

Six new Philonthini from the Afrotropical Region (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Philonthina)

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Abstract. Six new Philonthini species from the Afrotropical Region are described as follows: *Gabronthus buphagus* sp. nov. (South Africa), *Philonthus batis* sp. nov. (Tanzania), *Philonthus bradornis* sp. nov. (Ethiopia), *Philonthus campethera* sp. nov. (South Africa), *Philonthus colius* sp. nov. (Tanzania), *Pseudohesperus terezae* sp. nov. (Republic of South Africa). The male genitalia of all the species are illustrated.

INTRODUCTION

In the study presented here, one new species of the genus *Gabronthus* is described as *Gabronthus buphagus* sp. nov., four new species of the genus *Philonthus* are described as *Philonthus batis* sp. nov. belongs to the *P. bicoloripennis* species group characterized in Hromádka (2010), *Philonthus colius* sp. nov. belongs to the *P. rudipennis* species group characterized in Tottenham (1962) and Hromádka (2013), *P. bradypterus* sp. nov., belongs to the *P. cupreonitens* species group characterized in Hromádka (2011), *Philonthus campethera* sp. nov. which, based on external characters and morphology of genitalia, cannot be at present included into any known species group and one species of the genus *Pseudohesperus* is described *Pseudohesperus terezae* sp. nov. The genus *Pseudohesperus* was characterized in great detail by Hayashi (2008): the genus is closely allied to *Bisnius* Stephens, 1829 and *Gabrius* Stephens, 1829, because of the similar structure of protarsi, but is easily distinguishable from them by the following characters: mesoventrite strongly convex medially in a subtriangular form, without a transverse carina, male sternite 9 with a pair of long appendages and without any long erect bristles, female second gonocoxite very slender and long, chaetotaxy of the pronotum composed of only a pair of anterolateral macrosetae, basolateral setae absent, gular sutures gradually convergent posteriad to the neck constriction, not parallel in posterior (basal) half. Two species occurring in the eastern Palaearctic and Oriental Regions and 10 species are recorded from the Afrotropical Region.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The following acronyms are used to the collections mentioned:

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

BMNH The Natural History Museum, London, United Kingdom (Maxwell Barclay, Roger Booth);

NMPC National Museum, Praha, Czech Republic (Jiří Hájek);
TMPC Ditsong National Museum of Natural History (formerly Transvaal Museum)
Pretoria, South Africa (Ruth Müller).

The morphological studies were conducted by using the SMZ 168 TI. Zoom (Italy) stereoscopic microscope.

RESULTS

Philonthus batis sp. nov.

(Figs. 1-3, 20)

Type locality. Tanzania, Mwanza.

Type material. Holotype (♂): "Tanzania, Mwanza, 1.x.1969, Ardö leg., *Philonthus batis* sp. nov. Hromádka det., 2016, [red oblong printed label], (NMPC)".

Description. Body length 9.4 mm, length of fore body 4.3 mm.

Colouration. Head, pronotum and scutellum black, elytra brown-red, abdominal tergites 1-4 and anterior half of tergite 5 black, posterior half of tergite 5 and whole tergite 6 brown-red. Posterior margin of tergites 1-4 narrowly and whole paratergites brown-red. Maxillary and labial palpi yellow-brown, antennomeres 1-2 and anterior half of antennomere 3 brown-yellow, posterior half of antennomere 3 and antennomeres 4-10 black, antennomere 11 slightly paler, legs yellow.

Head wider than long (ratio 40 : 33), slightly narrowed posteriad, posterior angles bearing one long and several shorter brown bristles. Between eyes four coarse punctures, distance between medial punctures five times larger than distance between medial and lateral punctures. Eyes much larger than temples (ratio 17 : 8), posterior margin with three coarse punctures arranged in an oblique line. Temporal area with several setiferous punctures. Surface without 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 5-6 as long as wide, antennomeres 7-10 slightly wider than long.

Pronotum as long as wide, parallel-sided, anterior angles rectangular, posterior angles markedly rounded. Each dorsal row with 6 coarse, approximately equidistant punctures, each sublateral row with 3 punctures, puncture 2 shifted laterally. Surface without microsculpture.

Scutellum finely and sparsely punctured, diameter of punctures as large as eye-facets, separated by one or one and half puncture diameters. Setation brown.

Elytra wider than long (ratio 55 : 53), slightly widened posteriad. Punctuation coarse and sparse, diameter of punctures larger than that on scutellum, distance between them one and half puncture diameters in transverse direction. Surface without microsculpture; setation yellow.

