

**Two new small scaritins of the genera *Leleuporella* Basilewsky, 1956
and *Afrosyleter* Basilewsky, 1959 from Gabon
(Coleoptera: Carabidae: Scaritinae: Clivinini)**

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Abstract. *Leleuporella gabonensis* sp. nov. and *Afrosyleter telnovi* sp. nov. from Gabon are described, illustrated including the female styli of the former species, and are compared with hitherto known African species of the genera. New finding of *Afrosyleter rossii* Bulirsch & Magrini, 2018, to date known in a single female, is given.

INTRODUCTION

The first new species, described below, belongs to the clivinine genus *Leleuporella* Basilewsky, 1956, to date known in five species; two of them from the Afrotropical Region: *L. mandibularis* (Burgeon, 1935) and *L. caeca* Basilewsky, 1956, and three from the Oriental Region: *L. sexangulata* Balkenohl, 1997 from Sri Lanka, *L. devagiriensis* Abhitha & Sabu, 2009 from South India and *L. tuberculata* Fedorenko, 2012 from Vietnam.

The second new species is a member of the clivinine genus *Afrosyleter* Basilewsky, 1959, with nine exclusively Afrotropical species which were recently revised by Bulirsch & Magrini (2018).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The specimens were dry-mounted and studied, including measurements and examination of the microsculpture, at a magnification of 56×. Type specimens of both new taxa, two other species of the genus *Leleuporella* (PT of *L. tuberculata* and non-type specimens of *L. mandibularis*) and finally, the type as well as non-type specimens of all species of the genus *Afrosyleter* (as was mentioned in Bulirsch & Magrini (2018)) were studied and measured. Length of body (including closed mandibles) is given with 0.05 mm accuracy; other measurements including ratios and means are down to two decimal places. All photographs of new species were prepared with a Nikon D1 digital camera mounted on a Nikon Labophot II binocular microscope equipped with lenses containing diaphragms. Label locality data of all specimens are quoted verbatim except standardized dates.

The following abbreviations are used to indicate the depository of specimens:

BMNH The Natural History Museum, London, United Kingdom;

NKME Naturkundemuseum, Erfurt, Germany;

PBPC private collection of Petr Bulirsch, Praha, Czech Republic.

Other abbreviations:

HT: Holotype; PT: Paratype; BSP: basal (prescutellar) setiferous puncture(s); SP: setiferous puncture(s); /, // by locality labels: end of line, label.

RESULTS

Genus *Leleuporella* Basilewsky, 1956

Type species: *Leleuporella caeca* Basilewsky, 1956, p. 426.

First species of the genus was described by Burgeon (1935) within the genus *Trilophus*, Andrewes, 1927. Basilewsky (1956) established the genus *Leleuporella* for this species and newly described *L. caeca*, both from Democratic Republic of Congo. None Afrotropical species has been described from that time, however, Balkenohl (1997), Abhitha & Sabu (2009) and Fedorenko (2012) described another three Oriental species.

Leleuporella gabonensis sp. nov.

(Figs. 1-2)

Type material. Holotype (♀): Gabon, 450 m / Ogooué, Ivindo, P.N. Ivindo- / Station de Reserche d'Ipassa / 0°30'43''N 12°48'12'' E // 14-26.vi.2016, Light Trap / Ruzzier, E., Tasane, T. leg. / Trip Ref.: GA001 (Anhrt19) / BMNH(E)2016-152 // NHMUK 013795012, (BMNH). Paratype (1 ♀): Gabon E, Ogooué-Ivindo Prov. / Makokou 5-9 km SW, Ivindo NP, Ipassa / forest research station, 0°30'52'' N / 12°48'21'' E, 24-25.vi.2016, 480- / 540 m, secondary lowland rainforest / White light trap, leg. D. Telnov, (PBPC).

Description. Habitus as in Fig. 1; length 3.10 mm in HT and PT. Body dark rusty ferruginous, legs slightly lighter; tarsi, mouthparts and antennae yellowish; surface shiny, mostly without microsculpture. Underside impunctate.

