

**New species of the genus *Philonthus* from Tanzania  
(Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Philonthini)**

Lubomír HROMÁDKA

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

**Taxonomy, new species, Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Philonthini, *Philonthus*, Afrotropical Region**

**Abstract.** Three new species of the genus *Philonthus* Stephens, 1829 (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae) are described as follows: *Philonthus clanga* sp. nov. (Tanzania), *Philonthus irania* sp. nov. (Tanzania) and *Philonthus macronectes* sp. nov. (Tanzania). All the species are described, illustrated and compared with related species.

INTRODUCTION

In the study presented here, three new species of the genus *Philonthus* from Tanzania are described. *Philonthus clanga* sp. nov., belongs to the *P. longicornis* species group characterized in Hromádka (2012), *Philonthus irania* sp. nov., belongs to the *P. politus* species group characterized in Hromádka (2013), *Philonthus macronectes* sp. nov., belongs to the *P. rudipennis* species group characterized in Hromádka (2013). This material was collected on a Natural History Museum expedition to Tanzania.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The specimens studied are deposited in the following collections;  
BMNH Natural History Museum , London, United Kingdom (Maxwell Barclay, Roger Booth);  
LHPC Lubomír Hromádka, private collection, Praha, Czech Republic.

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

## RESULTS

### *Philonthus clanga* sp. nov.

(Fig. 1)

**Type locality.** Tanzania, Mt. Longido 1807 m.

**Type material.** Holotype (♂): Tanzania, Mt. Longido 1807 m, S02°42'39", E36°43'31", 6.-9.viii.2012, in buffalo dung, leg. Smith, Takano & Garner // Holotype *Philonthus clanga* sp. nov. Hromádka det., 2014, [red oblong printed label], BMNH{E}1305124, (BMNH). Paratypes: (7 spec.), same locality, date and bionomic data as holotype (BMNH, LHPC).

**Description.** Body length 8.5 mm, length of fore body 3.6 mm.

Colouration. Head, pronotum, scutellum and abdomen black, elytra black-brown, suture and posterior margin narrowly, but distinctly red-brown. Maxillary and labial palpi black, ventral side of antennomere one dirty yellow, dorsal side and remaining antennomeres black. Pronotum very slightly golden iridescent.

Head wider than long (25 : 21), parallel-sided, posterior angles slightly rounded, bearing one long black bristle. Four coarse punctures between eyes, medial punctures shifted anteriorly, distance between medial punctures two and half times as large as distance between medial and lateral puncture. Distance between medial and lateral puncture as large as length of antennomere eight. Eyes flat, longer than temples (ratio 12 : 9), posterior margin with three punctures arranged in the shape of a pyramid, temporal area with many small setiferous punctures. Surface with traces of very fine microsculpture.

Antennae long, reaching posterior margin 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. Antennomere 1 longer than antennomere 11.

Pronotum as long as wide, slightly narrowed anteriorly. Anterior angles obtusely and posterior angles markedly rounded. Each dorsal row with 5 punctures, punctures 1-4 approximately equidistant, distance between punctures 4 and 5 slightly larger than distance between previous punctures. Distance between puncture 5 and posterior margin of pronotum as large as length of antennomere 1. Each sublateral row with 2 punctures, puncture 2 shifted to lateral margin. Surface with microsculpture similar to that of head.

Scutellum large, very densely and coarsely punctate, diameter of punctures larger than eye-facets, separated by one puncture diameter or more. Surface without microsculpture; setation dark.

Elytra wider than long (ratio 46 : 40), sides arcuately narrowed posteriorly. Punctuation very fine, diameter of punctures approximately as large as that on scutellum, separated mostly by slightly more than one puncture diameter. Surface without microsculpture; setation brown.

Legs. Metatibia slightly longer than metatarsus (ratio 25 : 22), metatarsomere 1 longer than metatarsomere 5, almost as long as metatarsomeres 2-4 combined.

Abdomen wide, from visible tergite III narrowed anteriorly and posteriorly. First three visible tergites with two basal lines, elevated area between lines with several punctures. Punctuation at base of all tergites 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 slightly dilated and sub-bilobed, each covered with modified pale setae ventrally. Aedeagus (Fig. 1).