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

Abdomen wide, from visible tergite III slightly narrowed anteriad and distinctly posteriad.

First three visible tergites with two basal lines, elevated area between lines impunctate. Punctuation at base of all tergites much 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. *Philonthus batis* sp. nov. can be distinguished from the similar *P. pelecanus* Hromádka, 2010, by the only four punctures between eyes (*P. pelecanus* has six punctures), by paler antennomeres 1-2, coarser punctuation of elytra, darker abdomen and by the different shape of the aedeagus.

Etymology. The name of this species, a noun in apposition, is the Latin generic name of the African Pale batis *Batis soror* Reichenow, 1903.

Distribution. Tanzania.

***Philonthus bradypterus* sp. nov.**
(Figs. 4-6)

Type locality. S. Afr., KWZ Natal, 25 km SW Richmond, 29.55 S - 30. 05 E.

Type material. Holotype (♂): "S. Afr., KWZ Natal 25 km SW Richmond 29.55 S-30.05 E, 1.-2.4.2011; E-Y:3905, at light 654 m, leg. Ruth Müller. // *Philonthus bradypterus* sp. nov. Hromádka det., 2010, [red oblong printed label]", (TMPC).

Description. Body length 10.3 mm, length of fore body 4.6 mm.

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

Head wider than long (ratio 40 : 31), parallel-sided, posterior angles rounded, bearing several varying long brown bristles. Between eyes four coarse punctures, arranged in a straight line. Distance between medial punctures four times larger than distance between medial and lateral punctures. Eyes as long as temples, posterior margin with two coarse punctures, temporal area with several varying large punctures. Surface with very fine microsculpture.

Antennae reaching posterior third of pronotum when reclined. Antennomeres 1-3 distinctly 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 slightly shorter than antennomere 3.

Pronotum longer than wide (ratio 47 : 45), parallel-sided, 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 larger than distance between previous punctures, each sublateral row with 2 punctures, puncture 2 shifted laterally. Surface with microsculpture similar to that on head.

Scutellum finely and sparsely punctured, diameter of punctures as large as eye-facets, separated by one and half or two puncture diameters.

Elytra wider than long (ratio 59 : 55) parallel-sided. Punctuation fine and dense, diameter of punctures larger than that on scutellum, separated by one or one and half puncture diameters. Surface without microsculpture; setation brown.

Legs. Metatibia shorter than metatarsus (ratio 25 : 27), metatarsomere 1 slightly longer than metatarsomere 5, as long as 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 densely and finely punctured. Punctuation at base of all tergites finer and sparser than that on elytra. Surface without microsculpture; setation similar to that on elytra.

Differential diagnosis. *Philonthus bradypterus* sp. nov. may be distinguished from similar *P. rhodesiae* Tottenham, 1949 by different colouring of body, 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 Knysna warbler *Bradypterus sylvaticus* Soudevall, 1860.

Distribution. Tanzania.

***Philonthus colius* sp. nov.**

(Figs. 7-9)

Type locality. Tanzania, Mount Hanang, 2193 m, S04°24'20" E35°24'33".

Type material. Holotype (♂): "Tanzania, Mount Hanang, 2193 m, S04°24'20" E35°24'33" .31.vii.-4.viii.2012. Dung Pitfall, leg. Smith, Takano & Garner, //*Philonthus colius* sp. nov. Hromádka det., 2015, [red oblong printed label] (BMNH)". Paratypes (3 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀): same label data as holotype (BMNH, LHPC), *Philonthus colius* sp. nov. Hromádka det., 2015, [all specimens with red oblong printed label].

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

Colouration. Head, pronotum and scutellum black, elytra red-brown, abdomen black, posterior margin of all tergites narrowly red-brown. Maxillary, labial palpi, antennomere 1 and base of antennomere 2 dark brown, remaining antennomeres black-brown. Legs brown-yellow. Abdomen golden iridescent.

Head rounded, as long as wide, posterior angles indistinct. Between eyes four coarse punctures, medial punctures slightly shifted anteriorly, distance between medial punctures four times larger than distance between medial and lateral punctures. Eyes flat, shorter than temples (ratio 10 : 12), posterior margin with two coarse punctures, temporal area with several varying large punctures in posterior half. Surface with very fine microsculpture consisting of transverse waves.

Antennae slender and long, reaching posterior margin of pronotum when reclined. All antennomeres longer than wide. Antennomere 1 longer than antennomere 11, antennomere 2 shorter than antennomere 3.

Pronotum highly convex, distinctly narrowed anteriorly. Anterior angles rectangular, 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 similar to that on head.

