

**New species of the Philonthina from the Afrotropical Region
(Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Philonthini)**

Lubomír HROMÁDKA

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

Abstract. Four new species of the Philonthini from the Afrotropical Region are described and male genitalia are illustrated: *Gabrius dicrurus* sp. nov. (Kenya), *Gabrius egretta* sp. nov. (Republic of Central Africa), *Philonthus oxyura* sp. nov. (Ethiopia) and *Philonthus sula* sp. nov. (Ethiopia).

INTRODUCTION

My friend Jiří Janák (Rtyně, Czech Republic), lent me an undetermined material from his collection. In this interesting material I found four new species: *Gabrius dicrurus* sp. nov., which (based on external characters and morphology of genitalia) is not possible to affiliate to any hitherto defined species group, *Gabrius egretta* sp. nov., belonging to the species group *Gabrius corydoni* (Hromádka 2014), *Philonthus oxyura* sp. nov. belonging to the species group *Philonthus discoideus*-*P. xanthoraphis* (Tottenham 1962, Hromádka 2012) and *Philonthus sula* sp. nov., belonging to the species group *Philonthus caffer* (Tottenham 1962, Hromádka 2009), which I describe in this paper. All male genitalia of the species are illustrated.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

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

LHPC Lubomír Hromádka, private collection, Praha, Czech Republic;

JJRC Jiří Janák, private collection, Rtyně nad Bílinou, Czech Republic.

A double slash (//) is used to divide separate labels of the type specimens. All measurements were taken in beetles with stretched abdomen. All ratios mentioned in the descriptions are dimensionless but can be converted to lengths in mm: 20 units = 1 mm.

The morphological studies were conducted using a SMZ 168 TL Zoom (Italy) stereoscopic microscope.

TAXONOMIC PART

Gabrius dicrurus sp. nov.

(Figs. 1-3)

Type locality. Kenya, Ol Ngarua, Forest Rumuruti.

Type material. Holotype (♂): Kenya, Ol Ngarua 2300 m. M. Forest Rumuruti 5.-6.ii.1995, D. Trávníček lgt., // Holotypus *Gabrius dicrurus* sp. nov. Hromádka det., 2014, [red oblong label printed], (JJRC).

Description. Body length 6.7 mm, length of fore body 2.8 mm.

Colouration. Head black, pronotum, scutellum and elytra brown, abdomen dark brown, posterior margin of each visible tergite narrowly red-brown. Maxillary and labial palpi, antennomere 1 and base of antennomere 2 yellow-brown, remaining antennomeres brown, femora and tarsi dirty yellow, tibiae darker.

Head longer than wide (ratio 20 : 18), from posterior margin of eyes slightly narrowed posteriad, posterior angles markedly rounded bearing one long and several shorter black bristles. Between eyes with 4 coarse punctures, medial punctures slightly shifted anteriorly. Distance between medial punctures three times larger than distance between medial and lateral puncture. Eyes shorter than temples (ratio 6 : 9), posterior margin with two coarse punctures, temporal area with single punctures. Surface with fine microsculpture consisting of transverse waves.

Antennae slender and long, exceeding posterior margin of pronotum by the length of antennomere 10. All antennomeres longer than wide. Antennomere 1 longer than antennomere 11, antennomere 2 slightly shorter than antennomere 3.

Pronotum longer than wide (28 : 25), slightly narrowed anteriorly, anterior angles conspicuously deflexed, vaguely obtusely rounded, posterior angles markedly rounded. Each dorsal row with six approximately equidistant punctures, each sublateral row with two punctures arranged in a row parallel to the dorsal row and half way between it and lateral margin. Surface with microsculpture similar to that on head.

Scutellum finely and sparsely punctured in posterior two thirds, anterior third impunctate. Diameter of punctures slightly larger than eye-facets, separated by two puncture diameters or more. Surface with fine microsculpture.

Elytra finely and sparsely punctured, diameter of punctures larger than that on scutellum, separated mostly by two puncture diameters. Surface without microsculpture; setation brown-yellow.

Legs. Metatibia longer than metatarsus (ratio 20 : 18), metatarsomere 1 approximately as long as metatarsomere 5, shorter than metatarsomeres 2-3 combined.

Abdomen wide, markedly 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 on elytra.

Differential diagnosis. *Gabrius dicrurus* sp. nov. is similar to *G. brevissimus* Tottenham, 1956 but differs in having finer antennae and head, longer and denser punctuation of elytra and by a different shape of the aedeagus.