Female. Protarsomeres 1-3 less dilated than those in male, each with few modified pale setae ventrally, protarsomere 4 small.

**Differential diagnosis.** *Philonthus clanga* sp. nov., is similar to *P. maskinius* Tottenham, 1954, but differs in having a wider head, shorter antennae, sparser punctation of abdomen 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 Lesser spotted Eagle *Clanga pomarina* (Brehm, 1831).

***Philonthus irania* sp. nov.**

(Figs. 2-5)

**Type locality.** Tanzania, Hasama Forest, Mbulu Mts. 1948 m.

**Type material.** Holotype (♂): Tanzania Hasama Forest, Mbulu Mts. 1948 m, S03°53'42", E35°38'51", 12.-14. vii.2012, Dung Pitfall, leg. Smith, Takano & Garner, BMNH (E) 2012-92, // Holotypus *Philonthus irania* sp. nov., Hromádka, det., 2014, [red oblong printed label], (BMNH).

**Description.** Body length 10.1 mm, length of fore body 4.7 mm.

Colouration. Body, maxillary and labial palpi and antennae black, anterior first three quarters of femora dirty yellow, posterior quarter blackish, knees and tibiae black, tarsi black-brown.

Head rounded, as long as wide, posterior angles obtusely rounded. Four punctures between eyes, medial punctures slightly shifted anteriorly. Separation between medial punctures five times as large as distance between medial and lateral puncture. Eyes flat, longer than temples (ratio 12 : 8). Posterior margin with two coarse punctures, temporal area in posterior half with several varying large punctures. Surface without microsculpture.

Antennae long, exceeding posterior margin of pronotum by the length of antennomere 11. All antennomeres longer than wide.

Pronotum wider than long (ratio 42 : 38). Anterior and posterior angles markedly rounded. Each dorsal row with five punctures. Punctures 2-4 equidistant, distance between punctures 1 and 2 and between punctures 4 and 5 larger than distance between previous punctures. Each sublateral row with two fine punctures, arranged in a row parallel to the dorsal row and half way between it and side. Surface without microsculpture.

Scutellum finely and sparsely punctate. Diameter of punctures as large as eye-facets, separated by three puncture diameters in transverse direction.

Elytra wider than long (ratio 56 : 51), widened posteriorly. Punctation fine and dense, diameter of punctures larger than that on scutellum, separated by one and half puncture diameters or slightly more. Surface without microsculpture; setation greyish.

Legs. Metatibia shorter than metatarsus (ratio 31 : 36), metatarsomere 1 slightly longer than metatarsomere 5, and slightly longer than metatarsomeres 2 and 3 combined.

Abdomen wide, from visible tergite III slightly narrowed posteriad. First three visible tergites with two basal lines, elevated area between lines impunctate. Punctuation 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 of elytra.

Male. Protarsomeres 1-3 strongly dilated and sub-bilobed, each covered with modified pale setae ventrally, protarsomere 4 narrower than preceding ones. Aedeagus (Figs. 2-4), sternite IX (Fig. 5).

Female. Unknown.

**Differential diagnosis.** *Philonthus irania* sp. nov., is similar to *P. morio* Boheman, 1848, from which it may be differentiated by the rounded head with posterior angles without small teeth, shorter eyes, wider elytra, sparser punctuation of abdomen 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 White-throated Robin *Irania gutturalis* (Guerin-Meneville, 1842).

***Philonthus macronectes* sp. nov.**

(Figs. 6-9)

**Type locality.** Tanzania, Mount Hanang 2434 m.

**Type material.** Holotype (♂): Tanzania, Mount Hanang 2434 m S04°24'41"E35°24'10"25.-28.v.2012, Dung Pitfall, leg. Smith, R. & Takano, H., BMNH 1262395, // Holotypus *Philonthus macronectes* sp. nov. Hromádka det., 2014, [red oblong printed label], (BMNH). Paratypes: (17 spec.), same label data as holotype, (BMNH, LHPC), 7 spec., Tanzania, Empakaai Crater Ngorongoro Highlands 2278 m, S0°54'55, E35°51'23, (BMNH).

