

New species of the genus *Metholcus* Jacquelin du Val, 1860 (Coleoptera: Bostrichoidea: Anobiidae) from South Africa

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Abstract. *Metholcus roeberi* sp. n. from South Africa is described, illustrated and compared with other species from the genus *Metholcus* Jacquelin du Val, 1860. New information about new distribution of *M. coiffaiti* Español, 1972, *M. densepunctatum* Español et Comas, 1991, *M. haackei* Español et Comas, 1991, *M. multistriatus multistriatus* Pic, 1946, *M. robustithorax robustithorax* Pic, 1946, *M. sinuaticollis* Pic, 1950 from Ethiopic region are given.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Metholcus* Jacquelin du Val, 1860 is widely distributed in the Palaearctic (7 species and subspecies) and Ethiopic (17 species and subspecies) regions. The first species was described at the beginning of 19. century from Croatia (Germar, 1817; recently under new name established by Fairmaire, 1859). The second species from Mediterranean area was described by Schilsky (1898) on the end of that century. In the first half of the 20th. century few other species were described from southern part of Africa (Pic, 1922, 1933, 1934, 1946, 1949, 1950). In the last quarter of 20th century another species were described from Palaearctic region (Israelson, 1974; Español, 1972, 1979; Toskina 1998) and other African species, especially from South Africa and neighboring countries (Español, 1972; Español et Comas, 1991; Español et Viñolas, 1996).

This genus belongs to subfamily Xyletininae Gistel, 1856, in which two tribes are recognized (Xyletinini Gistel, 1856 and Lasiodermiini White, 1982), but the *Metholcus* seems to be outstanding from both of them. (According to my opinion it is necessary establish a new tribe - Metholcini, because this genus has quite distinct differences from both known tribes.)

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Identification of species of the genus *Metholcus* is very difficult. All species are very similar morphologically. Four following characters are used for identification - form of pronotum, form of the terminal segment of maxillar palpus, and especially aedeagus (chiefly number, form and distribution of spines in genital sac) and form of genital stirrup (genital segment). The same characters and their share are used in this paper. Review of papers, where is

possible to find pictures of aedeagus (or genital sac), genital stirrup (genital segment) and the terminal segment maxillar palpa is given (see table 1). Two species - *M. dilatathorax* Pic, 1933 and *M. granulatus* (Pic, 1922) were never illustrated as well as three other non-nominal subspecies - *M. gracilipes substriatus* Israelson, 1974, *M. multistriatus seydeli* Pic, 1950 and *M. robustithorax diversicolor* Pic, 1949. Review of all species with their distribution is also given; new records from different countries are marked by asterisk.

