

Revision of Afrotropical species of the *Philonthus nigriceps* species group (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Philonthina)

Lubomír HROMÁDKA

Anny Letenské 7, CZ-120 00 Praha 2, Czech Republic
e-mail: hromadka@seznam.cz

Taxonomy, new species, key, Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Philonthina, *Philonthus nigriceps* species group, Afrotropical region

Abstract. The *Philonthus nigriceps* species group of the genus *Philonthus* Stephens, 1829, is proposed, containing six species. One species is described as new: *Philonthus ruminator* sp. n. (Angola), remaining five species are redescribed: *P. basipennis* Tottenham, 1949, (Zambia); *P. nigriceps* Eppelsheim, 1885, (Senegal); *P. novellus* Last, 1952, (Democratic Republic of Congo); *P. pseudonigriceps* Tottenham, 1962, (Sudan); *P. roeri* Last, 1992, (Namibia). All species of the *P. nigriceps* species group are keyed; the aedeagi and relevant morphological characters of all species are figured.

INTRODUCTION

The present study follows previous studies by a revision of the species belonging to the *P. nigriceps* species group. Until present, five species have been described within this species group. All species are distributed in the Afrotropical region. One new species from Angola is described within this paper. Species of this group are characterized by the following set of characters: small sized species 4.0-5.5 mm. Head black, or black with clypeus extensively brown-yellow, body yellow-orange to brown, head of rounded or slightly oval shape, eyes relatively small, antennae long, when reclined exceeding posterior margin of pronotum by at least the length of terminal antennomere or reaching posterior margin of pronotum, Dorsal rows of pronotum with 6 punctures, sublateral rows with 2 punctures. Scutellum densely and finely punctate. Elytra parallel-sided or vaguely widened posteriad, punctuation very fine and dense. First four visible abdominal tergites with two basal lines, elevated area between basal lines finely and densely punctate, in one case impunctate. Punctuation of visible tergites fine and dense. Protarsomeres 1-3 of males relatively dilated and sub-bilobed, each covered with modified pale setae ventrally. Protarsomeres 1-3 of female much less dilated than in male.

The following six Afrotropical species are included in the group:

Philonthus basipennis Tottenham, 1949 Zambia

Philonthus nigriceps Eppelsheim, 1885 Senegal

Philonthus novellus Last, 1952 Democratic Republic of the Congo

Philonthus ruminator sp. n. Angola

Philonthus pseudonigriceps Tottenham, 1962 Sudan

Philonthus roeri Last, 1992 Namibia

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The following acronyms are used to refer to the collections mentioned:

- BMNH The Natural History Museum, London, United Kingdom (Max Barclay, Roger Booth and Martin Brendell);
JJRC Jiří Janák collection, Rtyň nad Bílinou, Czech Republic;
LHPC Lubomír Hromádka collection, Praha, Czech Republic;
MRAT Musée Royal de l'Afrique centrale, Tervuren, Belgium (Marc De Meyer);
NMUK Manchester Museum, Manchester, United Kingdom (Dmitri Logunov);
ZFMK Zoologisches Forschungsinstitut und Museum Alexander Kleniv, Bonn, Germany (M. Schmidt).

A double slash (//) is used to divide separate labels of the type material examined. All measurements were taken with stretched abdomen. Ratios mentioned in the descriptions: 20 units = 1 mm. When indicating the relative length of antennal and tarsal segments, the interval of more segments is used as follows: 2-4 = 5 means that segment 2, 3 and 4 are of the same length of 5 units.

RESULTS

Philonthus basipennis Tottenham, 1949

(Figs 1-4)

Philonthus basipennis Tottenham, 1949: 251.

Type locality. Zambia: [N.W. Rhodesia] Namwala.