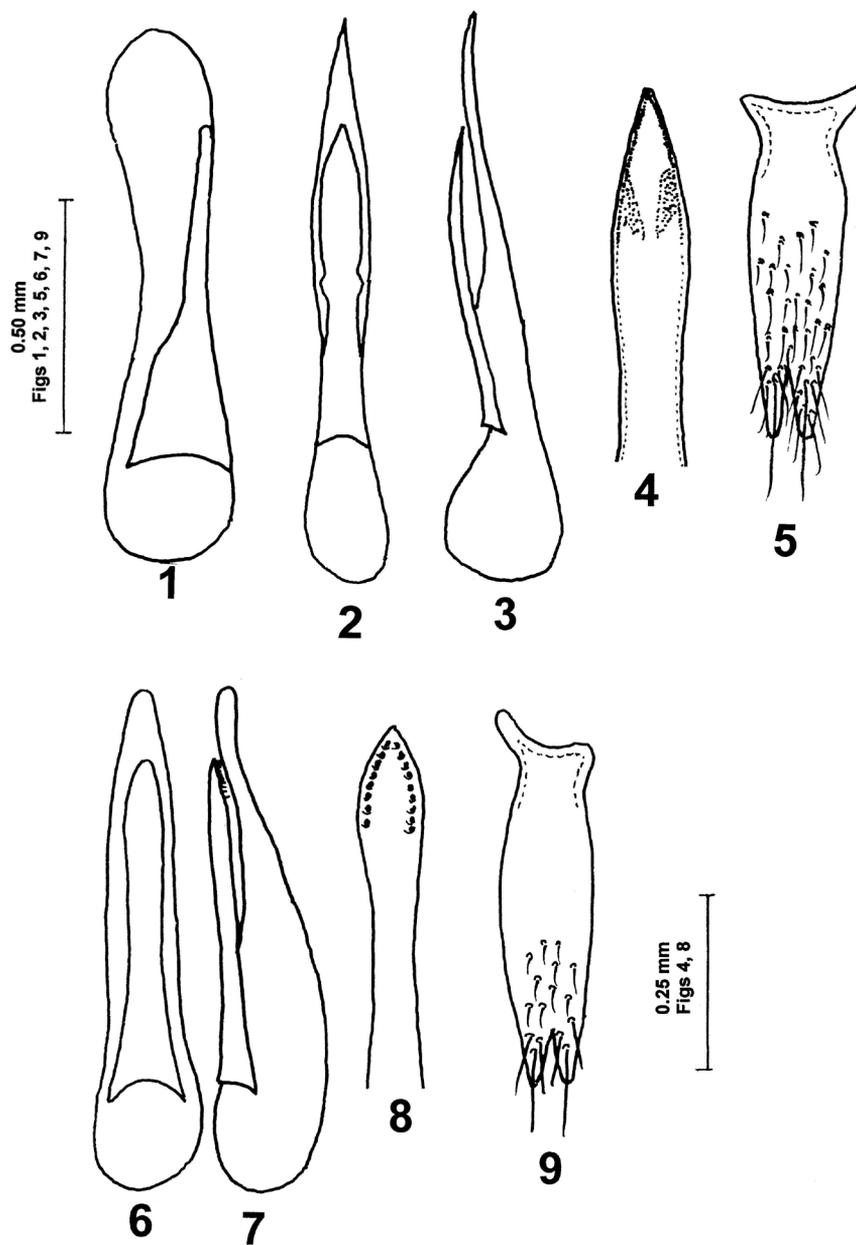
**Description.** Body length 9.8 mm, length of fore body 3.6 mm.

Colouration. Head and abdomen black, posterior margin of all tergites narrowly brown-red, pronotum and scutellum black-brown, elytra brick red, maxillary and labial palpi, dorsal side of antennomere 1 dark brown, remaining antennomeres black, ventral side of antennomere 1 brown-yellow. Femora and tarsi brown-yellow, tibiae darker.

Head as long as wide, posterior angles almost indistinct, bearing one long black bristle. Four punctures between eyes, medial punctures slightly shifted anteriorly, distance between medial punctures five times as large as distance between medial and lateral puncture. Eyes flat, slightly shorter than temples (ratio 8 : 9), posterior margin with one puncture, temporal area with several punctures. Surface with very fine microsculpture consisting of transverse waves.

