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Six new species of the genus *Philonthus* from the Afrotropical region (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Philonthina)

Lubomír HROMÁDKA

Anny Letenské 7, CZ-120 00 Praha2, Czech Republic
e-mail: hromadkal@seznam.cz

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Abstract. Six species of the genus *Philonthus* Stephens, 1829 (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae) are described as follows: *Philonthus bubo* sp. nov. (Central African Republic), *Philonthus centropus* sp. nov. (South Africa), *Philonthus cricetomys* sp. nov. (Tanzania), *Philonthus dinemellia* sp. nov. (Togo), *Philonthus polihierax* sp. nov. (Namibia) and *Philonthus ptilopsis* sp. nov. (Tanzania). All the species are described, illustrated and compared with related species.

INTRODUCTION

In the following, six new species of the genus *Philonthus* from Afrotropical region are described. *Philonthus centropus* sp. nov. and *Philonthus polihierax* sp. nov., belong to the *Philonthus discoideus* - *xanthoraphis* species group characterized in Tottenham (1962) and Hromádka (2012). *Philonthus bubo* sp. nov, belongs to the *Philonthus aemulus* species group characterized in Hromádka (2009). *Philonthus cricetomys* sp. nov. belongs to the *Philonthus rudipennis* species group characterized in Tottenham (1962) and Hromádka (2014). *Philonthus dinemellia* and *Philonthus ptilopsis* sp. nov., based on external characters and morphology of genitalia, cannot be at present affiliated to any known species group.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

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

BMNH Natural History Museum, London, United Kingdom (Maxwell V. L. Barclay, Roger Booth);
LHPC private collection of Lubomír Hromádka, Praha, Czech Republic;
MNHN Muséum national d´Histoire naturelle, Paris, France (Thierry Deuve, Azedah Taghavian);
NMHW Naturhistorisches Museum, Wien, Austria (Harald Schillhammer);
NMPC National Museum, Praha, Czech Republic (Jiří Hájek).

Separate labels are divided in the text by a double slash (//). All measurements were taken from the beetles with their abdomen stretched. Ratios mentioned in the descriptions can be converted in the lengths as 20 units = 1 mm.

RESULTS

Philonthus bubo sp. nov.
(Figs 1-4)

Type locality. République Centraafricante, Bozo.

Type material examined. Holotype (♂): République Centraafricante, Bozo, lumiere, 21.v.1981, leg. NM. Degallier, //HOLOTYPE *Philonthus bubo* sp. nov. Hromádka, 2013 det., [red oblong printed label], (LHPC).

Description. Body length 11.0 mm, length of fore body 4.4 mm.

Colouration. All body orange-yellow, only elytra slightly darker, maxillary and labial palpi and legs yellow-brown, antennomeres 1-3 yellow-brown, remaining antennomeres dark brown.

Head as long as wide, parallel-sided, posterior angles markedly rounded, bearing one long black bristle. With four coarse punctures between eyes, arranged in a straight line, distance between medial punctures 3 times as long as distance between medial and lateral interocular punctures. Eyes flat, shorter than temples (ratio 10 : 13), posterior margin of eyes with two coarse punctures, temporal area in the middle with two punctures arranged in a horizontal row. Surface with very fine microsculpture, consisting of transverse waves.

Antennae (Fig. 4), long and slender, reaching posterior margin of pronotum when reclined, all antennomeres longer than wide. Antennomere 1 twice as long as antennomere 11, antennomere 3 as long as antennomere 2.

Pronotum highly convex, slightly narrowed anteriad. Anterior angles obtusely rounded, bearing several short bristles, posterior margin obtusely rounded. Each dorsal row with four aprroximately equidistant punctures, each sublateral row with two punctures, puncture two distinctly shifted two the lateral margin. Surface with traces of very fine microsculpture.

Scutellum with three coarse punctures in the middle.

Elytra short, much wider than long (ratio 50 : 38), distinctly widened posteriad. Punctation coarse and dense. diameter of punctures much larger than eye-facets, separated by distance as large as one puncture diameter. Surface without microsculpture; setation greyish.