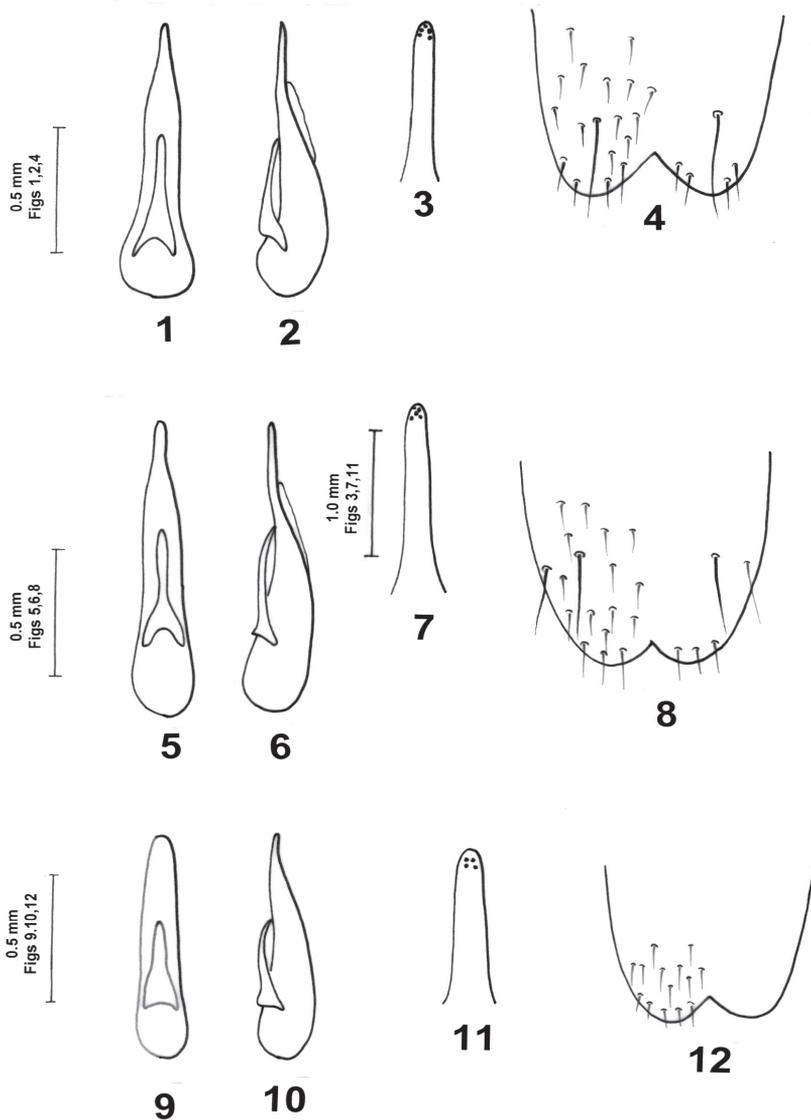
Type material examined. HOLOTYPE (♂), 'Zambia: [N.W. Rhodesia] Namwala, iii.1913, H.C. Dollman, H.C. Dollman collection 1919-70 // *Philonthus basipennis*, Tottenham, TYPUS [white oblong label handwritten]'. (BMNH). SYNTYPE: *Philonthus basipennis*, Tottenham, 1949, det. R.G. Booth 2007. (BMNH).

Material examined. ZAMBIA NC, 185 km S Mlwinilunga, 6.xii.2004, 29 spec., Snížek & Tichý (JJRC, LHPC); ZAMBIA NE, 30-60 km of Mpika, 24.ii.2004, 15 spec., Snížek & Tichý (JJRC, LHPC); ZAMBIA C, 40 km N Kabar, Sundala school env., 22.ii.2004, 1 spec., Snížek & Tichý. (JJRC).

Redescription. Body length 4.7-4.9 mm, length of fore body 2.3-2.5 mm.

Colouration. Head black, pronotum yellow-orange, scutellum reddish, anterior half of elytra blackish, posterior half orange-yellow, abdomen pitchy-brown, posterior margin of all tergites and paratergites of tergites 3-6 wide yellow-red, posterior two thirds of tergite 7 yellow-red, entire tergite 8 yellow-brown, maxillary and labial palpi brown, apex of palpomeres 3 paler, antennomere 1 and base of antennomeres 2 and 3 brown-yellow, remaining antennomeres blackish, legs yellow-brown.

Head rounded, vaguely wider than long (ratio 15:14), posterior angles almost unclear, with 1 long black bristle. Eyes shorter than temples (ratio 6:7), 4 coarse punctures between



Figs 1-12; 1-4. *Philonthus basipennis* Tottenham, 1949: 1- aedeagus, ventral view; 2- aedeagus, lateral view; 3- apex of paramere with sensory peg setae, ventral view; 4- apical portion of male sternite VIII, ventral view. 5-8. *Philonthus nigriceps* Eppelsheim, 1885: 5- aedeagus, ventral view; 6- aedeagus, lateral view; 7- apex of paramere with sensory peg setae, ventral view; 8- apical portion of male sternite VIII, ventral view. 9-12. *Philonthus novellus* Last, 1952: 9- aedeagus, ventral view; 10- aedeagus, lateral view; 11- apex of paramere with sensory peg setae, ventral view; 12- apical portion of male sternite VIII, ventral view.

eyes, distance between medial interocular punctures 4 times as large as distance between medial and lateral interocular puncture. Posterior angles of eyes with 2 coarse punctures, temporal area and area along base with several variably large punctures. Surface with very fine microsculpture.