Etymology. The name of this species, a noun in apposition, is the Latin generic name of the African Square-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus ludwigii* A. Smith, 1834.

Distribution. Kenya.

***Gabrius egretta* sp. nov.**

(Figs. 4-6)

Type locality. Republic of Central Africa, 90 km NE of Nola, N 04°07' E 16°37'.

Type material. Holotype (♂): RCA - 560 m, 90 km NE of Nola, N 04°07' E 16°37', 5.-9.-xii.2010, lgt. M. Kadlecová // Holotypus *Gabrius egretta* sp. nov. Hromádka det., 2014, [red oblong label printed], (JJRC).

Description. Body length 4.3 mm, length of fore body 2.2 mm.

Colouration. Head black, rest of body brown, maxillary, labial palpi, antennomeres 1-2 and base of antennomere 3 yellow-brown, antennomere 11 brown, remaining antennomeres dark brown, legs dirty yellow.

Head wider than long (ratio 17 : 15), slightly narrowed posteriad, posterior angles obtusely rounded, bearing several short bristles. Clypeus with round shallow depression medially. Between eyes with four punctures, arranged in a straight line. Distance between medial punctures four times larger than distance between medial and lateral puncture. Eyes shorter than temples (ratio 6 : 7), temporal area with several small punctures. Surface with fine microsculpture consisting of transverse waves.

Antennae slightly widened distally, reaching posterior fourth of pronotum when reclined. Antennomeres 1-3 and 11 longer than wide, antennomeres 4-5 as long as wide, antennomeres 6-10 wider than long. Antennomere 1 longer than antennomere 11, as long as antennomere 3.

Pronotum longer than wide (ratio 18 : 15), parallel-sided. Anterior angles rectangular, slightly obtusely rounded, posterior angles markedly rounded. Each dorsal row with six punctures of irregular distance. Each sublateral row with two punctures, puncture two slightly shifted to the lateral margin. 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 or more. Surface with fine microsculpture.

Elytra approximately as long as wide, very slightly widened posteriad. Punctuation fine and sparse, diameter of punctures larger than that on scutellum, separated by one and half puncture diameter, or more here and there. Surface without microsculpture; setation brown-yellow.

Legs. Metatibia approximately as long as metatarsus, metatarsomere 1 shorter than metatarsomere 5.

Abdomen from visible tergite III, markedly narrowed anteriad and posteriad. First three visible tergites with two basal lines, elevated area between lines impunctate. Punctuation 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.

Differential diagnosis. *Gabrius egretta* sp. nov. is similar to *G. amans* Tottenham, 1962 but it differs by its longer eyes, finer punctation of elytra, denser punctation of abdomen and by a different shape of the aedeagus.

Etymology. The name of this species, a noun in apposition, is the Latin generic name of the African Black Heron *Egretta ardesiaca* (Wagler, 1827).

Distribution. Central African Republic.

***Philonthus oxyura* sp. nov.**

(Figs. 7-9)

Type locality. Ethiopia, Turmi, N 04°58', E 36°30'.

Type material. Holotype (♂): Ethiopia, Turmi 914 m alt. N 04°58', E 36°30', 30.iv.2013, lgt. Kremitovský, // Holotypus *Philonthus oxyura* sp. nov. Hromádka det. 2014, [red oblong label printed], (JJRC).

Description. Body length 5.6 mm, length of fore body 2.5 mm.

Colouration. Head black, pronotum brown-black, scutellum and elytra black-brown, suture and lateral margin narrowly and whole elytral epipleura yellow. Maxillary and labial palpi brown-yellow, antennomeres 1-2, base of antennomere 3 and legs dirty yellow, remaining antennomeres brown.

Head rounded, wider than long (ratio 19 : 17), posterior angles markedly rounded, bearing two long and several shorter black bristles. Between eyes with four punctures, distance between medial punctures five times larger than distance between medial and lateral ones. Eyes longer than temples (ratio 9 : 6), posterior margin with two punctures, temporal area with many small setiferous punctures in posterior half. Surface with fine microsculpture consisting of transverse waves.

Antennae slender and long, reaching posterior margin of pronotum when reclined. Antennomeres 1-3 and 11 distinctly longer than wide, antennomeres 4-6 slightly longer than wide, antennomeres 7-10 as long as wide. Antennomere 1 twice longer than antennomere 11, antennomere 2 slightly shorter than antennomere 3.

