

**Systematic, taxonomic and faunistic notes
about some African Cerambycids belonging to
the National Museum of Natural History of Luxembourg
(Coleoptera, Cerambycidae)**

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Summary. Several taxonomic corrections are provided according to different articles of the ICBN. In particular, *Leuconitocris* Breuning, 1950 **n. status** is elevated at generic range for *Dirphya* Pascoe, 1858 and *Nitocris* Thomson, 1858, while *Nitakeris* Téocchi et al., 2010 **n. status** is retrograded as its subgenus. The following names are restored : *Xystrocera frontalis* Thomson, 1858 **rest. status** = *X. fulvipes* Thomson, 1858 **n. syn.**, *Aderpas congolensis congolensis* Hintz, 1913 **rest. status** = *A. quadricostatus congolensis* Hintz, 1913 **n. syn.**, *Aderpas congolensis quadricostatus* Hintz, 1913 **rest. status** = *A. quadricostatus quadricostatus* Hintz, 1913 **n. syn.**. The following synonymies are recognised : *Coptops aedificator* (Fabricius, 1792) = *Phymasterna inhambanensis* Bertoloni, 1876 **n. syn.**; *Hammaticherus serraticornis* Bertoloni, 1855 = *Prophilus vansonii* Ferreira & Veiga Ferreira, 1953 **n. syn.**. *Prophilus serraticornis* (Bertoloni, 1855) **n. comb.** is introduced. *Acrocera albofasciata* Hintz, 1911 is recognised as a simple chromatic form of *A. conjux* Thomson, 1858. *Macrohammus deyrollei* (Thomson, 1879) is recorded for the first time for the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Résumé. Des corrections taxonomiques sont apportées en conformité avec différents articles du CIZN. En particulier, *Leuconitocris* Breuning, 1950 **n. status** est élevé au rang de genre en substitution de *Dirphya* Pascoe, 1858 et *Nitocris* Thomson, 1858, tandis que *Nitakeris* Téocchi et al., 2010 **n. status** est rétrogradé au niveau de sous-genre. Les noms suivants sont validés : *Xystrocera frontalis* Thomson, 1858 **rest. status** = *X. fulvipes* Thomson, 1858 **n. syn.**, *Aderpas congolensis congolensis* Hintz, 1913 **rest. status** = *A. quadricostatus congolensis* Hintz, 1913 **n. syn.**, *Aderpas congolensis quadricostatus* Hintz, 1913 **rest. status** = *A. quadricostatus quadricostatus* Hintz, 1913 **n. syn.**. Les synonymies suivantes sont reconnues : *Coptops aedificator* (Fabricius, 1792) = *Phymasterna inhambanensis* Bertoloni, 1876 **n. syn.**; *Hammaticherus serraticornis* Bertoloni, 1855 = *Prophilus vansonii* Ferreira & Veiga Ferreira, 1953 **n. syn.**. *Prophilus serraticornis* (Bertoloni, 1855) **n. comb.** est introduit. *Acrocera albofasciata* Hintz, 1911 est reconnue comme une simple forme chromatique de *A. conjux* Thomson, 1858. *Macrohammus deyrollei* (Thomson, 1879) est cité pour la première fois pour la République Démocratique du Congo.

Keywords : Coleoptera, Cerambycidae, systematics, taxonomy, faunistics, National Museum of Natural History of Luxembourg.

Introduction

In September 2008 the curator of the zoological collection of National Museum of Natural History of Luxembourg (called hereafter MNHNL) Jean-

Michel GUINET gave me the task to review the whole collection of the Cerambycoidea. The goal of such revision consists in the compilation of an article treating the collection, including a complete list of the preserved species ; nonetheless, several necessary preliminary taxonomic and systematic changes, besides some faunistic notes, are introduced here in order to simplify the writing of the final report.

The present paper regards the collection of the African Cerambycids, most of which were collected by the Luxembourgian E. LUJA in Zambèze (Mozambique) and Congo belge (Democratic Republic of the Congo), and identified by the German specialist E. HINTZ.

Results

Lygrus ruber (Thomson, 1858) emended

= *Corethrogaster ruber* Thomson, 1858 orig. comb.

