

***Mentophilonthus ciconia* sp. nov. (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Philonthina)
from Ivory Coast**

Lubomír HROMÁDKA

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

Taxonomy, new species, Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Philonthina, *Mentophilonthus*, Afrotropical Region

Abstract. *Mentophilonthus ciconia* sp. nov. from Ivory Coast is described, illustrated and compared with a similar species, *Mentophilonthus descarpentriensi* Levasseur, 1966.

INTRODUCTION

The species of the philonthine genus *Mentophilonthus* Levasseur 1966 (with the type species *Philonthus triseriatus* Bernhauer, 1928) are similar in general habitus to those of *Philonthus* Stephens 1829, but differ by large and flat eyes that do not project from the outline of the head capsule. The genus may be recognized by the well developed infraorbital ridge, reaching anteriorly at least the mid-length of the head and mesad the gular sutures (Hromádka 2009, Figs. 1-2). The 22 African species of *Mentophilonthus* live mostly in dung of mammals or in sand and are frequently found at light. Three additional species are known from the Oriental Region (Hromádka & Schillhammer 2007).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The following acronym is used to refer to the collection mentioned:
BMNH The British Natural History Museum, London, United Kingdom (Maxwell Barclay, Roger Booth).

Separate labels are divided in the text by a double slash (//). All measurements were taken from beetles with their abdomens stretched. Ratios mentioned in the descriptions can be converted to lengths as 20 units = 1 mm. The morphological studies were conducted by using the stereoscopic SMZ 168 TL Zoom microscope (Italy).

DESCRIPTION

Mentophilonthus ciconia sp. nov.

(Figs. 1-3)

Type locality. Côte d'Ivoire, Les Lacs, Bringakro, 6°25'7"N, 5°4'1"W.

Type material studied. Holotype (♂): Côte d'Ivoire, Les Lacs, Bringakro, 6°25'7"N, 5°4'1"W, fish trap, 19.vii.2004, leg. Krell, BIOTA E09, BRX10. // *Mentophilonthus ciconia* sp. nov. Hromádka det., 2014, [red oblong printed label]", (BMNH).

Description. Body length 8.8 mm, length of fore body (to end of elytra) 4.2 mm. Head black, pronotum brown, scutellum and elytra black-brown, suture, posterior margin and elytral epipleura narrowly yellow-brown, abdomen brown-black, posterior margin of all tergites narrowly red-yellow. Maxillary and labial palpi yellow-brown, antennae and legs dirty yellow.

Head rounded, as long as wide, posterior angles entirely rounded, bearing one long black bristle. Eyes flat, much longer than temples (ratio 20 : 7), inner margin with one coarse hairy puncture, temporal area with several small punctures. Surface with microsculpture consisting of transverse waves.

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

Pronotum parallel-sided, approximately as long as wide. Anterior angles almost rectangular, obtusely rounded, posterior angles markedly rounded. Each dorsal row with two punctures, each sublateral row with one puncture in the middle. Microsculpture similar to that on head.

Scutellum finely and sparsely punctate, diameter of punctures smaller than eye-facets, separated by three puncture diameters in transverse direction. Surface with fine microsculpture; setation brown.

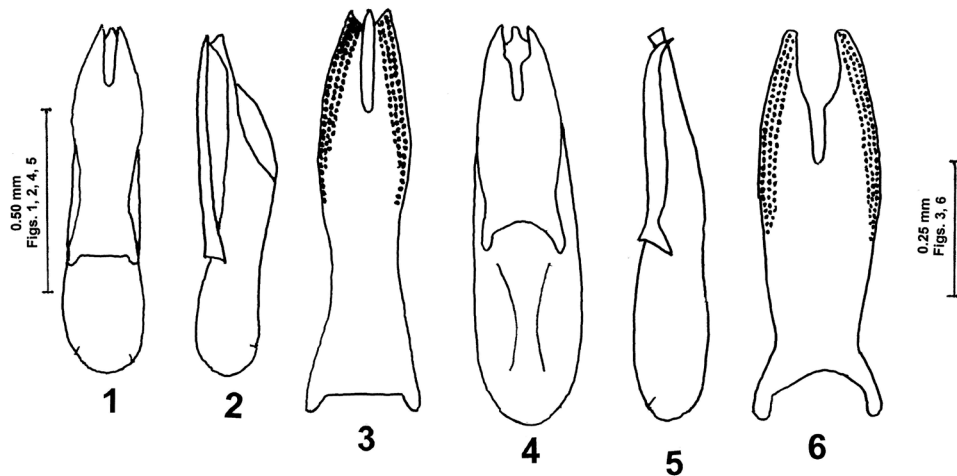
Elytra wider than long (ratio 54 : 50), slightly widened posteriad. Punctuation fine and dense, diameter of punctures twice larger than that on scutellum, distance between them by one or one and half puncture diameters. Surface without microsculpture; setation brown.

Legs. Metatibia slightly longer than metatarsus (ratio 31-29), metatarsomere 1 longer than metatarsomere 5, as long as metatarsomeres 2-3 combined.

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

Differential diagnosis. *Mentophilonthus ciconis* sp. nov. is similar to *M. descarpentriesi* but it may be distinguished by the darker colouring of the whole body, shorter antennae, denser punctuation of elytra and by a different shape of the aedeagus.

Distribution. Ivory Coast.



Figs. 1-6. *Mentophilonthus ciconia* sp. nov.: 1- aedeagus, ventral view; 2- aedeagus, lateral view; 3- paramere with sensory peg setae, ventral view; *Mentophilonthus descarpentriasi* Levasseur, 1966: 4- aedeagus, ventral view; 5- aedeagus, lateral view; 6- paramere with sensory peg setae, ventral view.

Etymology. The name of this species, a noun in apposition, is the Latin generic name of the African Abdim's stork *Ciconia abdimii* Lichtenstein, 1823.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS. My particular thanks are due to Maxwell Barclay and Roger Booth (The Natural History Museum London (United Kingdom), for the loan of the African material for my study. I am obliged to Jiří Háva (Prague-West, Czech Republic) for valuable comments on the manuscript.

REFERENCES

- BERNHAEUER M. 1928: Zur Staphylinidenfauna des tropischen Afrika, insbesondere des Kongostaates (20. Beitrag). *Wiener Entomologische Zeitung* 45: 105-121.
- HROMÁDKA L. & SCHILLHAMMER H. 2007: *Mentophilonthus davidkrali* sp. nov. from Nepal and India (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Staphylininae). *Acta Societatis Zoologicae Bohemicae* 71: 1-6.
- HROMÁDKA L. 2009: Revision of the Afrotropical species of the genus *Mentophilonthus* (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Philonthina). *Acta Entomologica Musei Nationalis Pragae* 49: 119-160.
- LEVASSEUR L. 1966: Contribution à la connaissance des Coléoptères Staphylinides de l'Afrique noire (8 Note). *Mentophilonthus*, n. gen. et description d'espèces nouvelles (Philonthini). *Bulletin de la Société Entomologique de France* 70 (1965): 206-213.

Received: 7.10.2014
Accepted: 15.11.2014