Legs. Metatibia longer than metatarsus (ratio 35 : 31), metatarsomere 1 distinctly longer than metatarsomere 5, almost as long as metatarsomeres 2-4 combined.

Abdomen wide, very gradually narrowed posteriad. First three visible tergites with two basal lines, elevated area between lines impunctate. Punctation at base of all tergites much finer and sparser than that on elytra, becoming sparser towards posterior margin of each tergite. Surface without microsculpture; setation similar to that on elytra.

Male. Protarsomeres 1-3 relatively slightly dilated and sub-bilobed, each covered with modified pale setae ventrally, protarsomere 4 narrower than preceding ones. Aedeagus (Figs 1-3)

Female. Unknown.

Differential diagnosis. *Philonthus bubo* sp. nov. belongs to the *Philonthus aemulus* Hromádka, 2009 species group and may be distinguished from the similar *P. irritans*

Tottenham, 1953 (Figs 5-9) by its slender antennae, narrower head, shorter eyes and elytra, and by the different shape of the aedeagus.

Distribution. Central African Republic.

Etymology. The name of this species, a noun in apposition, is the Latin generic name of the African Giant eagleowl *Bubo lacteus* Temminck, 1820.

Philonthus centropus sp. nov.
(Figs 10-13)

Type locality. Süd Afrika, Kapland.

Type material examined. Holotype (♂): Süd Afrika, Kapland, //Holotype *Philonthus centropus* sp. nov. Hromádka det., 2012. [red oblong printed label], (NMPC).

Description. Body length 6.4 mm, length of fore body 3.2 mm.

Colouration. Head black, pronotum, scutellum, elytra and abdomen black-brown, maxillary and labial palpi and antennomeres 1-2 brown-black, remaining antennomeres black-brown. Femora brown-yellow, tibiae dark brown, tarsi brown, paler distally.

Head slightly wider than long (ratio 22 : 20), posterior angles markedly rounded, bearing one long black and several short silver bristles. Between eyes four coarse punctures arranged in a straight line. Eyes almost as long as temples, posterior margin with one coarse puncture, temporal area with many fine setiferous punctures in posterior half, anterior half impunctate. Surface with very fine microsculpture consisting of transverse waves.

Antennae reaching posterior third of pronotum when reclined. Antennomeres 1-3 and 11 distinctly longer than wide, antennomere 4 slightly longer than wide, antennomeres 5-10 slightly wider than long.

Pronotum as long as wide, very slightly narrowed anteriad, anterior angles conspicuously deflexed, vaguely obtusely rounded, posterior angles markedly rounded. Each dorsal row with 5 punctures, separated between punctures 2-4 equidistant, separated between punctures 1-2 and between punctures 4-5 larger than distance between previous punctures. Each sublateral row with two punctures, puncture 2 slightly shifted to the lateral margin. Surface with microsculpture similar to that on head.

Scutellum very densely and very coarsely punctured. Diameter of punctures larger than eye-facets, separated by less than one puncture diameter, mostly of punctures contiguous.

Elytra as long as wide, parallel-sided. Punctation very dense, diameter of punctures approximately as large as that on scutellum, separated by one puncture diameter, or smaller. Surface without microsculpture; setation brown-yellow.

Legs. Metatibia longer than metatarsus (ratio 22 : 19), metatarsomere 1 longer than metatarsomere 5 and than metatarsomeres 2-3 combined.

Abdomen wide, from visible tergite III gradually narrowed posteriad. First three visible tergites with two basal lines, elevated areas between lines densely punctate. Punctation at base of each tergite finer and denser than that on elytra, becoming sparser towards posterior margin of each tergite. Surface without microsculpture; setation similar to that on elytra.

Male. Protarsomeres 1-3 relatively slightly dilated and sub-bilobed, each covered with

modified pale setae ventrally, protarsomere 4 narrower than preceding ones. Sternite IX (Fig. 13), aedeagus (Figs 10-12).

Female. Unknown.