Pronotum as long as wide, anterior angles obtusely and posterior angles markedly rounded, very slightly narrowed anteriorly. Each dorsal row with five punctures of irregular distance, each sublateral row with two punctures arranged in a row parallel to the dorsal row and half way between it and side. Surface with microsculpture similar to that on head.

Scutellum densely and finely punctured in posterior three fourth, first fourth impunctate. Diameter of punctures as large as eye-facets, separated by one and half puncture diameters or more here and there. Surface with very fine microsculpture; setation dark.

Elytra wider than long (ratio 33 : 30), almost parallel-sided, punctation fine, diameter of punctures larger than that on scutellum, punctures separate by two puncture diameters or less. Surface without microsculpture; setation yellow-brown.

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

Abdomen wide, from visible tergite III markedly narrowed posteriorly. First three visible tergites with two basal lines, elevated area between lines with several large punctures and

with many very small punctures. Surface without microsculpture; setation similar to that on elytra.

Male. Protarsomeres 1-3 dilated and sub-bilobed, each covered by modified pale setae ventrally, protarsomere 4 narrower than preceding ones. Aedeagus (Figs. 7-9).

Female. Unknown to the author.

Differential diagnosis. *Philonthus oxyura* sp. nov. may be separated from similar *P. neuter* Tottenham, 1962 by its narrower head, longer antennae and by a different shape of the aedeagus.

Etymology. The name of this species, a noun in apposition, is the Latin generic name of the African Maccoa duck *Oxyura maccoa* (Eyton, 1938).

Distribution. Ethiopia.

***Philonthus sula* sp. nov.**
(Figs. 10-13)

Type locality. Ethiopia, Turmi, N 04°58' E 36°30'.

Type material. Holotype (♂): Ethiopia, Turmi 914 m alt. N 04°58'E36°30, 30.iv.2013, lgt. Kremitovský // Holotypus *Philonthus sula* sp. nov. Hromádka det., 2014, [red oblong label printed], (JJRC). Paratypes (24 spec.): same label data as holotype // Paratypus *Philonthus sula* sp. nov. Hromádka det., 2014, [red oblong label printed], (JJRC, LHPC).

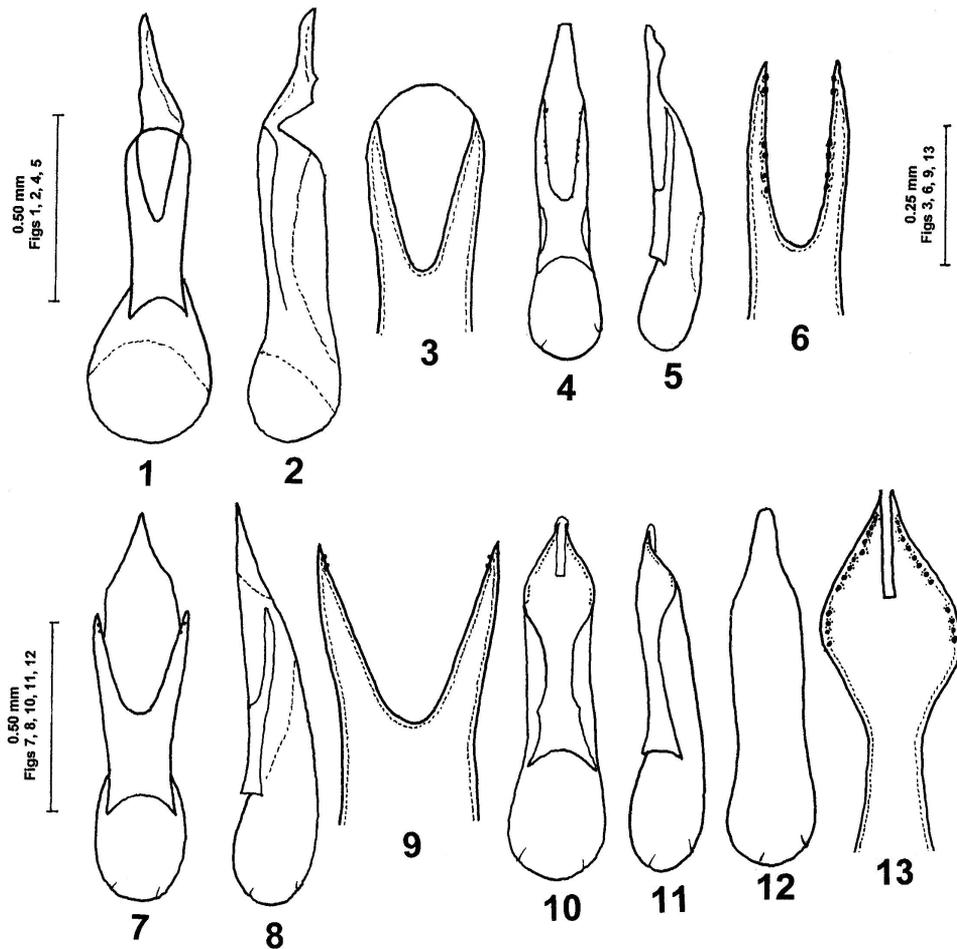
Description. Body length 7.1 mm, length of fore body 3.5 mm.