Scutellum very finely and sparsely punctured, diameter of punctures as large as eye-facets, separated by two or three puncture diameters. Setation black.

Elytra wider than long (ratio 49 : 40), widened posteriad. Punctuation fine and sparse, diameter of punctures slightly larger than that on scutellum, separated by one and half or two puncture diameters. Surface without microsculpture; setation brown.

Legs. Metatibia as long as metatarsus, metatarsomere 1 longer than metatarsomere 5, 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 with scattered punctures. Punctuation of whole tergites fine and sparse, diameter of punctures as large as eye-facets, separated irregular, mostly by two puncture diameters. Surface without microsculpture; setation similar to that on elytra.

Differential diagnosis. *Philonthus colius* sp. nov. differs from similar *P. paraetropicus* Hromádka, 2013 by its narrower head, darker head and pronotum, different punctuation of elytra, denser punctuation of abdomen and different shape of the aedeagus.

Etymology. The name of this species, a noun in apposition, is the Latin generic name of the African Speckled mousebird *Colius striatus* Gmelin, 1789.

Distribution. Tanzania.

***Philonthus campethera* sp. nov.**

(Figs. 14-16)

Type locality. S. Afr., SW Cape, Lamberts Bay.

Type material. Holotype (♂): “S. Afr., SW Cape, Lamberts Bay, N 32.04 S - 18.19 E. 25.viii.1981, groundtraps leg. Endrödy-Younga. // *Philonthus campethera* sp. nov. Hromádka det., 2016, [red oblong printed label]”, (NMPC).

Description. Body length 8.0 mm, length of fore body 3.8 mm.

Colouration. Body, maxillary, labial palpi and antennae black, femora dark brown, tibiae black, tarsi black paler distally.

Head parallel-sided, wider than long (ratio 33 : 28), posterior angles obtusely rounded. Between eyes four coarse punctures, approximately equidistant. Clypeus with small round depression medially. Eyes flat, shorter than temples (ratio 8 : 12), posterior margin with 2 coarse punctures, temporal area with one coarse puncture and several small punctures in posterior half. Surface without microsculpture.

Antennae short, reaching posterior third of pronotum when reclined. Antennomeres 1-4 and 11 distinctly longer than wide, antennomere 5 slightly longer than wide, antennomeres 7-10 as long as wide. Antennomere 1 twice longer than antennomere 11 and antennomere 2 shorter than antennomere 3.

Pronotum parallel-sided, anterior angles conspicuously deflexed, vaguely obtusely rounded, posterior angles markedly rounded. Each dorsal row with four approximately equidistant punctures, each sublateral row with two punctures, puncture two shifted laterally. Surface without microsculpture.

Scutellum finely punctured, diameter of punctures as large as eye-facets, separated by one or two puncture diameters. Setation dark.

Elytra as wide as long, widened posteriad. Punctuation coarser than that on scutellum, separated by one puncture diameter or larger here and there. Surface without microsculpture; setation brown.

Legs. Metatibia longer than metatarsus (ratio 25 : 23), metatarsomere 1 as long as metatarsomere 5 and as long as metatarsomeres 3-4 combined.

Abdomen wide, almost parallel-sided. First three visible tergites with two basal lines, elevated area between lines finely punctate. 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.

Male. Protarsomeres 1-3 simple, protarsomere 4 than preceding ones narrower. Aedeagus (Figs 14-16).

Female. Unknown.

Differential diagnosis. *Philonthus campethera* sp. nov. may be distinguished from the similar *P. marshalli* Tottenham, 1949 by less punctures in dorsal rows (*P. marshalli* has 5 punctures), sparser punctuation of elytra and abdomen and different shape of the aedeagus.

Etymology. The name of this species, a noun in apposition, is the Latin generic name of the African Speckle-throated woodpecker *Campethera notata* (Lichtenstein, 1823).

Distribution. South Africa.

***Pseudohesperus terezae* sp. nov.**
(Figs. 10-13, 21)

Type locality. Rep. South Africa, Northern Prov. Camp David, 5 km S Ocolaco, 475 m.

Type material. Holotype (♂): "Rep. South Africa, Northern Prov. Camp David, 5 km S Ocolaco, 475 m. 17.-24.i.2002, leg. S. Murzin. // *Pseudohesperus terezae* sp. nov. Hromádka, 2015, [red oblong printed label], (NMPC)".

Description. Body length 8.5 mm, length of fore body 4.4 mm.