Differential diagnosis. *Philonthus centropus* sp. nov. may be distinguished from the similar *P. luenaensis* Levasseur, 1962 (Figs 14-20) by its darker antennae, longer elytra, finer punctation of abdomen and by a different shape of the aedeagus.

Distribution. South Africa.

Etymology. The name of this species, a noun in apposition, is the Latin generic name of African White-browed coucal *Centropus superciliosus* Heinrich Ehrenbergs, 1833.

Philonthus dinemellia **sp. nov.**

(Figs 21-23)

Type locality. Togo, Lama Kara.

Type material examined. Holotype (♂): Togo, Lama Kara, 30.iii.1983, Hôtel Karo, Hg-lux, leg. Krell, //Holotype *Philonthus dinemellia* sp. nov. Hromádka det. 2012, [red oblong printed label], (NMPC).

Description. Body length 6.5 mm, length of fore body 3.2 mm.

Colouration. Head black, pronotum, scutellum, elytra and abdomen black-brown, maxillary and labial palpi and antennomere 1 yellow-brown, remaining antennomeres cinnamon brown, mandibles dark brown, legs yellow-brown. Pronotum very slightly bluish iridescent, separately on sides, abdomen slightly bluish-violet iridescent.

Head wider than long (ratio 24 : 20), distinctly narrowed posteriad, posterior angles indistinct. Between eyes four coarse punctures arranged in a straight line. Distance between medial punctures approximately five times larger than distance between medial and lateral ones. Eyes flat and large, distinctly longer than temples (20 : 12), inner margin with four coarse punctures. Surface without microsculpture.

Antennae reaching posterior fourth of pronotum when reclined. Antennomeres 1-3 and 11 longer than wide, antennomeres 4-7 slightly longer than wide, antennomeres 8-10 as long as wide. Antennomere 1 twice longer than antennomere 11, antennomere 2 shorter than antennomere 3.

Pronotum highly convex deflexed, vaguely, wider than long (ratio 29 : 27), slightly narrowed anteriad, anterior angles conspicuously obtusely rounded, posterior margin markedly rounded. Each dorsal row with 4 fine punctures, punctures 2-4 equidistant, distance between punctures 1-2 smaller than distance between previous punctures. Each sublateral row with two punctures arranged in a row parallel to the dorsal row and half way between it and side. Surface without microsculpture.

Scutellum finely and densely punctured, diameter of punctures as large as eye-facets, separated by one puncture diameter in transverse direction.

Elytra wider than long (ratio 33 : 30), parallel-sided. Punctation fine and dense, diameter of punctures slightly larger than eye-facets, separated by one puncture diameter or smaller. Surface without microsculpture; setation brown.

Legs. Metatibia shorter than metatarsus (ratio 34 : 38) metatarsomere 1 almost twice longer than metatarsomere 5 and as long as metatarsomeres 2-3 combined.

Abdomen wide, from visible tergite III very gradually narrowed posteriad. First three visible tergites with two basal lines, elevated area between lines densely punctate. Punctation at base of all tergites finer and denser than that on elytra, becoming sparser towards posterior margin of each tergite. Surface without microsculpture; setation similar to that on elytra.

Male. Protarsomeres 1-3 distinctly dilated and sub-bilobed, each covered with modified pale setae ventrally, protarsomere 4 small, of heart shaped. Aedeagus (Figs 21-23).

Female. Unknown.

Differential diagnosis. *Philonthus dinemellia* sp. nov. may be distinguished from the similar *P. lutjanus* Hromádka, 2011 (Figs 24-26), by its larger eyes, slightly longer antennae, paler legs and by a different shape of the aedeagus.

Distribution. Togo.

Etymology. The name of this species**,** a noun in apposition, is the Latin generic name of the African White-headed buffalo weaver *Dinemellia dinemelli* (Rüppell, 1875).

Philonthus cricetomys **sp. nov.**

(Figs 27-29)

Type locality. Tanzania, Igoma chome NR South Pare Mountains, 2039 m.