LIST OF SPECIES OF THE GENUS *METHOLCUS* JACQUELIN DU VAL, 1860

Type species *Ptilinus cylindricus* Germar, 1817

<i>africanus</i> Español et Comas, 1991: 29	South Africa
<i>arabicus</i> Español, 1979: 254	Saudi Arabia
<i>arcuaticollis</i> Pic, 1934: 15	Congo, Kenya
<i>buettikeri</i> Toskina, 1998: 55	Saudi Arabia
<i>coiffaiti</i> Español, 1972: 66	Gaboon, *South Africa
<i>densepunctatus</i> Español et Comas, 1991: 29	*Zimbabwe, South Africa
<i>dilatathorax</i> Pic, 1933: 686	South Africa
<i>gracilicornis</i> Español, 1972: 68	Morocco
<i>gracilipes gracilipes</i> Israelson, 1974: 81	Canary Isl. (Gran Canaria)
<i>gracilipes substriatus</i> Israelson, 1974: 84	Canary Isl. (Fuerteventura)
<i>granulatus</i> Pic, 1922: 6 (<i>Ptilinus</i>)	South Africa
<i>granulithorax</i> Español et Comas, 1991: 32	South Africa
<i>haackei</i> Español et Comas, 1991: 29	Namibia, *South Africa
<i>kochi</i> Español, 1972: 72	South Africa
<i>morenoi</i> Español et Viñolas, 1996: 86	Kenya
<i>multistriatus multistriatus</i> Pic, 1946: 2	Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Gaboon, *Kenya, *South Africa, *Zimbabwe
<i>multistriatus seydeli</i> Pic, 1950: 357	Zaire
<i>phoenicis</i> Fairmaire, 1859: 53 (<i>Trypopytis</i>)	Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, Yugoslavia; Algeria, Egypt, Tunisia; Cyprus, Israel, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey; Ethiopia, Somalia
<i>abyssinicus</i> Pic, 1903h: 81	
<i>cylindricus</i> Germar, 1817: 202 (<i>Ptilinus</i>)	
<i>longipennis</i> Chevrolat, 1860: 75 (<i>Xyletinus</i>)	
<i>madoni</i> Pic, 1930b: 13	
<i>raymondi</i> Mulsant et Godart, 1859: 177 (<i>Trypopytis</i>)	
<i>robustithorax diversicolor</i> Pic, 1949: 88	Kenya
<i>robustithorax robustithorax</i> Pic, 1946: 3	Kenya, *South Africa, *Zimbabwe
<i>rotundicollis</i> Schilsky, 1898: 72	Greece; Egypt; Israel, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey
<i>subseriatus</i> J. R. Sahlberg, 1913b: 156	
<i>rusumensis</i> Español et Viñolas, 1996: 88	Rwanda
<i>sinuaticollis</i> Pic, 1950: 357	*Botswana, *Malawi, Zaire, *Zimbabwe
<i>wagneri</i> Español et Viñolas, 1996: 84	Rwanda

Español (1967, 1968a, 1968b) quoted one other species “*robustus* Pic”, but I cannot find any information about this species. It could be a mistake or nomen nudum.

Table 1. List of papers where the most important characters for identification are illustrated.

Species	Aedeagus or internal sac	Genital stirrup	Terminal palpal segment
<i>africanus</i>	Español & Comas, 1991	Español & Comas, 1991	Español & Comas, 1991
<i>arabicus</i>	Español, 1979	Español, 1979	Español, 1979
<i>arcuaticollis</i>	Español, 1972	Español, 1972	Español, 1972
<i>buettikeri</i>	Toskina, 1998	Toskina, 1998	Toskina, 1998
<i>coiffaiti</i>	Español, 1972	Español, 1972	Español, 1972
<i>densepunctatus</i>	Español & Comas, 1991	Español & Comas, 1991	Español & Comas, 1991
<i>dilatathorax</i>	xxx	xxx	xxx
<i>gracilicornis</i>	Español, 1972	Xxx	Español, 1972
<i>gracilipes gracilipes</i>	Israelson, 1974	Israelson, 1974	Israelson, 1974
<i>gracilipes substriatus</i>	xxx	xxx	xxx
<i>granulatus</i>	xxx	xxx	xxx
<i>granulithorax</i>	Español & Comas, 1991	xxx	Español & Comas, 1991
<i>haackei</i>	Español & Comas, 1991	Español & Comas, 1991	Español & Comas, 1991
<i>kochi</i>	Español, 1972	Español, 1972	xxx
<i>morenoi</i>	Español & Viñolas, 1996	xxx	Español & Viñolas, 1996
<i>multistriatus multistriatus</i>	Español, 1972	Español, 1972	Español, 1972
<i>multistriatus seydeli</i>	xxx	xxx	xxx
<i>phoenicis</i>	Español, 1972	Español, 1972	Español, 1972
<i>robustithorax diversicolor</i>	xxx	xxx	xxx
<i>robustithorax robustithorax</i>	Español & Viñolas, 1996	Español, 1972	Español, 1972
<i>rotundicollis</i>	Español, 1972	Español, 1972	Español, 1972
<i>rusumensis</i>	Español & Viñolas, 1996	Español & Viñolas, 1996	Español & Viñolas, 1996
<i>sinuaticollis</i>	Español, 1972	Español, 1972	Español, 1972
<i>wagneri</i>	Español & Viñolas, 1996	Español & Viñolas, 1996	Español & Viñolas, 1996

DESCRIPTION

Metholcus roeberi sp. n.