Colouration. Body black, labial palpi brown-yellow, palpomeres 1-2 of maxillary palpi brown-yellow, palpomere 3 yellow-brown. Antennae black-brown, femora brown, tibiae and tarsi black, tarsi black, paler distally. Abdomen violet iridescent.

Head wider than long (ratio 36 : 25), posterior angles obtusely rounded, bearing several short bristles, between eyes four coarse punctures, distance between medial punctures three times larger than distance between medial and lateral punctures. Each side along impunctate line with scattered punctures. Eyes slightly longer than temples (ratio 12 : 10), posterior margin with three coarse punctures arranged in a vertical row, temporal area with several variably large punctures. Surface without microsculpture.

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

Pronotum as long as wide, parallel-sided, anterior angles rectangular, conspicuously deflexed, vaguely obtusely rounded, posterior margin markedly rounded. Midline with wide impunctate area, punctures near midline variably large, finer and sparser towards sides. Surface without microsculpture.

Scutellum finely and densely punctured, diameter of punctures approximately as large as eye-facets, separated by one puncture diameter or larger.

Elytra slightly wider than long, ratio (55 : 53) slightly widened posteriad. Punctuation finer than that on scutellum, separated by one puncture diameter or smaller. Surface without microsculpture; setation brown.

Legs. Metatibia as long as metatarsus, metatarsomere 1 longer than metatarsomere 5, almost as long as metatarsomeres 2-4 combined.

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

Differential diagnosis. *Pseudohesperus terezae* sp. nov. may be distinguished from the similar *P. tyto* Hromádka 2010, by its narrower head, longer elytra, violet iridescent abdomen (by *P. tyto* blue-golden iridescent) and different shape of the aedeagus.

Etymology. It is my pleasure to dedicate this new species to my lady friend Tereza Bařhová.

Distribution. Tanzania.

***Gabronthus buphagus* sp. nov.**
(Figs. 17-19)

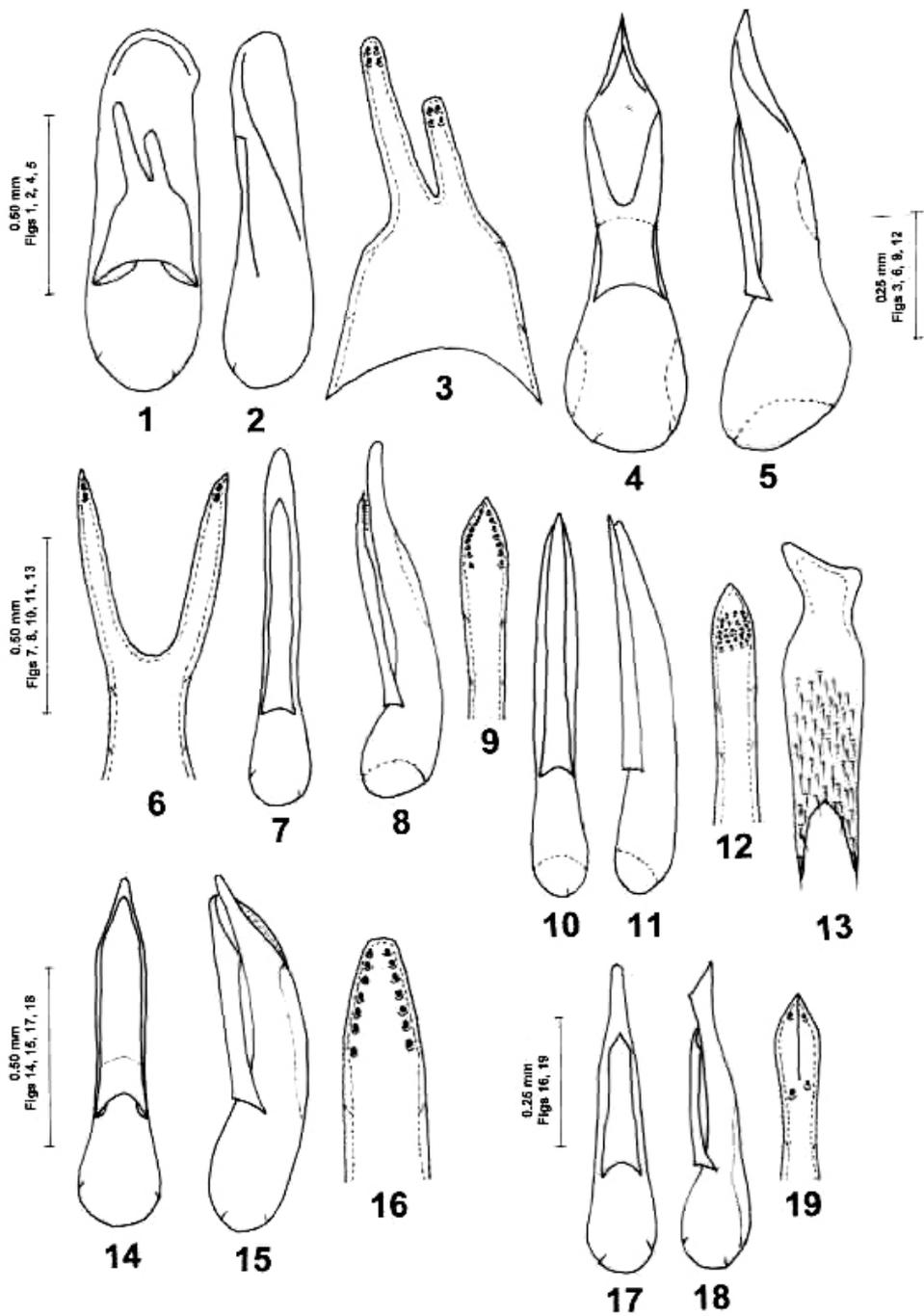
Type locality. S. Afr., E. Transvaal, Barbiton, 10 km. N25.44-30.59 E.