Type material examined. Holotype: (♂): Tanzania, Igoma Chome NR South Pare Mountains, 2039 m, S04°17´42", E37°56´17", 5-7.xii.2011, Dung Pitfall, leg. Smith, R. & Takano, H. //Holotypus *Philonthus cricetomys* Hromádka det., 2012 [red oblong label, printed], (BMNH). Paratypes: (3 spec.): same label data as holotype, (LHPC, BMNH).

Description. Body length 8.9 mm, length of fore body 4.3 mm.

Colouration. Head black, pronotum black-brown, scutellum and elytra dark brown-red, abdomen brown, posterior margin of all tergites narrowly reddish, palpomeres 1-2 of maxillary and labial palpi brown, palpomere 3 brown-yellow. Ventral side of antennomere 1 and base of antennomere 2 dirty yellow, remaining antennomeres dark brown, femora yellow, tibiae brown, tarsi dark, paler distally.

Head square, as long as wide, parallel-sided, posterior angles indistinct, bearing one long black bristle. Between eyes only two punctures. Eyes shorter than temples (ratio 10 : 13), posterior margin with two punctures, anterior half of temporal area impunctate, posterior half with several varying large punctures. Surface with microsculpture consisting of transverse waves.

Antennae slender and long, reaching posterior margin of pronotum when reclined, all antennomeres longer than wide.

Pronotum as long as wide, slightly narrowed anteriad, anterior angles conspicuously deflexed, vaguely obtusely rounded, bearing one long black bristle, posterior angles markedly rounded. Each dorsal row with four coarse punctures. Separation between punctures 1 and 2 and between 3 and 4 equidistant, distance between punctures 2 and 3 larger than distance between previous punctures. Each sublateral row with two punctures, puncture

two shifted to the lateral margin. One long black bristle in anterior third of sides. Surface with microsculpture similar to that on head.

Scutellum very finely and sparsely punctured, diameter of punctures as large as eye-facets, separated by two puncture diameters, larger here and there.

Elytra short, wider than long (ratio 43 : 33), slightly widened posteriad. Punctation coarser and denser than that on scutellum, diameter of punctures twice larger than that on scutellum, separated by much less than puncture diameter. Surface without microsculpture; setation yellow-brown.

Legs. Metatarsus longer than metatibia (ratio 32 : 28), metatarsomere 1 as long as metatarsomere 5, slightly longer than metatarsomeres 2-3 combined.

Abdomen wide, from visible tergite III slightly narrowed anteriad and distinctly narrowed posteriad. First three visible tergites with two basal lines, elevated area between lines impunctate. Punctation at base of all tergites much finer and sparser than that on elytra, becoming much sparser to the posterior margin of each tergite. Surface without microsculpture; setation similar to that on elytra.

Male. Protarsomeres 1-3 dilated and sub-bilobed, each covered with modified pale setae ventrally, protarsomere 4 narrower than preceding ones. Aedeagus (Figs 27-29).

Female. Protarsomeres 1-3 less dilated than in male, protarsomere 4 small, all protarsomeres covered with modified pale setae ventrally.

Differential diagnosis. *Philonthus cricetomys* sp. nov. belongs to the *P. rudipennis* species group Hromádka, 2014 and is similar to *P. mormyrops* Hromádka, 2014 (Figs 30-32), but it differs in having longer antennae, wider head, shorter eyes and elytra and different shape of the aedeagus.

Distribution. Tanzania.

Etymology. The name of this species, a noun in apposition, is the Latin generic name of the African Gambian pouched rat *Cricetomys gambianus* Waterhouse, 1840.