= *Lygrus rubrus* (Thomson) MARTINS, 1980b misspelling

Congo belge, Kondué, E. Luja [lgt.], E. Luja don. 1907, *Alloeme rubra* Thoms. det. E. Hintz, 2♂♂2♀♀.

Remark : According to the Latin grammar and the original combination as well, the correct name of this species is *ruber*.

Xystrocera frontalis Thomson, 1858 restored status

= *Xystrocera fulvipes* Thomson, 1858 new synonymy

= *Xystrocera trivittata* Quedenfeldt, 1888

Congo belge, Kondué, E. Luja [lgt.], E. Luja don. 1907, *Xystrocera trivittata* Qued. det. E. Hintz, 6♂♂ ; ditto, coll. A. Kuntgen, *Xystrocera trivitiata* [sic!] Qued. [det. A. Kuntgen], 7♂♂.

Remarks. In his revision of the genus *Xystrocera*, BREUNING (1957) synonymised *X. trivittata* and *X. fulvipes* with *X. frontalis*. Later, MARTINS (1980a) substituted *X. frontalis* with *X. fulvipes* claiming that the latter name had the priority on the former one.

Actually, both species were described on the same page of the same paper ; therefore, the choice of the first reviser must be deemed as correct according to the ICZN, Art. 24.2.

Neoplocaederus spinicornis (Fabricius, 1781)

= *Cerambyx denticornis* (Fabricius) Olivier, 1795 unjustified emendation

Congo belge, Kondué, E. Luja [lgt.], E. Luja don. 1907, *Plocaederus denticornis* F. det. E. Hintz 1916, 4♂♂2♀♀ ; [Tanzania,] Tanga, E. Hintz don. 1909, *Plocaederus denticornis* F. det. E. Hintz 1916, 1♂1♀ ; Fernando

Poo, St. Isabel, 1.VI.1900, L[eg]. Conradt S., E. Hintz don. 1909, *Plocaederus* sp. [det. V. Ferrant], 1♂1♀.

Remarks. This species has been mentioned as "*Plocaederus denticornis*" until recent times too, though GAHAN (1890) had already clarified this topic : *denticornis* is only the specific epithet with which OLIVIER unnecessarily emended FABRICIUS' name.

Moreover, GAHAN noticed that OLIVIER published a picture of *Prophilus serricornis* (Dalman, 1817) in order to show *P. denticornis*, a fact that led some subsequent authors (AURIVILLIUS, 1912 ; VEIGA FERREIRA, 1964) to record both species as valid and to misidentify further ones.

Actually, *Hammaticherus serraticornis* Bertoloni, 1855, which the last author mentioned as synonym of *P. denticornis*, is instead a senior synonym of *Prophilus vansonii* Ferreira & Veiga Ferreira, 1953. The types, coming from Inhambane (Mozambique) and having spined elytral apices (typical characters of *P. vansonii*, according to ADLBAUER, 1995), were figured by TOMMASINI & MARINI (1988). Hence, the taxonomy of such species becomes :

Prophilus serraticornis (Bertoloni, 1855) new combination
= *Prophilus vansonii* Ferreira & Veiga Ferreira, 1953 new synonymy

Acmocera conjux var. *albofasciata* Hintz, 1911 new status (Pl. I, Figs 1-2)

Congo belge, Kondué, E. Luja [lgt.], E. Luja don. 1907, *Acmocera albofasciata* m. det. E. Hintz, Paratypes, 6♂♂ ; ditto, coll. A. Kuntgen, *Acmocera albofasciata* Hintz, Paratypes, 7♂♂.

Remarks. BREUNING & TEOCCHI (1979) considered *A. albofasciata* as a subspecies of *A. conjux* Thomson, 1858, but the real value of this form does not seem exact.

Actually, both forms have been contemporaneously found in Kondué, but while all *albofasciata* are males (Fig 1), all *conjux* are females (Fig. 2). The specimen coming from Ituri that HINTZ (1911) figured as type is another male, as well as all specimens preserved at the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences of Brussels.