Antennae exceeding posterior margin of pronotum by the length of terminal antennomere, when reclined. All antennomeres vaguely longer than wide. Relative length of antennomeres: 1 = 5; 2-3 = 4; 4-10 = 3; 11 = 4.5.

Pronotum bulged, vaguely wider than long (ratio 7:6), distinctly narrowed anteriorly. Anterior angles with several short bristles, posterior angles conspicuously rounded. Each dorsal row with 6 punctures, approximately equidistant, each sublateral row with 2 punctures, Puncture 1 situated behind level of puncture 3 in dorsal row. Area along base with scattered punctures. Surface with microsculpture similar as on head.

Scutellum densely and finely punctured, punctures as large as eye-facets, distance between punctures vaguely larger than their diameter.

Elytra square-shaped, vaguely widened posteriorly. Punctuation fine and relatively dense. Diameter of punctures approximately as large as eye-facets. Separated by one or 1.5 puncture diameter in transverse direction. Surface without microsculpture; setation yellow-brown.

Legs. Metatibia longer than metatarsus (ratio 17:15), metatarsomere 1 almost as long as metatarsomeres 2-4 combined. Relative length of metatarsomeres: 1 = 5; 2-3 = 2; 4 = 1.5; 5 = 4.

Abdomen wide, hardly narrowed towards apex. First four visible tergites with two basal lines, elevated area between basal lines densely punctate. Punctuation very fine and very dense, punctures smaller than eye-facets, separated very small. Surface between punctures without microsculpture; setation similar as on elytra.

Male. Protarsomeres 1-3 markedly dilated and sub-bilobed, each covered with modified pale setae ventrally, protarsomere 4 distinctly narrower than preceding ones, without modified pale setae ventrally. Sternite VIII (Fig. 4), aedeagus (Figs 1-3).

Female. Protarsomeres 1-3 less dilated than those of male, protarsomere 4 very small.

Differential diagnosis. *Philonthus basipennis* is habitually very similar to *P. roeri*, from which it may be distinguished by the sparser and coarser punctuation of elytra and by the different shape of the aedeagus.

Distribution. Zambia (Herman 2001).

***Philonthus nigriceps* Eppelsheim, 1885**
(Figs 5-8)

Philonthus nigriceps Eppelsheim 1885: 112.

Type locality. SUDAN: Goldküste: Adda.

Type material. Not studied.

Material examined. ETHIOPIA: Bahr-Dar, 4.vi.1967, 1 (♂), P. Štys leg. (LHPC).

Redescription. Body length 5.5 mm, length of fore body 2.5 mm.

Colouration. Head black, pronotum yellow-red, elytra yellow-red, base and suture region blackened, abdominal visible tergites 3-6 dark brown, with posterior margin narrowly red-brown, tergites 7-8 yellow-brown. Maxillary, labial palpi and legs and antennomeres 1-2 yellow-brown, antennomere 11 brown-yellow, remaining antennomeres dark brown.

Head of moderately oval-shape, posterior angles slightly marked, with several black bristles of unequal length. 4 coarse punctures between eyes, distance between medial interocular punctures 4 times as large as distance between medial and lateral interocular puncture, lateral interocular punctures slightly shifted to the front. Temples almost impunctate. Eyes distinctly shorter than eyes (ratio 5:9). Surface with very irregular and fine microsculpture.

Antennae long, exceeding posterior margin of pronotum by the length of antennomere 11 when reclined. Relative length of antennomeres: 1 = 5; 2 = 3; 3 = 4; 4-8 = 2.5; 9 = 10 = 2; 11 = 4.

Pronotum bulged, longer than wide (ratio 20:18.5), distinctly narrowed anteriorly. Anterior angles and sides with several bristles of unequal length. Posterior angles very broadly rounded. Each dorsal row with 6 punctures, approximately equidistant. Each sublateral row with 2 punctures, puncture 2 slightly shifted to the sides. Surface with microsculpture similar as on head.

Scutellum densely and finely punctate. Punctures somewhat smaller than eye-facets, separated by one puncture diameter in transverse direction.