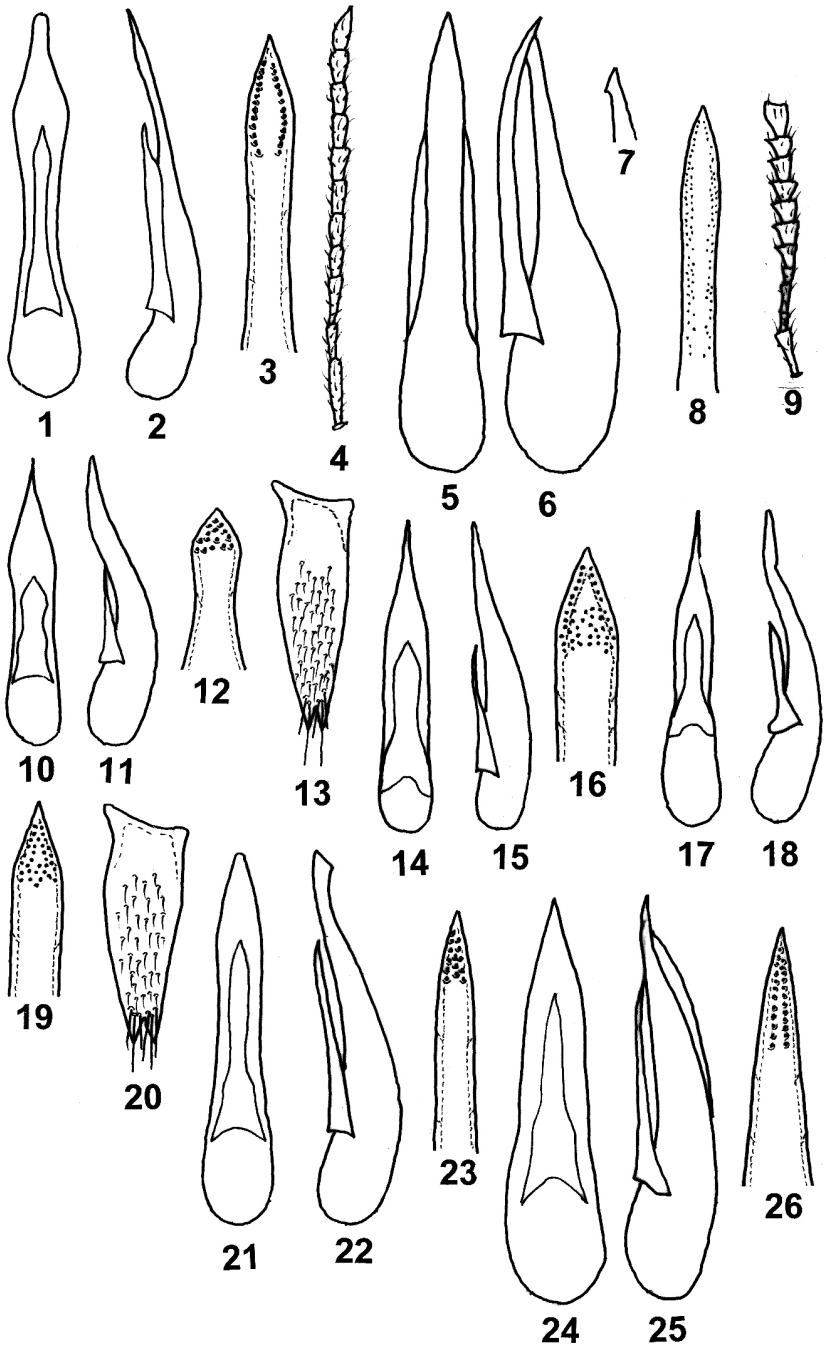
***Philonthus polihierax* sp. nov.**

(Figs 33-35)

Type locality. Namibia, Hardap - S, 20 km N Mariental.

Type material examined. HOLOTYPE (♂): Namibia - N, 20 km N Mariental, 27-30.iii.1994, Arndt & Gröger leg. //Holotype *Philonthus polihierax* sp. nov. Hromádka det., 2012, [red oblong printed label], (NMPC).