Colouration. Head, pronotum and scutellum black. Approximately anterior third of elytra black, posterior two thirds red, abdomen black, posterior margin of all tergites narrowly brown-red, slightly golden iridescent. Maxillary and labial palpi, antennomere 1 and anterior half of antennomere 2 dirty yellow, posterior half of antennomere 2 and remaining antennomeres brown. Legs yellow.

Head as long as wide, parallel-sided, posterior angles markedly rounded. Between eyes with four coarse punctures, lateral punctures slightly shifted anteriorly, distance between medial punctures four times larger than distance between lateral end medial puncture. Eyes slightly convex, longer than temples (ratio 11 : 10), posterior margin with two punctures, temporal area with several setiferous punctures of variable size. Surface with very fine irregular, almost indistinct microsculpture here and there and with many microscopic dots.

Antennae slender and long, exceeding posterior margin of pronotum by the length of antennomere 10. All antennomeres longer than wide. Antennomere 1 distinctly longer than antennomere 11, antennomere 2 slightly shorter than antennomere 3.

Pronotum as long as wide, anterior angles rectangular, very obtusely rounded, posterior angles markedly rounded. Each dorsal row with 5 punctures, punctures 2-4 equidistant, distance between punctures 1-2 smaller than that between previous punctures, distance between punctures 4-5 larger than distance between previous punctures. Each sublateral row with 2 punctures arranged in a row parallel to the dorsal row and half way between it and side Surface with microsculpture similar to that on head.



Figs. 1-3. *Gabrius dicurus* sp. nov.: 1- aedeagus, ventral view; 2- aedeagus, lateral view; 3- apex of paramere, ventral view.

Figs. 4-6. *Gabrius egretta* sp. nov.: 4- aedeagus, ventral view; 5- aedeagus, lateral view; 6- apex of paramere with sensory peg setae.

Figs. 7-9. *Philonthus oxyura* sp. nov.: 7- aedeagus, ventral view; 8- aedeagus, lateral view; 9- apex of paramere with sensory peg setae, ventral view.

Figs. 10-13. *Philonthus sula* sp. nov.: 10- aedeagus, ventral view; 11- aedeagus, lateral view; 12- aedeagus without paramere, ventral view; 13- apex of paramere with sensory peg setae, ventral view.

Whole scutellum very densely and coarsely punctured, diameter of punctures larger than eye-facets, separated by mostly smaller distance than one puncture diameter.

Elytra longer than wide (ratio 40 : 38), widened posteriad. Punctuation coarse, diameter of punctures slightly larger than that on scutellum, separated by one puncture diameter or slightly larger here and there. Surface without microsculpture; setation brown-yellow.

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

Abdomen wide, from visible tergite III markedly narrowed posteriorly. First three visible tergites with two basal lines, elevated area between lines densely and relatively coarsely punctured. Punctuation at base of all tergites denser and slightly finer than on elytra, becoming sparser towards posterior margin of each tergite.

Male. Protarsomeres 1-3 dilated and sub-bilobed, densely covered with some modified pale setae ventrally, protarsomere 4 narrower than preceding ones, aedeagus (Figs 10-13).

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

Differential diagnosis. *Philonthus sula* sp. nov. may be distinguished from the similar *P. maridadus* Tottenham, 1962 by its longer eyes and antennae, shorter pronotum and by a different shape of the aedeagus.

Etymology. The name of this species, a noun in apposition is the Latin generic name of the African Masked booby *Sula dactylatra* Lesson 1831.

Distribution. Ethiopia.

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