Elytra wider than long (ratio 28.5:26). Very slightly widened posteriorly. Punctuation dense and fine, punctures as large as eye-facets, separated by one to 1.5 the puncture diameter in transverse direction. Surface without microsculpture; setation yellow.

Legs. Metatibia longer than metatarsus (ratio 14.5:13.5). Metatarsomere 1 as long as metatarsomere 5. Relative length of metatarsomeres: 1 = 4; 2-4 = 2; 5 = 4.

Abdomen wide, slightly narrowed from visible tergite V towards apex. Elevated area between two basal lines on first four visible tergites densely punctate. Punctuation at base of all tergites denser and finer than that on elytra, gradually becoming finer and sparser towards apex of each tergite. Surface without microsculpture; setation similar as on elytra.

Male. Protarsomeres 1-3 relatively slightly dilated and sub-bilobed, each covered with modified pale setae ventrally, protarsomere 4 distinctly narrower than preceding ones. Sternite VIII (Fig. 8), aedeagus (Figs 5-7).

Female. Unknown.

Differential diagnosis. This species seems to be a sister species of *P. pseudonigriceps*; it differs by the darker elytra and abdomen, sparse punctuation of elytra and by the different shape of the aedeagus.

Distribution. Sudan, Benin, Burkina Faso, Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Senegal (Herman 2001).

***Philonthus novellus* Last, 1952**
(Figs 9-12)

Philonthus novellus Last 1952: 90.

Type locality. Democratic Republic of the Congo [Belgian Congo] Jadotville.

Type material. HOLOTYPE (♂): 15. H. L. Belg. Congo, ii.1946. RM // *Philonthus novellus* sp. n. TYPE ♂, H. Last det. [white oblong label, handwritten] (NMUK), PARATYPE: (1 ♀): same label data as holotype, (NMUK).

Redescription. Body length 4.6-4.8mm, length of fore body 2.3-2.5 mm.

Colouration. Head black, clypeus extensively brown-yellow, antennomeres 1-3 and 11 yellow-brown, remaining antennomeres vaguely darker, pronotum, scutellum, elytra and legs yellow-brown, abdomen vaguely darker.

Head as wide as long, parallel-sided, posterior angles conspicuously rounded with several short bristles, eyes flat, shorter than temples (ratio 5:7). Four punctures situated between eyes, distance between medial interocular punctures 4 times as long as distance between medial and lateral puncture, medial punctures slightly shifted to the front. Temporal area with several punctures of variable size. Surface without microsculpture.

Antennae long and stout, slightly widened anteriorly, reaching posterior margin of pronotum when reclined. Relative length of antennomeres: 1 = 5; 2 = 3; 3 = 4; 5-10 = 2; 11 = 3.5.

Pronotum bulged, longer than wide (ratio 23:21), slightly narrowed anteriorly. Posterior angles strongly rounded. Right dorsal row with 5 coarse punctures, left dorsal row with 6 coarse punctures. Each sublateral row with 2 punctures, puncture 2 distinctly shifted to the lateral margin. Surface without microsculpture.

Scutellum finely and sparsely punctate, punctures distinctly smaller than eye-facets, separated by 1.5 times or 2 times the puncture diameters in transverse direction.

Elytra slightly longer than wide (ratio 22:21) parallel-sided. Punctuation coarse and sparse, diameter of punctures as large as eye-facets, separated by one or 1.5 the puncture diameter in transverse direction. Surface without microsculpture; setation yellowish.

Legs. Metatibia as long as metatarsus. Metatarsomere 1 as long as metatarsomere 5. Relative length of metatarsomeres: 1 = 4; 2-4 = 2; 5 = 4.

Abdomen slightly narrowed from tergite V towards both base and apex. Elevated area between two basal lines on first three visible tergites impunctate. Punctuation at base of all tergites finer and denser than that on elytra, gradually becoming finer and sparser towards apex of each tergite. Surface between tergites without microsculpture; setation as on elytra.

Male. Protarsomeres 1-3 dilated and bilobed, each covered with modified pale setae ventrally, protarsomere 4 distinctly narrower than preceding ones. Sternite VIII (Fig. 12), aedeagus (Figs 9-11).

Female. Protarsomeres 1-3 moderately dilated, very slightly bilobed, each covered with modified pale setae ventrally, protarsomere 4 scarcely dilated, narrower than preceding ones.

Differential diagnosis. *Philonthus novellus* is similar to *P. roeri* but differs by the pale antennae, sparse and coarse punctuation of elytra and by the different shape of the aedeagus.