Except for the colour, *albofasciata* is morphologically identical to *conjux* ; hence, *albofasciata* apparently is only a chromatic form related to the male. The typical *conjux* is widespread in all tropical Africa, except for the southern and oriental part ; therefore, *albofasciata* seems to be only a male variety localised in an enclave of the Republic Democratic of the Congo and Gabon. The females being completely indistinguishable from the typical form, the status of subspecies can not be conserved.

***Acridoschema ligatum* Quedenfeldt, 1882 emended**

= *Acridoschema ligata* Quedenfeldt, 1882 misspelling

Congo belge, Kondué, E. Luja [lgt.] 1904, *Acridoschema ligatum* Qued. det. E. Hintz, 1♂ 6♀♀ ; ditto, coll. A. Kuntgen, *Acridoschema ligata* Qued. [det. A. Kuntgen], 4♂♂ 3♀♀.

Remarks. This species was originally described as *ligata* and, though BREUNING (1956) emended it as *ligatum*, subsequent authors (BREUNING & TEOCCHI, 1979 ; TEOCCHI, 1985) reintroduced *ligata* claiming that *Acridoschema* has feminine gender. Actually, “*schemata*” (= shape) is a neuter Old-Greek word transliterated into Latin without other changes ; hence, *Acridoschema* is neuter as well according to the ICZN, Art. 30.1.2. Consequently, the two subspecies afterwards described must be emended as follows:

Acridoschema ligatum ivorense Téocchi, 1998 emended

= *Acridoschema ligata ivorensis* Téocchi, 1998 misspelling

Acridoschema ligatum tanzanicolum Teocchi, 1989 emended

= *Acridoschema ligata tanzanicola* Téocchi, 1989 misspelling

Accordingly, *Acridoschema capricornis* Thomson, 1858, *A. thomensis* Jordan, 1903 and *A. flavolineata* Breuning, 1970 as well must be **emended** as *Acridoschema capricorne* Thomson, 1858, *A. thomense* Jordan, 1903 and *A. flavolineatum* Breuning, 1970.

***Leuconitocris (Nitakeris) gigantea* Nonfried, 1892 new combination**

Zambèze [= Mozambique], 1901, [E. Luja lgt.,] E. Luja don. 1908, *Nitocris gigantea* Nonfr. det. E. Hintz, 1♂ ; [South Africa] Natal, P. Hastert don. 1911, 1♂ ; Nyassaland, [= Malawi], Mlanje, 20.I.1914 ; ditto, 16.II.1914, S. A. Neave [lgt.], B[ritish] M[museum] 1914-416, G. J. Arrow don. 1930, *Dirphya similis* Gah., 1♂ 1♀.

Remark. TEOCCHI et al. (2010) introduced the new name *Nitakeris* for *Dirphya*, which was preoccupied. Nonetheless, this genus included two contemporaneous valid subgenera (*Cicatronitocris* Breuning, 1950 and *Leuconitocris* Breuning, 1950), one of which must be used as generic name according to the ICZN, Art. 23.3.5.

Accordingly, I arbitrarily elevate *Leuconitocris* to generic level for *Dirphya*. *Nitakeris* must be considered as the subgenus of *Leuconitocris* including the species previously belonging to *Dirphya*. Consequently, the new taxonomy of this genus (causing ~100 new combinations) becomes:

Genus *Leuconitocris* Breuning, 1950 **new status**

- Subgenus *Leuconitocris* Breuning, 1950

- Subgenus *Cicatronitocris* Breuning, 1950
- Subgenus *Nitakeris* Téocchi *et alii*, 2010 **new status**
- = *Dirphya* Pascoe, 1858 nec Hübner, 1826
- = *Nitocris* Thomson, 1858 nec Rafinesque, 1815

Aderpas congolensis Hintz, 1913 restored status

Congo belge, Kondué, E. Luja [lgt.] E. Luja don. 1904, *Aderpas congolensis* m. det. E. Hintz, Holotype, 1♂; Congo belge, Sankuru, 1901, E. Luja [lgt.], E. Luja don. 1904, 1♀.