Head. Mandibles long and narrow; anterior margin of clypeus narrowly bordered, slightly convex, just emarginate at lateral wings, latter barely prominent, superficially separated from moderately convex supraantennal plates; latter with deep longitudinal pits. Clypeal field narrower backwards, with irregular, very shallow depression in middle; clypeal suture transverse, short, deep and wide. Frontal sulci very deep, nearly engraved, wider posteriorly and anteriorly, its bottom reticulated. Supraorbital setae two in number. Neck constriction uninterrupted, very broad, impunctate, anterior margin distinctly elevated, with blunt keel; latter almost rectangular connected with posterior keels running on inner border of frontal sulci almost to mid-eye level. Frons and vertex even and smooth; eyes of almost normal size, moderately convex and prominent, genae rather slightly developed, about as long as one fourth eye length. Antennae submoniliform, antennomeres 4-10 subglobose, slightly longer than wide.

Pronotum. In HT 1.10, in PT 1.08 times as long as wide, in HT 1.21, in PT 1.20 times as wide as head, slightly convexly narrowed basally, with very widely rounded posterior

angles; anterior margin regularly, very slightly convex at middle, front angles oblique and narrowly rounded. Anterior transverse impression rather deep, very wide, on each side with 3-5 very large and deep pits. Median line deep and moderately broad, slightly deeper and broader anteriorly, adjoining anterior transverse impression. Two pairs of large lateral SP situated close to but isolated from notopleural suture; latter conspicuous, almost straight, well visible from above due to epipleura strongly tumid in basal two thirds; lateral border obliterate before base. Constricted pronotal base (flange) divided from base by deep, roughly punctate furrow. Disc of pronotum on each side of median line with rather large and deep submedial pit. Epipleura shiny, without reticulation and wrinkles.

Elytra. In HT 1.78, in PT 1.73 times as long as wide, in HT 1.42, in PT 1.37 times as wide as pronotum, in HT 2.17, in PT 2.20 times as long as pronotum; truncate basally, very slightly convexly (nearly directly especially in HT) broadened in anterior two thirds, broadest at about two thirds from base; humeri narrowly rounded, rather distinctly protruding, without humeral denticle. No angle between lateral and basal borders, latter surpassing stria 4 inwardly. Elytral striae 1-5 coarsely punctate, almost subequally deep throughout, stria 6 disappeared below humeri; in PT as deep as inner ones, in HT slightly finer. Stria 1 almost reaching apex, adjoining inner border of large BSP situated in rather wide, rounded swell; 2-3 barely shallower very basally. Intervals convex, interval 4 in apical third about as wide as 3. Intervals 3 and 5 each with row of about 11-14 SP; setae moderately long, rather strongly erected, slightly curved inwards.

Thoracical wings. Fully developed.

Legs. Tarsomere 1 very long, almost as long as remaining tarsomeres. Protibia with slightly curved, rather long spine; distinctly longer, similarly curved apical spur and two lateral teeth: lower very long and sharp, upper small and sharp, bearing seta behind middle.

Aedeagus. Unknown.

Female stylomeres. As in Fig. 2.

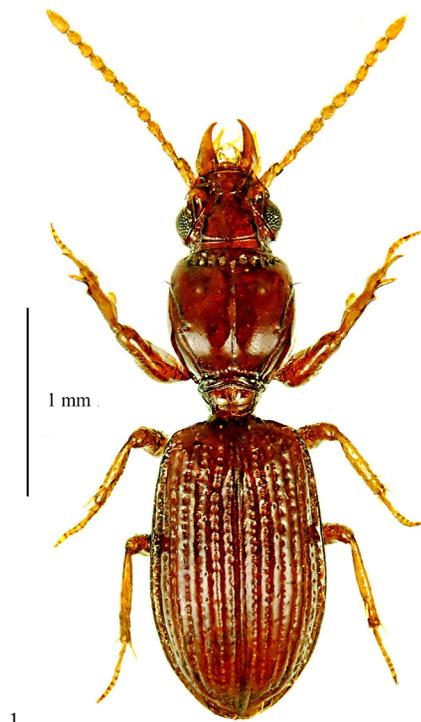
Male. Unknown.

Differential diagnosis. *L. gabonensis* sp. nov. is a characteristic member of the genus especially due to the shape and the structure of the head (including the mandibles) and the shape of the pronotum (including its peculiar lateral channel and border), and by the numerous and long SP in the elytral intervals 3 and 5.

It strongly differs from all to date known species of the genus by an unusual pair of pronotal submedial pits and by the pronotal setae in the intervals 3 and 5 being relatively shorter, less numerous and more erect.

