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Two new *Mnioticus* COOMBS & WOODROFFE, 1962 (Coleoptera, Cryptophagidae) from Ethiopia

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A b s t r a c t : Two new species of *Mnioticus* COOMBS & WOODROFFE, 1962 from Ethiopia are described.

K e y w o r d s : Cryptophagidae, *Mnioticus*, Afrotropical Region, Ethiopia, new species.

Introduction

Among several Cryptophagidae from Ethiopia, mainly deposited in the Naturkundemuseum Erfurt (Germany), two species of *Mnioticus* COOMBS & WOODROFFE, 1962 were found, which do not fit with the three species known from Ethiopia to date. The genus *Mnioticus* was revised by ESSER (2019) recently.

Material and methods

The material examined is deposited in the following collections:

NME .....Naturkundemuseum Erfurt, Germany

RMCA .....Royal Museum for Central Africa, Tervuren, Belgium

cES.....author´s private collection, Berlin, Germany

The morphological studies were conducted using a Euromex DZ 1605 and Euromex BB.1153.PLI. Photographs were created with a ToupCam 16MP (ToupTek).

Body length was measured from the head to the apex of the elytra, length of pronotum in the middle, broadness on the broadest part.

Description of new species

Mnioticus baleanus nov.sp. (figs 1, 7)

T y p e m a t e r i a l : Holotypus ♂: "Ethiopia, Oromia, Bale Mts., Wasama Vall., N.-slope, 3900-4150 m, 14./15.II.2019, 06°55'N, 39°46'E / leg. J. Schmidt, R. Emmerich, M. Yeshitla" [MNE]. Paratypes: 10♂♂, 12♀♀ with the same data as the holotype [NME, cES]; 1♂ "Bale Prov.: 20 km S Dinshu, 3800 m, 22.XII.1971 / Coll. Mus. Tervuren, Ethiopie, R.O.S. Clarke" [RMCA].

E t y m o l o g y : Named after the Bale Mountains in Ethiopia, where the type series was collected.

D e s c r i p t i o n : Male, 2.3 mm, reddish-brown with a dark spot on each elytron. Membranous wings absent, legs and antennae slender. Shiny, surface with punctuation moderately strong and sparse on pronotum and on elytra, interspaces wider than diameter or somewhat wider. Covered with uniform pale pubescence, hairs slightly erected on elytra. Pronotum with a few long hairs projecting the side margin partly.

Head without any features and eyes medium-sized. Punctuation on head stronger and denser as on pronotum.

Pronotum indistinctly transverse (1.2 x broader than long). Punctuation moderately strong and sparse. Side margin rounded, concave before the posterior angles, posterior angles acute, anterior angles obtuse, margin smooth. Basal margin rimmed between the fovea, slightly rounded apically.

Elytra elongated, slightly rounded, humeral calli indistinct. Pubescence coarse, somewhat outstanding. Punctuation indistinctly stronger and denser (basal third) as on pronotum.

Antennae moderately slender, 11-segmented icluding a 3-segmented club. Segment 1 and 2 short, fusiform, segment 3 longer and pear-shaped, smaller as 1 and 2. Segments 4 to 7 somewhat longer than broad, segment 8 nearly spherical. Segment 9 and 10 moderately transverse, 11 long as broad and asymmetrical.

Legs slender, anterior tarsomeres 1 to 4 slightly widened (not in female). Tarsal formula 5-5-4 (in female 5-5-5). Parameres shown in fig. 7.

C o m m e n t : Similar to *Mnioticus choquanus* nov.sp. (figs 2, 8), but distinguishable by its longer and more outstanding pubescence and finer punctuation. *M. rougemonti* ESSER, 2014 (figs 3, 6) is also similar and shares the finer punctuation but lacking the longer and outstanding pubescence. Also separated by the shape of parameres (figs 6, 7, 8). Further resembling species are *M. rhynchopetali* (SCOTT, 1936) (fig. 4) or *M. gugheanus* ESSER, 2019 (fig. 5).

D i s t r i b u t i o n : Currently known only from Wasama Valley (Bale Mountains, Oromia, Ethiopia).

Mnioticus choqanus nov.sp. (figs 2, 8)

T y p e m a t e r i a l : Holotypus ♂: "Ethiopia, W-slope Mt. Choke, 3450 m, 22.II.2019, 10°38'09"N, 37°46'06"E, leg. D. Hauth, J. Schmidt, M. Yeshitla, Yitbarek WW" [MNE]. Paratypes: 5♀♀ with the same data as the holotype [NME, cES]; 4♂♂, 2♀♀ "Ethiopia, Amhara, W-slope Mt. Choke, 23.II.2019, 3370 m, 10°36'07"N, 37°45'51"E, leg. D. Hauth, J. Schmidt, M. Yeshitla, Yibarek WW" [NME, cES]; 1♂ "Ethiopia, Amhara, Mt. Choke crater valley, 10°41'14"N, 37°50'07"E, 24.II.2019, 3700-3800 m, leg. D. Hauth, J. Schmidt, M. Yeshitla, Yibarek" [NME]; 1♀ "Ethiopia, Amhara, N-slope Mt. Choke, 10°43'16"N, 37°51'15"E, 3800-3650 m, 26.II.2019, leg. D. Hauth, J. Schmidt, M. Yeshitla, Yitbarek WW" [MNE].