Distribution. Democratic Republic of the Congo (Herman, 2001).

***Philonthus ruminator* sp. n.**

(Figs 13-16)

Type locality. Angola: Lac Lundo.

Type material. HOLOTYPE (♂): 'ANGOLA: Lac Lundo, 105 km, N. Villa Luso, Ang. 4652,1, i-1954, Machalo et Luno, coll. Mus Tervuren, //HOLOTYPUS, *Philonthus ruminator* sp. n., Hromádka, det. 2008 [red oblong printed label]' (MRAT). In the collection of the Tervuren museum I found this new species, determine by Tottenham as *P. ruminator*, which Tottenham never described. I describe this new species under the same name.

Description. Body length 4.0 mm, length of fore body 2.1 mm.

Colouration. Head black, pronotum orange-yellow, scutellum, elytra and abdomen brown-yellow, maxillary, labial palpi, legs and antennomeres 1-2 and 11, base of antennomeres 3 light yellow-brown, remaining antennomeres black-brown.

Head of oval-shaped, vaguely longer than wide, posterior angles conspicuously rounded, with several long bristles. 4 coarse punctures between eyes, distance between medial interocular punctures 3 time as long as distance between medial and lateral interocular puncture, interocular punctures slightly shifted to the front. Eyes flat, shorter than temples (ratio 5:6.5). Temples area with several small punctures. Surface with very fine irregular microsculpture.

Antennae long, exceeding posterior margin of pronotum by the length of antennomere 11 when reclined, slightly widened distally. Relative length of antennomeres: 1-2 = 3; 3 = 2.5; 4-10 = 2; 11 = 4.

Pronotum as long as wide, distinctly narrowed anteriorly, anterior angles and lateral margins with several differently long bristles, posterior angles markedly rounded. Each dorsal row with 6 punctures, approximately equidistant. Each sublateral row with 2 punctures, puncture two slightly shifted to the lateral margin. Surface with microsculpture similar as on head.

Scutellum densely and finely punctate, diameter of punctures smaller than eye-facets, separated by one puncture diameter in transverse direction; setation short and dark.

Elytra hardly longer than wide, parallel-sided. Punctuation fine and dense, diameter of punctures smaller than eye-facets, distance between punctures by one or 1.5 the puncture diameter in transverse direction; setation yellow.

Legs. Metatibia as long as metatarsus. Relative length of metatarsomeres: 1 = 2; 2-4 = 1.5; 5 = 2.5.

Abdomen wide, parallel-sided, first four visible tergites with two basal lines, elevated area between basal lines densely and finely punctate. Punctuation of tergites somewhat finer and denser than that on elytra, becoming sparser towards apex of each tergite. Surface without microsculpture; setation similar as on elytra.

Male. Protarsomeres 1-3 strongly dilated and sub-bilobed, each covered with modified pale setae ventrally, protarsomere 4 distinctly narrower than preceding ones. Sternite VIII (Fig. 16), aedeagus (Figs 13-15).

Female. Unknown.

Differential diagnosis. *Philonthus ruminator* sp. n. may be distinguished from the similar *P. pseudonigriceps* by the short and slightly widened distally antennae, paler abdomen and by the different shape of the aedeagus.

Distribution. Angola (Herman 2001).

***Philonthus pseudonigriceps* Tottenham, 1962**

(Figs 17-20)

Type locality. Sudan S., Prov. Bahr el Ghazal.

Type material examined. HOLOTYPE (♂): 'SUDAN S., Prov. Bahr el Ghazal, 8°30'N, 28°30'E. // *Philonthus basipennis*, Tottenham, TYPE [white oblong label, handwritten]' (BMNH).

Redescription. Body length 4.6- 4.9 mm, length of fore body 2.1-2.3 mm.

Colouration. Head black, maxillary, labial palpi and pronotum yellow-brown, scutellum and elytra brown-yellow, abdomen vaguely dark. Antennomeres 1-3 and 11 yellow-brown, antennomeres 4-10 brown-black. Legs yellow-brown.

Head oval-shaped, longer than wide (ratio 36:33), vaguely narrowed behind eyes. Posterior angles strongly rounded with one long black bristle. 4 coarse punctures between eyes, distance between medial interocular punctures 4 times as large as distance between medial and lateral interocular punctures. Eyes flat, hardly shorter than temples (ratio 4.5:6). Surface with very fine microsculpture.