(Figs 1 – 3)

Type material. Holotype (♂): South Africa, Transvaal, Sun City, 6. xi. 1998, R. Röber lgt., coll. P. Zahradník.

Description. Male. Body elongate, cylindrical, 3.8 mm in length, 1.2 mm in width, redish brown, including antennae, palpi and legs. Punctuation rather sparse, finer on the head and pronotum, less distinct; coarse on the elytra and with tendency to arrangement in longitudinal rows, especial-

ly on the sides of elytra. Pubescence yellowish, dual, of shorter decumbent and longer semierrect hairs, the latter on the elytra tend to be arranged in rows corresponding to those of the punctures.

Head slightly narrower than the pronotum, without any depression or excavation. Eyes moderately large, slightly convex, not outstanding, glabrous, slightly longitudinal (index 1.5 from dorsal view). Eyes separated by 2.5 times of their diameter. Antennae probably with 11 segments (the same as other species in genus *Metholcus*; both antennae are partly damaged - 8 segments only), serrate from third segment. The second and the third segments slightly longer than wide, other present segments are as long as wide. Terminal palpal segment shallowly emarginate (Fig 1).

Pronotum transverse (index 1.7), sides parallel, anterior margin arcuate, base equal. Surface of pronotum slightly shining. Anterior and posterior angles slightly rounded. Scutellum small, triangular, slightly longer as wide.

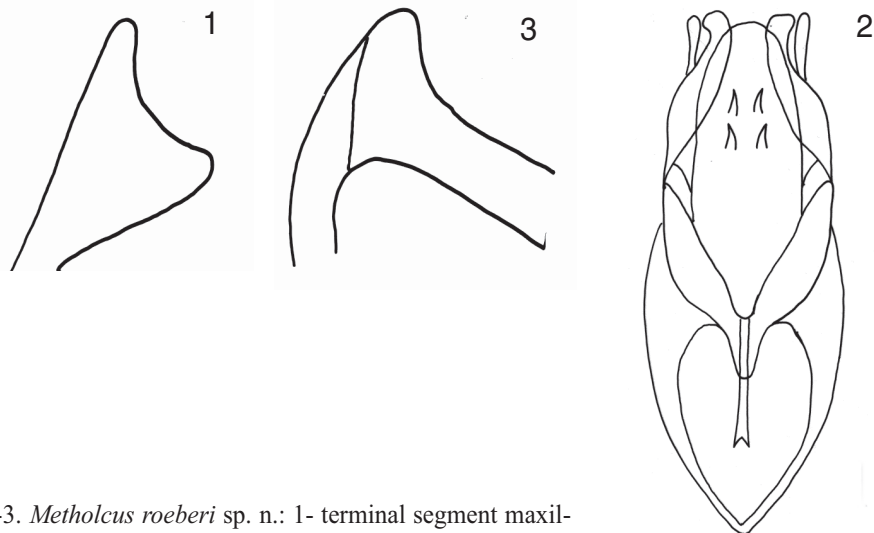
Elytra parallel-sided, apically rounded meeting each other at apex, twice as long as wide. Surface of elytra punctato-granulate, punctures darker than surface. Distance between punctures equal their diameters.

Legs relatively robust and short. Tarsi shorter than tibia. The first tarsal segment as long as wide, second - fourth as long as wide, and the last slightly longer than wide.

Aedeagus (Fig. 2). Internal sac with 4 small spines. Genital stirrup (Fig. 3).

Basal margin of the first sternite curved, the second sternite narrower in middle than on sides, third and fourth the same length. The most length of first - fourth sternites is the same. Female. Unknown.

Differential diagnosis. This species is distinctly different from all other species of the genus *Metholcus* by its genital sac, where it has 4 small spines, which are symmetrically distributed and have the same size. Other species have generally more spines of differently size and irregular distribution.



Figs 1-3. *Metholcus roeberi* sp. n.: 1- terminal segment maxillary palpi; 2- aedeagus; 3- genital stirrup.

Biology. Unknown.

Name derivation. Dedicated to the collector of the type material and my friend, Rolf Röber (Hasselby, Sweden), to whom I am obliged for the donation of described specimen.

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