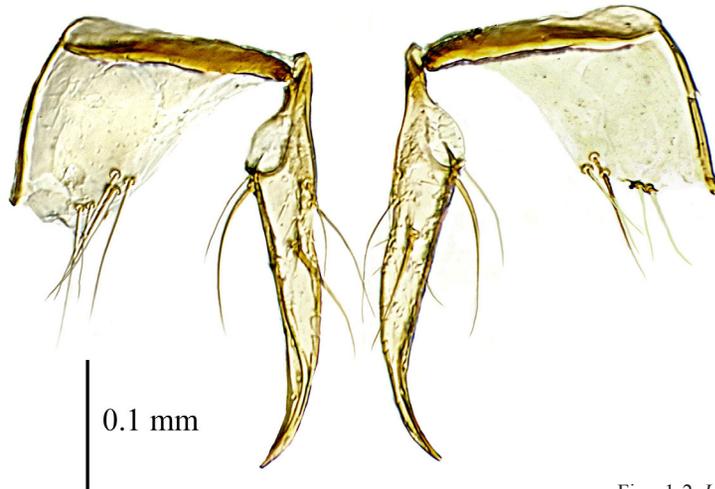
The new species could be differentiated from *L. mandibularis* (Burgeon, 1935) moreover by having the body much larger (in the latter species is the length about 2 mm only), by the head having smooth neck without any wrinkles and by the elytra being much broader (in *L. mandibularis* are the elytra about / over twice as long as broad). *L. caeca* (Basilewsky, 1956), differs especially by having completely missing eyes and tumid genae.

Also all three Oriental species clearly differs from *L. gabonensis* sp. nov.: *L. sexangulata* Balkenohl, 1997 (Sri Lanka) is smaller (its length about 2.6 mm) and has the



1

2



Figs. 1-2. *Leleuporella gabonensis* sp. nov. (PT): 1- habitus; 2- stylomeres.

head with the eyes slightly reduced, the genae more distinct, and the frons with six irregular carinae; *L. devagiriensis* Abhitha & Sabu, 2009 (S India: Kerala) is much smaller (length 2.3-2.4 mm), has narrower body and the pronotum with impunctate anterior transverse impression; and finally, *L. tuberculata* Fedorenko 2012 (Vietnam), could be easily differentiated by having the elytra very long, subparallel (over twice longer than broad) and the pronotum having impunctate anterior transverse impression.

Name derivation. Named according to the country, Gabon.

Distribution. *L. gabonensis* sp. nov. is described from two very nearby localities only but it is probably more widespread as it is winged and flying well.

Genus *Afrosyleter* Basilewsky, 1959

Type species: *Psilus congoensis* Burgeon, 1935, p. 135.

Bulirsch & Magrini (2018) revised this genus, described by Basilewsky (1959) who clearly differentiated it from the most similar genus *Syleter* Andrewes, 1941, represented in Africa only by a single species, *S. andrewesi* (Basilewsky, 1931). The genus *Afrosyleter* comprises nine species: *Afrosyleter congoensis* (Burgeon, 1935), *A. serrulatus* Basilewsky, 1959, *A. ituricus* Basilewsky, 1959; *A. leleupi* Basilewsky, 1959 and *A. reticulatus* Basilewsky, 1962 from Democratic Republic of Congo; *A. pauliani* Basilewsky, 1959 from Ivory Coast; *A. szeli* Bulirsch & Magrini, 2018 from Congo, *A. angolensis* Bulirsch & Magrini, 2018, from Angola and finally, *A. rosii* Bulirsch & Magrini, 2018, from Sierra Leone.

Afrosyleter telnovi sp. nov.

(Fig. 3)

Type material. Holotype (probably ♂, aedeagus not found!): Gabon E, Ogooué-Ivindo Prov. / Makokou 9 km SW, Ivindo NP, Ipassa / forest research station, 0°30'52'' N / 12°48'21'' E, 4 km W, 23.vi.2016, 480- / 540 m, primary lowland rainforest, leaf / litter, leg. D. Telnov, (NKME).

Description. Habitus as in Fig. 3, in accordance with genus description in Bulirsch & Magrini (2018). Body dark rusty ferruginous, middle and hind legs slightly lighter; tarsi, mouthparts and antennae yellowish brown; body length 2.85 mm, (n=1).