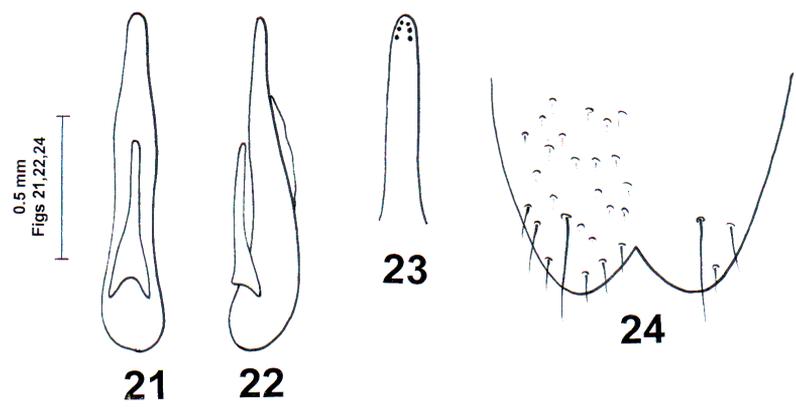
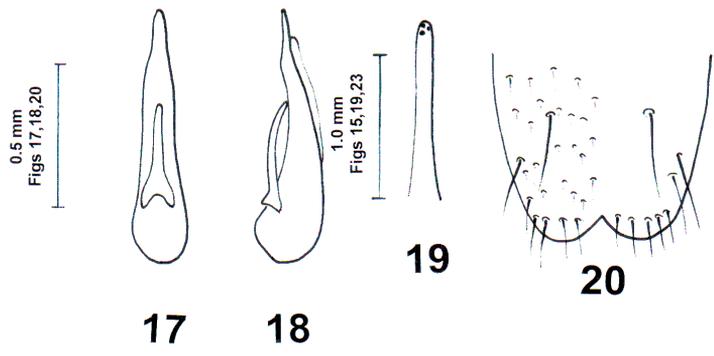
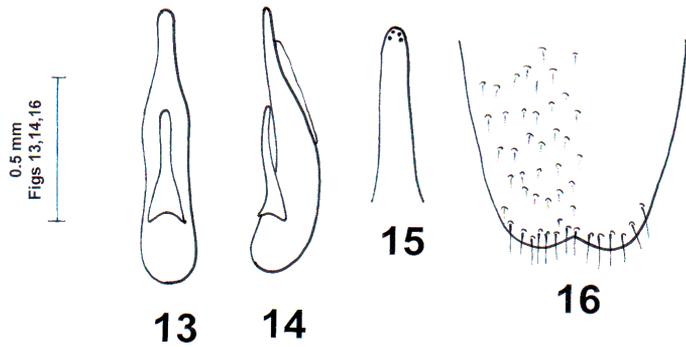
Antennae long, exceeding posterior margin of pronotum by the length of antennomeres 10 and 11 when reclined. Relative length of antennomeres: 1 = 5; 2 = 4; 3 = 4.5; 4-9 = 3; 10 = 2.5; 11 = 4.

Pronotum hardly longer than wide (ratio 9:8). Each dorsal row with 6 punctures, approximately equidistant, each sublateral row with 2 punctures arranged into vertical row, puncture 1 situated behind level of puncture 3 in dorsal row. Surface with microsculpture similar as on head.

Scutellum very finely and densely punctate, diameter of punctures somewhat smaller than eye-facets, separated mostly by 1.5 times or 2 times the puncture diameters in transverse direction. Setation longer and brown.

Elytra as long as wide, punctation fine and dense, diameters of punctures equal to those of eye-facets, separated by 1.5 times or 2 times the puncture diameter in transverse direction. Surface without microsculpture; setation yellow-brown.

Legs. Metatibia vaguely longer than metatarsus (ratio 14:13). Metatarsomere 1 as long as metatarsomere 5. Relative length of metatarsomeres: 1 = 4; 2-4 = 2; 5 = 4.



Figs 13-24; 13-16. *Philonthus ruminator* sp. n.: 13- aedeagus, ventral view; 14- aedeagus, lateral view; 15- apex of paramere with sensory peg setae; 16- apical portion of male sternite VIII, ventral view. 17-20. *Philonthus pseudonigriceps* Tottenham, 1962: 17- aedeagus, ventral view; 18- aedeagus, lateral view; 19- apex of paramere with sensory peg setae; 20- apical portion of male sternite VIII, ventral view. 21-24. *Philonthus roeri* Last, 1992: 21- aedeagus, ventral view; 22- aedeagus, lateral view; 23- apex of paramere with sensory peg setae; 24- apical portion of male sternite VIII, ventral view.