▶ Figs 1-26. *P. bubo* sp. nov.: 1- aedeagus, ventral view; 2- aedeagus, lateral view; 3- apex of paramere with sensory peg setae, ventral view; 4- antennae. *P. irritans* Tottenham, 1953: 5- aedeagus, ventral view; 6- aedeagus, lateral view; 7- top of paramere, lateral view; 8- apex of paramere with sensory peg setae, ventral view; 9- antennae. *P. centropus* sp. nov.: 10- aedeagus, ventral view; 11- aedeagus, lateral view; 12- apex of paramere with sensory peg setae, ventral view; 13- male sternite IX, ventral view. *P. luanensis* Levasseur, 1962: 14- aedeagus, ventral view; 15- aedeagus, lateral view; 16- apex of paramere with sensory peg setae, ventral view. *P. luanensis* Levasseur, 1962: 17- aedeagus, ventral view; 18- aedeagus, lateral view; 19- apex of paramere with sensory peg setae ventral view; 20- male sternite IX, ventral view. *P. dinemellia* sp. nov.: 21- aedeagus, ventral view; 22- aedeagus, lateral view; 23- apex of paramere with sensory peg setae, ventral view. *P. lutjanus* Hromádka, 2011: 24- aedeagus, ventral view; 25- aedeagus, lateral view; 26- apex of paramere with sensory peg setae, ventral view.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Description. Body length 6.5 mm, length of fore body 2.9 mm.

Colouration. Head black, pronotum brown, elytra dark brown, scutellum, suture, posterior margin and elytral epipleura narrowly dirty yellow. Maxillary and labial palpi and mandibles brown, antennomeres 1-2 yellow, remaining antennomeres brown. Femora yellow, tibiae darker, tarsi brown paler distally.

Head wider than long (ratio 22 : 18), posterior angles markedly rounded, bearing one long black bristle. Four coarse punctures between eyes arranged in a straight line, distance between medial interocular punctures approximately five times as large as distance between medial and lateral puncture. Eyes flat and large, longer than temples (ratio 10 : 4). Posterior margin with three coarse punctures, temporal area with several varying large punctures. Surface without microsculpture.

Antennae slender and long, reaching posterior margin of pronotum when reclined. All antennmeres longer than wide. Antennomere 1 almost twice longer than antennomere 11, antennomere 2 as long as antennomere 3.

Pronotum slightly longer than wide (ratio 29 : 25) parallel-sided. Anterior angles rectangular, obtusely rounded, posterior angles markedly rounded. Each dorsal row with five punctures, punctures 2-4 equidistant, distance between punctures 1-2 and 4-5 slightly longer than distance between previous punctures. Each sublateral row with two punctures, puncture two shifted to the lateral margin. Sides in anterior third bearing one long black bristle. Surface with traces of very fine microsculpture here and there.