Type material. Holotype (♂): "S. Afr., E. Transvaal, Barberton, 10 km N25.44- 30.59 E, 30.ii.1986; E.Y: 2333, groundtraps, 53 days, leg. Endrődy - Younga // *Gabronthus buphagus* sp. nov., Hromádka det., 2016, [orange oblong printed label]", (TMPC)

Description. Body length 4.6 mm, length of fore body 2.0 mm.

Colouration. Body chocolate brown, posterior margin of all abdominal tergites narrowly red-yellow. Maxillary, labial palpi, antennomeres 1-2, base of antennomere 3 and legs dirty yellow.

Head longer than wide (ratio 15 : 12), parallel-sided, posterior angles obtusely rounded. Between eyes four coarse punctures, medial punctures slightly shifted anteriorly. Distance between medial punctures six times larger than distance between medial and lateral punctures. Eyes flat, shorter than temples (ratio 6 : 8). Posterior margin with two coarse punctures. Temporal area with one puncture in anterior half. Surface with very fine microsculpture consisting of transverse waves.



Figs. 20-21: Habitus: 20- *Philonthus batis* sp. nov.; 21- *Pseudohesperus terezae* sp. nov.



Figs. 1-19. *Philonthus batis* sp. nov.: 1- aedeagus, ventral view; 2- aedeagus, lateral view; 3- paramere with sensory peg setae, dorsal view; *Philonthus bradypterus* sp. nov.: 4- aedeagus, ventral view; 5- aedeagus, lateral view; 6 - paramere with sensory peg setae, ventral view; *Philonthus colius* sp. nov.: 7- aedeagus, ventral view; 8- aedeagus, lateral view; 9- apex of paramere with sensory peg setae, ventral view; *Pseudohesperus terezae* 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; *Philonthus campethera* sp. nov.: 14- aedeagus, ventral view; 15- aedeagus, lateral view; 16- apex of paramere with sensory peg setae, ventral view; *Gabronthus buphagus* sp. nov.: 17- aedeagus, ventral view; 18- aedeagus, lateral view; 19- apex of paramere with sensory peg setae, ventral view.

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

Pronotum longer than wide (ratio 19 : 15) very slightly narrowed anteriorly, anterior angles conspicuously deflexed, vaguely obtusely rounded, posterior angles markedly rounded. Each dorsal row with five coarse approximately equidistant punctures, each sublateral row with two punctures, puncture two slightly shifted laterally. Surface with microsculpture similar to that on head.

Scutellum with five coarse punctures, anterior half with fine microsculpture, posterior half without microsculpture.

Elytra of the holotype are missing.

Abdomen wide, parallel-sided, first three visible tergites with two basal lines, elevated area between lines with fine punctures. Punctuation at base of all tergites fine, diameter of punctures smaller than eye-facets, separated by two puncture diameters in transverse direction. Surface without microsculpture; setation brown-yellow.

Differential diagnosis. *Gabronthus buphagus* sp. nov. may be distinguished from similar *G. oribates* Jeannel et Paulian 1945 by its narrower head, denser punctuation of abdomen and different shape of the aedeagus.

Etymology. The name of this species, a noun in apposition, is the Latin generic name of the African *Yellow-Billed Oxpecker* Linnaeus, 1766.

Distribution. South Africa.

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