E t y m o l o g y : Named after the Mt. Choqa in Ethiopia, where the type series was collected.

D e s c r i p t i o n : Male, 2.1 mm, reddish-brown with a dark spot on each elytron. Membranous wings absent, legs and antennae slender. Shiny, surface with punctuation strong and dense on pronotum and on elytra, interspaces smaller than diameter. Covered with uniform pale pubescence, hairs decumbent on elytra. Pronotum with a few long hairs projecting the side margin partly.

Head without any features and eyes medium-sized. Punctuation on head strong and dense (as on pronotum).

Pronotum moderately transverse (1.4 x broader than long). Punctuation strong and dense. Side margin strongly rounded, concave before the posterior angles, posterior angles rectungalur, anterior angles obtuse, margin smooth. Basal margin rimmed between the fovea, slightly rounded apically.

Elytra elongated, slightly rounded, humeral calli indistinct. Pubescence short and decumbent. Punctuation indistinctly sparser and finer (basal third) as on pronotum.

Antennae moderately slender, 11-segmented including a 3-segmented club. Segment 1 short, nearly spherical, segment 2 fusiform, segment 3 longer and pear-shaped, smaller as 1 and 2. Segments 4 to 7 somewhat longer than broad, segment 8 nearly spherical. Segment 9 and 10 moderately transverse, 11 long as broad and asymmetrical.

Legs slender, anterior tarsomeres 1 to 4 slightly widened (not in female). Tarsal formula 5-5-4 (in female 5-5-5). Parameres shown in fig. 8.

C o m m e n t : Similar to *Mnioticus baleanus* nov.sp. (figs 1, 7), but distinguishable by its short and decumbent pubescence and stronger punctuation. *M. rougemonti* ESSER, 2014 (fig. 3, 6) shares the short and decumbent pubescence but is separated by finer punctuation. Also separated by the shape of parameres (figs 6, 7, 8). Further resembling species are *M. rhynchopetali* (SCOTT, 1936) (fig. 4) or *M. gugheanus* ESSER, 2019 (fig. 5).

D i s t r i b u t i o n : Currently known only from Mount Choqa (Amhara, Ethiopia).

Acknowledgement

I´m grateful to Matthias Hartmann (Erfurt) and Stephané Hanot (Tervuren) for loaning or donating specimens.

Zusammenfassung

Zwei neue Arten der Gattung *Mnioticus* COOMBS & WOODROFFE, 1962 aus Äthiopien werden beschrieben.

References

ESSER J. (2019): Revision of *Mnioticus* COOMBS & WOODROFFE, 1962 (Coleoptera: Cryptophagidae). — Linzer biologische Beiträge **51** (2): 915-928.

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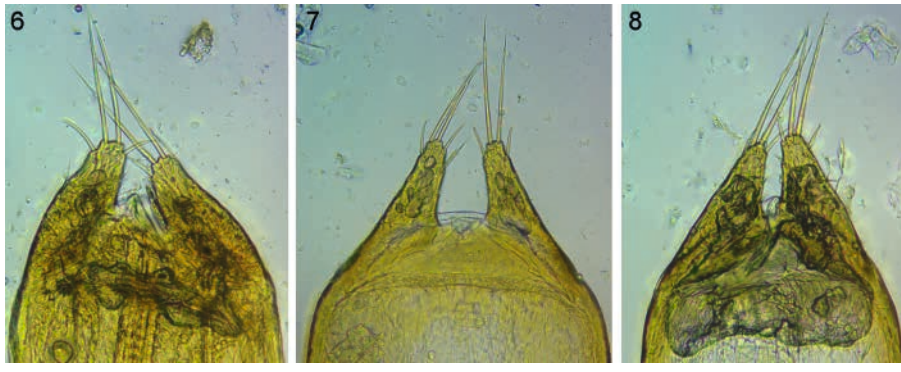
Figs 1-2: Habitus of *Mnioticus* sp. (**1**) *M. baleanus* nov.sp., holotype; (**2**) *M. choqanus* nov.sp., holotype.







Figs 3-5: Habitus of *Mnioticus* sp. (**3**) *M. rougemonti* ESSER, 2014; (**4**) *M. rhynchopetali* (SCOTT, 1936); (**5**) *M. gugheanus* ESSER, 2019.



Figs 6-8: Parameres of *Mnioticus* sp. (**6**) *M. rougemonti* ESSER, 2014; (**7**) *M. baleanus* nov.sp.; (**8**) *M. choqanus* nov.sp.

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