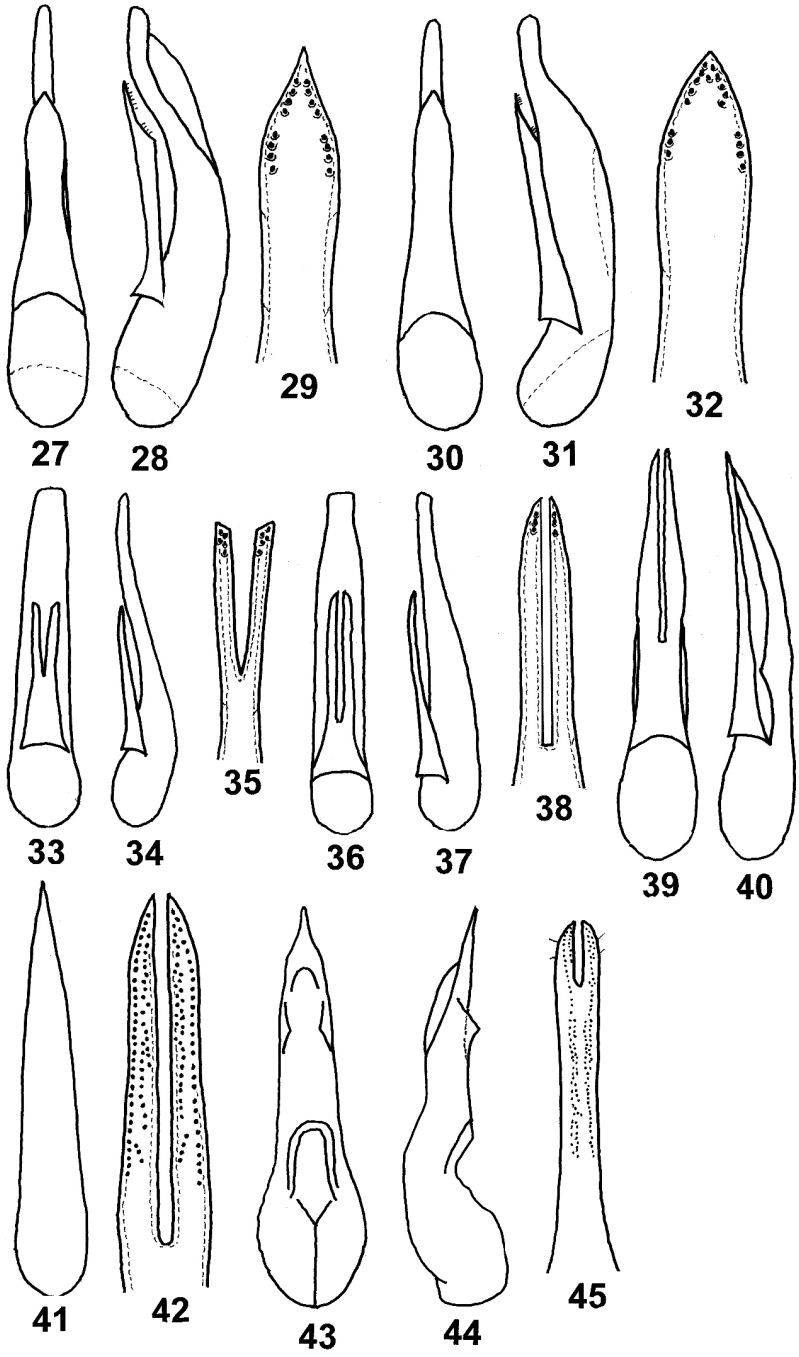
Scutellum very densely and very coarsely punctured. Diameter of punctures larger than eye-facets, separated by one puncture diameter, mostly smaller. Setation relatively long and dark.

Elytra wider than long (ratio 34 : 32), slightly widened posteriad. Punctation very fine and dense, diameter of punctures larger than eye-facets, separated by one puncture diameter, mostly smaller, greater part of punctures contiguous. Surface without microsculpture; setation greyish.

Legs. Metatibia as long as metatarsus, metatarsomere 1 longer than metatarsomere 5, as long as metatarsomeres 2-3 combined.

Abdomen very gradually narrowed posteriad, first three visible tergites with two basal lines, elevated area between lines finely punctate. Punctation at base of all tergites extremely finely and densely punctured, diameter of punctures smaller than eye-facets, punctation mostly contiguous, slightly sparser towards posterior margin of all tergites. Setation similar to that on elytra.

► Figs 27-45. *P. cricetomys* sp. nov.: 27- aedeagus, ventral view; 28- aedeagus, lateral view; 29- apex of paramere with sensory peg setae, ventral view. *P. mormyrops* Hromádka, 2014: 30- aedeagus, ventral view; 31- aedeagus, lateral view; 32- apex of paramere with sensory peg seta, ventral view. *P. polihierax* sp. nov.: 33- aedeagus, ventral view; 34- aedeagus, lateral view; 35- apex of paramere with sensory peg setae, ventral view. *P. sylvisorex* Hromádka, 2012: 36- aedeagus, ventral view; 37- aedeagus, lateral view; 38- apex of paramere with sensory peg setae, ventral view. *P. ptilopsis* sp. nov.: 39- aedeagus, ventral view; 40- aedeagus, lateral view; 41- aedeagus without paramere, dorsal view; 42- apex of paramere with sensory peg setae, ventral view. *P. girardi* Lecoq, 1989: 43- aedeagus, ventral view; 44- aedeagus, lateral view; 45- apex of paramere with sensory peg setae, ventral view. (original draws after Lecoq).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Male. Protarsomeres 1-3 dilated and sub-bilobed, each covered with moidified pale setae ventrally, protarsomere 4 smaller than preceding ones. Aedeagus (Figs 33-35).

