n.; 2a: *A. vohidray* sp. n.; 3a: *A. basilewskyi* sp. n.; 4a: *A. andohahelana vonickai* ssp. n.; 5a: *A. descarpentriesi imaha* ssp. n.



Figs 6a-8a. Aedeagus of HT from right lateral view. Figs 6b-8b. Apex of aedeagus of HT from dorso-apical view. Figs 6c-7c. Basal sclerite of median lobe of HT (6c), PT (7c) from dorsal view. 6a,b,c: *Brachypelus rolandi* sp. n.; 7a,b,c: *B. vohidray* sp. n.; 8a,b: *B. basilewskyi* sp. n.

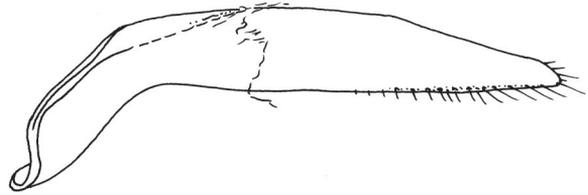
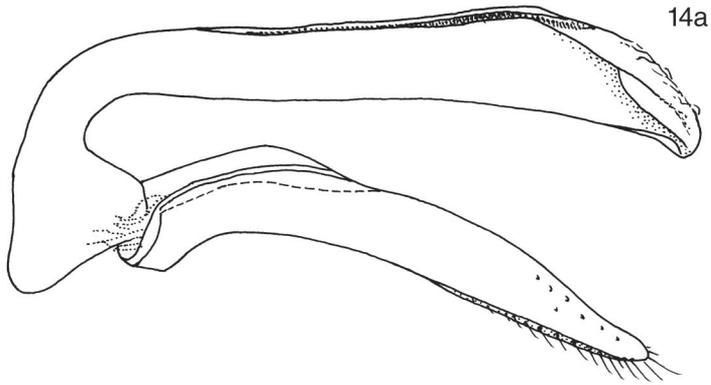


Figs 9a-11a. Aedeagus of HT from right lateral view. Figs 9b-11b. Apex of aedeagus of HT from dorso-apical view. 9a,b: *Brachypelus vonickai* sp. n.; 10a,b: *B. betsileo* sp. n.; 11a,b: *B. fisheri* sp. n.



Figs 12a-13a. Aedeagus of HT from right lateral view. Figs 12b-13b. Apex of aedeagus of HT from dorso-apical view. 12a,b: *Brachypelus ambondrombe* sp. n.; 13a,b: *B. newtoni* sp. n.

Figs 14a-15a. Aedeagus of HT from right lateral view. 14a: *Prodyschreus basilewskyi* sp. n.; 15a: *Dyscherus ambondrombe* sp. n.



1 mm