Antennae long, reaching posterior margin of pronotum when reclined. All antennomeres longer than wide.

Pronotum approximately as long as wide, distinctly narrowed anteriorly. Anterior angles almost rectangular, obtusely rounded, posterior angles markedly rounded. Each dorsal row with four punctures, punctures 2-4 equidistant, distance between punctures 1-2 smaller than



Figs. 1-9. *Philonthus clanga* sp. nov.: 1- aedeagus, ventral view; *Philonthus irania* sp. nov.: 2- aedeagus, ventral view; 3- aedeagus, lateral view; 4- apex of paramere with sensory peg setae, ventral view; 5- male sternite IX, ventral view; *Philonthus macronectes* sp. nov.: 6- aedeagus, ventral view; 7- aedeagus, lateral view; 8- apex of paramere with sensory peg setae, ventral view; 9- male sternite IX, ventral view.

distance between previous punctures. Each sublateral row with two punctures, puncture two slightly shifted to posterior margin. Surface with microsculpture similar to that of head.

Scutellum densely and coarsely punctate, diameter of punctures distinctly larger than eye-facets, separated by one puncture diameter.

Elytra distinctly wider than long (ratio 38 : 28), punctation relatively fine and sparse, diameter of punctures slightly larger than that on scutellum, separated by one puncture diameter or larger. Surface without microsculpture; setation brown.

Legs. Metatibia longer than metatarsus (ratio 26 : 24). Metatarsomere 1 slightly longer than metatarsomere 5, as long as metatarsomeres 2-3 combined.

Abdomen wide, from visible tergite III slightly narrowed posteriad. First three visible tergites with two basal lines, elevated area between lines impunctate. Punctation at base of all visible tergites sparser than that on elytra, becoming sparser towards posterior margin of each tergite. Most punctures at base of tergites raindrop shaped. Surface without microsculpture; setation similar to that of elytra.

Male. Protarsomeres 1-3 dilated and sub-bilobed, each covered with modified pale setae ventrally, protarsomere 4 narrower than preceding ones. Aedeagus (Figs. 6-8), sternite IX (Fig. 9).

Female. Protarsomeres 1-3 slightly dilated, scarcely sub-bilobed, each covered with modified pale setae ventrally.

**Differential diagnosis.** *P. macronectes* sp. nov., may be distinguished from the similar *P. praetor* Tottenham, 1949 by the longer antennae, wider pronotum and elytra, denser punctation of abdomen 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 Northern Giant-Petrel *Macronectes halli* Mathews, 1912.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS. I would like to thank Maxwell Barclay and Roger Booth (both BMNH), for the loan of material under their care. I am obliged to Maxwell Barclay and Jiří Háva (Prague-West, Czech Republic) for valuable comments on the manuscript.

## REFERENCES

- BOHEMAN C. H. 1848: *Insecta Caffrariae annis 1838-1848 a J. A. Wahlberg collecta. Coleoptera. Carabici, Hydrocanthari, Gyrinii et Staphylinii*. Holmiae: Norstedtiana 1 (1): vii + 297.
- HROMÁDKA L. 2012: Revision of the Afrotropical species of the *Philonthus longicornis* species group (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Staphylininae). *Klapalekiana* 48: 75-120.
- HROMÁDKA L. 2013: Revision of Afrotropical species of the *Philonthus rudipennis* species group (Coleoptera : Staphylinidae: Philonthina). *Acta Societatis Zoologicae Bohemicae* 77: 203-252.
- HROMÁDKA L. 2013: Revision of Afrotropical species of the *Philonthus politus* species group (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Philonthina). *Studies and Reports, Taxonomical Series* 9 (2): 379-456.
- TOTTENHAM C. E. 1949: Studies in the genus *Philonthus* Stephens (Coleoptera). *Transaction of the Royal Entomological Society of London* 100(12): 291-362.
- TOTTENHAM C. E. 1954: *Coleoptera, Staphylinidae. Section (a) Piestinae to Euaesthetinae*. In: *Handbooks for the identification of British insects*. London: Royal Entomological Society of London. 4(8a): 1-78.

Received: 20.10.2014

Accepted: 15.11.2014