Abdomen from visible tergite 3 very gradually narrowed towards apex. First four visible tergites with two basal lines, elevated area between basal lines impunctate. Punctuation of visible tergites finer and denser than that on elytra. Surface between punctures without microsculpture; setation similar as on elytra.

Male. Protarsomeres 1-3 strongly dilated and sub-bilobed, each covered with modified pale setae ventrally, protarsomere 4 narrow and small. Sternite VIII (Fig. 20), aedeagus (Figs 17-19).

Female. Unknown.

Differential diagnosis. This species seems to be a sister species of *P. nigriceps*, it differs from this by the lighter elytra and abdomen, denser punctuation of elytra; from *P. ruminator* by the slender antennae, darker abdomen and from both by the different shape of the aedeagus.

Distribution. Sudan. (Herman 2001).

Philonthus roeri Last, 1992

(Figs 21-24)

Type locality. South West Africa, Namibia, Nyangana [Okavango].

Type material. HOLOTYPE (♂): 'South West Africa, Namibia, Nyangana [Okavango] // *Philonthus roeri* sp.n. TYPE ♂ H. Last, det. [white oblong label handwritten]' (ZFMK).

Additional material examined. BOTSWANA bor.: Kasane env. 29.xii.1997, Snížek lgt., 9 spec., (JJRC); Island Safari env., MAUN, M. Snížek lgt., 2 spec., (JJRC); NAMIBIA: Kavango: Mahango Game Reserve, 24.xi.1993, 18°14'S/21°43'E, leg. J. Deckert, 2 spec., (LHPC); East Caprivi Katima Mulio, Zambezi riv., 19.-25.i.1995, Rudolf Kmeco lgt., 14 spec., (JJRC); Katima Mulilo Caprivi zipfel, 15-24.i.1995, M. Snížek lgt., 1 spec., (JJRC).

Redescription. Body length 5.2-5.5 mm, length of fore body 2.7-2.9 mm.

Colouration. Head black, clypeus along anterior margin, antennal sockets, maxillary and labial palpi yellow, antennomeres 1-2 yellow-brown, antennomere 11 brown-yellow, remaining antennomeres black-brown, pronotum yellow-orange to yellow-brown, scutellum and elytra orange-yellow to brown, suture narrowly darker, abdomen orange-brown to brown, posterior margin of all tergites wide paler. Legs yellow-brown to brown.

Head of rounded shape, vaguely longer than wide (ratio 16:15), parallel-sided, posterior angles conspicuously rounded, with 1 long black bristle. 4 coarse punctures between eyes, lateral punctures slightly shifted to the front. Distance between medial interocular punctures almost 3 times as large as distance between medial and lateral interocular punctures. Eyes as long as temples, or vaguely shorter than temples (ratio 6:7). Posterior margin of eyes with 2 coarse punctures. Temporal area with several punctures of variable size. Surface with very fine irregular, almost indistinct microsculpture.

Antennae very long, exceeding posterior margin of pronotum by the length of terminal antennomere when reclined. All antennomeres longer than wide. Relative length of antennomeres: 1 = 5; 2 = 4; 3 = 4.5; 4-7 = 3; 8-10 = 2.5; 11 = 5.

Pronotum bulged, vaguely longer than wide (ratio 21.5:20), distinctly narrowed anteriorly. Posterior angles markedly rounded. Each dorsal row with 6 coarse punctures, approximate equidistant. Each sublateral row with 2 punctures, puncture 1 situated behind level of puncture 3 in dorsal row, puncture 2 slightly shifted to the lateral margin. Surface with microsculpture similar as on head.

Scutellum very densely and finely punctate. Diameter of punctures smaller than eye-facets, separated by one or 1.5 the puncture diameter in transverse direction: setation dark.

Elytra as long as wide, slightly widened posteriorly. Punctuation fine and dense, punctures smaller than eye-facets, separated mostly by one puncture diameter in transverse direction. Posterior margin markedly cut out. Surface without microsculpture; setation yellow-brown.

Legs. Metatibia longer than metatarsus (ratio 19:16). Metatarsomere 1 somewhat longer than metatarsomere 5. Relative length of metatarsomeres: 1 = 5; 2-4 = 2.5, 5 = 4.5.