Female. Unknown.

Differential diagnosis. *Philonthus polihierax* sp. nov. belongs to the *P. discoideus* - *xanthoraphis* Tottenham, 1962 and Hromádka, 2012 species group and may be distinguished from the similar *P. sylvisorex* Hromádka, 2012 (Figs 36-38) by the shorter antennae and elytra, by the dense and fine punctation of elytra and abdomen, different colouring of elytra and by a different shape of the aedeagus.

Distribution. Namibia.

Etymology. The name of this species, a noun in apposition, is the Latin generic name of the African Pygmy falcon *Polihierax semitorquatus* (Smith, 1865).

***Philonthus ptilopsis* sp. nov.**

(Figs 39-42)

Type locality. Tanzania, Mwanza.

Type material examined. HOLOTYPE (♂): Tanzania, Mwanza, 11.x.1969, Ardö leg. //Holotype *Philonthus ptilopsis* sp. nov. Hromádka det., 2013, [red oblong printed label], (NMPC).

Description. Body length 9.2 mm, length of fore body 4.0 mm.

Head transverse wider than long (ratio 42 : 29), distinctly narrowed posteriad, posterior angles markedly rounded. With four coarse punctures between eyes, arranged in a straight line, distance between medial interocular punctures approximately 3 times as large as distance between medial and lateral puncture. Eyes slightly convex, longer than temples (ratio 13 : 11), posterior margin with two punctures. Temporal area almost impunctate, only by the posterior margin with several fine punctures. Surface with very fine microsculpture consisting of transverse waves slightly golden iridescent here and there.

Antennae slender and long, reaching posterior margin of pronotum when reclined. Antennomeres 1-3 and 11 distinctly longer than wide, antennomeres 4-10 slightly longer than wide. Antennomere 1 longer than antennomere 11, antennomere 2 shorter than antennomere 3.

Pronotum wider than long (ratio 40 : 36), from the middle slightly narrowed anteriad and posteriad. Anterior angles rectangular, very slightly obtusely rounded, posterior angles markedly rounded. Each dorsal row with four approximately equidistant punctures, each sublateral row with two punctures, puncture two shifted to the lateral margin. Surface with microsculpture more distinct than that on head, visibly golden iridescent.

Scutellum coarsely and very densely punctured, diameter of punctures larger than eye-facets, punctures mostly contiguous.

Elytra wider than long (ratio 60 : 55), very slightly widened posteriad. Punctation fine and dense, diameter of punctures larger than eye-facets, separated by one puncture diameter, mostly smaller, in posterior half mostly of punctures contiguous. Surface without microsculpture; setation greyish.

Legs. Metatibia longer than metatarsus (ratio 32 : 28), metatarsomere 1 as long as metatarsomere 5, slightly shorter than metatarsomeres 2-4 combined.

Abdomen wide, from visible tergite III very gradually narrowed posteriad. First three visible tergites with two basal lines, elevated area between lines finely punctate, punctation at base of tergites finer and denser than that on elytra, becoming sparser towards posterior margin of each tergite. Surface without microsculpture; setation similar to that on elytra.

Male. Protarsomeres 1-3 distinctly dilated and sub-bilobed, each covered with modified pale setae ventrally, protarsomere 4 smaller than preceding ones. Aedeagus (Figs 39-42).

Female. Unknown.

Differential diagnosis. *Philonthus ptilopsis* sp. nov. is similar to *P. girardi* Lecoq, 1989 (Figs 43-45), but it differs by its darker antennae, wider head, four punctures in dorsal rows of pronotum (*P. girardi* with 5 punctures in dorsal rows) and by a different shape of the aedeagus.

Distribution. Tanzania.

Etymology. The name of this species, a noun in apposition, is the Latin generic name of the African Southern white-faced owl *Ptilopsis granti* (Kollibay, 1910).

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