Head. Genae distinct, about as long as half of eyes length; eyes rather slightly reduced and moderately strongly flattened, barely longer than antennomeres 3. Clypeus below anterior margin very narrowly reticulated; rest of surface shiny, without reticulation, with irregular, very broad, laterally expended median fovea.

Pronotum. Laterally gently convex, surface moderately shiny, on disc with regular, moderately deep reticulation, medio-basally more shiny, with few fine transverse wrinkles, without reticulation; 1.05 times as long as wide, 1.41 times as wide as head. Outline subparallel, not convergent posteriorly, not concave at midlength and very slightly convex above very small and very obtuse tooth in posterior angles. Anterior angles blunt, almost not protruding anteriorly. Anterior transverse impression and median line deep, anterior impression moderately broad, median line very broad, both finely punctuate.

Elytra. Inverse-ovate, surface on disc shiny, without reticulation, base and apex finely, interval 6 below humeri barely reticulated; disc in lateral view flattened, not concave below humeri; 1.73 times as long as wide, 1.23 times as wide as pronotum, 2.04 times as long as pronotum; base moderately broad, slightly sloping to strongly protruding humeri with small and moderately sharp humeral tooth; outline with about 5-6 very long, blunt teeth below humeri, denticulation strongly weakened posteriorly, apically almost diminish. Outline slightly, convexly broadened from humeri to posterior third, apex broadly rounded, lateral channel broad and deep; before apex deepened and broadened, with moderately distinctly elevated, narrow and rather sharp keel along inner margin of lateral channel. Base with irregular, fine tubercles above small BSP and irregularly placed ones on prolongation of intervals 2-4. Striae

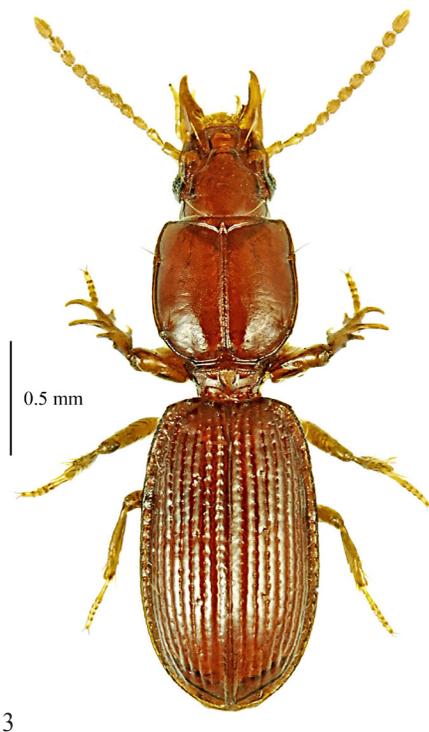


Fig. 3. *Afrosyleter telnovi* sp. nov.: habitus (HT).

1-7 deep and broad throughout, in basal half moderately roughly punctuate, apically punctures finer; stria 8 shortened basally, almost as deep as others; intervals convex throughout, 7-8 more vaulted apically and more narrowed basally, forming here short, narrowly rounded keels.

Protibiae. As in Fig. 3, typical of genus.

Aedeagus. Not found.

Differential diagnosis. *Afrosyleter telnovi* sp. nov. is characterized by the eyes being moderately reduced and the elytra rather broad, moderately broadened apically, having the outer intervals (except the interval 6) not reticulated, narrowly vaulted basally, not flattened on the apex, and having the outline finely dentate only in the basal third.

It can be differentiated from the most similar species, *A. szeli* Bulirsch & Magrini, 2018, by the pronotum and especially the extra being distinctly broader; the eyes barely larger; by the elytra having the outline less strongly dentate apically and finally, the interval 6 below the humeri is barely reticulated.

Name derivation. Patronymic, in honour of our friend Dmitry Telnov (Dzidriņas, Latvia), collector of the type specimen.

Distribution. *Afrosyleter telnovi* sp. nov. is described from a single locality in Gabon.

Afrosyleter rosii Bulirsch & Magrini, 2018

This species was recently described in a single female. Another two females, collected by the same collector on the same locality two years earlier, were recently identified.

New material examined: (2 ♀♀): Sierra Leone, Eastern / Pr.; Gola Rainforest N.P. / nr. Lalehun, 2.ii.2013 / W. Rossi leg., (PBPC).

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