Abdomen wide, from visible tergite V hardly and gradually narrowed towards apex. First four visible tergites with two basal lines, elevated area between basal lines densely punctate, that on fourth tergite impunctate. Punctuation of visible tergites abnormal dense and fine. Punctures smaller than those on elytra, very close one to another; setation similar as on elytra.

Male. Protarsomeres 1-3 dilated and sub-bilobed, each densely covered with modified pale setae ventrally, protarsomere 4 distinctly narrower than preceding ones. Sternite VIII (Fig. 24), aedeagus (Figs 21-23).

Female. Protarsomeres 1-3 moderately dilated, slightly bilobed, each covered with modified pale setae ventrally, protarsomere 4 narrower than preceding ones.

Differential diagnosis. *Philonthus roeri* may be distinguished from the most similar species *P. basipennis* by the denser and finer punctuation of elytra; from *P. novellus* by the darker antennae, denser and finer punctuation of elytra and from both by the different shape of the aedeagus.

Distribution. Namibia, Botswana (Herman 2001).

KEY TO SPECIES OF THE *PHILONTHUS NIGRICEPS* SPECIES GROUP

- 1 Small species 4.0 mm *P. ruminator* sp. n.
- Larger species 4.6-5.5 mm 2
- 2 Head black with clypeus extensive brown-yellow *P. novellus* Last, 1952
- Head entire black 3
- 3 Abdomen pitchy-brown, posterior margin of all tergites wide and paratergites of tergites 3-6 yellow-red, posterior two thirds of tergite 7 yellow-red and entire tergite 8 yellow-brown ... *P. basipennis* Tottenham, 1949
- Abdomen otherwise coloured 4
- 4 Abdomen tergites 3-6 dark-brown with posterior margin narrowly yellow-red, entire tergites 7-8 yellow-brown *P. nigriceps* Eppelsheim, 1885
- Abdomen unicoloured 5
- 5 Smaller species 4.6-4.9 mm. Elytra brown-yellow, abdomen vaguely darker, antennomeres 1-3 and 11 yellow-brown, remaining antennomeres vaguely darker *P. pseudonigriceps* Tottenham, 1962
- Larger species 5.2-5.5 mm. Elytra orange-brown to brown, abdomen orange brown to brown, antennomeres 1-2 and base of antennomere 3 brown-yellow, remaining antennomeres black-brown *P. roeri* Last, 1962

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS. I am very grateful for the kind loan of the African material for identification and types to, Manfred Uhlig (Museum für Naturkunde der Humboldt-Universität, Berlin, Germany), Jiří Janák (Rtyně nad Biliinou, Czech Republic), Dmitri Logunov (The Manchester Museum, Manchester, United Kingdom), M. Schmidt (Zoologisches Forschungsinstitut und Museum Alexander Kleniv, Bonn, Germany), Maxwell Barclay and Roger Booth (Natural History Museum, London, United Kingdom), Marc De Meyer (Musée Royal de l'Afrique centrale Tervuren, Belgium) and Pavel Krásenský (Chomutov, Czech Republic) for careful finishing the line drawings.

REFERENCES

- EPPELSHEIM E. 1885: Beitrag zur Staphylinidenfauna West-Afrika's. *Deutsche Entomologische Zeitschrift* 29: 97-147.
- HERMAN L. H. 2001: Catalog of the Staphylinidae (Insecta, Coleoptera); 1758 to the end of the second Millennium. V. Staphylinine group (Part 2); Diochini, Maorothiini, Othiini, Platyprosopini, Staphylinini, (Amblyopinina, Anisolinina, Hyptiomina, Philonthina). *Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History* 265: 2441-3020.
- LAST H. R. 1952: New species of Staphylinidae (Col.) from Africa. *The Entomologist's Monthly Magazine* 88: 89-92.
- LAST H. R. 1992: *Philonthus roeri* sp. n. from Okavango, Namibia (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae). *Bonner Zoologische Beiträge* 43: 543-544.
- TOTTENHAM C. E. 1949: Studies in the genus *Philonthus* Stephens (Coleoptera). *Transaction of the Royal Entomological Society of London* 100: 291-362.
- TOTTENHAM C. E. 1962: Mission zoologique de l'I.R.S.A.C. en Afrique orientale (P. Basilewsky et N. Leleup, 1957). LXXXVI. Coleoptera Staphylinidae Staphylininae. *Annales du Musée de l'Afrique Centrale, Tervuren. Science Zoologiques*, Ser 8°, 110: 132-258.

Received: 17.2.2009

Accepted: 28.2.2009