Remarks. BREUNING & TEOCCHI (1977) considered *Aderpas quadricostatus* Hintz, 1913 as subspecies of *A. congolensis* Hintz, 1913. Later, TEOCCHI *et alii* (2004) inverted this taxonomy, relying on the fact that *congolensis* followed *quadricostatus* in the original description. Actually, both species were described in the same page of the same paper; hence, the choice of the first reviser must be deemed as correct according to the ICZN, Art. 24.2.

Consequently, the correct taxonomy must be restored as follows:

Aderpas congolensis Hintz, 1913

Aderpas congolensis congolensis Hintz, 1913 **restored status**

= *Aderpas quadricostatus congolensis* Hintz, 1913 **new synonymy**

Aderpas congolensis quadricostatus Hintz, 1913 **restored status**

= *Aderpas quadricostatus quadricostatus* Hintz, 1913 **new synonymy**

Pycnopsis brachyptera brachyptera Thomson, 1860

= *Pycnopsis brachypteroides* Hintz, 1910

= *Pycnopsis* var. *albovestita* Hintz, 1910 **invalid name**

= *Pycnopsis brachyptera* var. *albovestita* Aurivillius, 1921 **nomen nudum**

= *Pycnopsis brachypteroides* var. *albovestita* Breuning, 1937

D. O. Afr., Lukuledi, *Pycnopsis brachypteroides* m. det. E. Hintz [1910], Cotypes, E. Hintz don. 1912, 1♂1♀; D. Ost Afrika, Lindi, [19]03, E. Hintz don. 1912, *Pycnopsis brachypteroides* det. E. Hintz 1916, 1♂1♀.

Remark. HINTZ (1910) described *brachypteroides* as a true species, but BREUNING (1937) considered it as no variety of the typical *brachyptera* either. In the same paper HINTZ described the var. *albovestita*, which AURIVILLIUS (1921) arbitrary attributed to *P. brachyptera* and BREUNING (1937) to *P. brachypteroides*. Actually, the original description quotes "*Pycnopsis* var. *albovestita* n. var." and nothing in the text, including the typical locality, clarifies to which species this variety belongs. Hence, this name is invalid since it does not respect the binomial nomenclature (ICZN, Art. 5). Though it has no longer taxonomic value today (ICZN, Art. 1.3.4),

the variety *albovestita* must be attributed to BREUNING, who firstly provided its regular description.

Homelix (s. str.) variegata Jordan, 1894 restored name

= *Homelix (s. str.) variegatus* (Jordan) AURIVILLIUS, 1921 **unjustified emendation**

Congo belge, Kondué, E. Luja [lgt.], E. Luja don. 1907, *Homelix cibratipennis* Thoms. det. E. Hintz 1♀.

Homelix (s. str.) liturata Quedenfeldt, 1882 restored name

= *Homelix (s. str.) lituratus* (Quedenfeldt) AURIVILLIUS, 1921 **unjustified emendation**

Congo belge, Kondué, E. Luja [lgt.], E. Luja don. 1911, *Homelix liturata* Qued. det. E. Hintz, 1♂; Congo belge, Stanleyfalls, R. P. H. Kohl [lgt.], R.P.H. Kohl don. 1913, *Homelix liturata* Qued. det. E. Hintz, 1♀.

Remarks. THOMSON (1858) introduced *Homelix* as a noun of feminine gender and subsequent authors (QUEDENFELDT, 1882 ; JORDAN, 1894) also considered it as feminine, except for AURIVILLIUS (1914), who, though he described a new species as feminine in 1916, later emended all previous names as masculine in 1921.

However, the Old-Greek word *Homelix* (= coeval) has both masculine and feminine gender ; hence, the gender must be considered as feminine according to the ICBN, Art. 30.2.3. Consequently, *H. arcuatus* (Chevrolat, 1855), *H. decussatus* (Chevrolat, 1856), *H. annuligerus* Aurivillius, 1914, *H. vittatus* Aurivillius, 1914, and *H. cruciatus* Breuning, 1937 as well must be **emended** as *H. arcuata* (Chevrolat, 1855), *H. decussata* (Chevrolat, 1856), *H. annuligera* Aurivillius, 1914, *H. vittata* Aurivillius, 1914, and *H. cruciata* Breuning, 1937.

***Nyctopais jordani Aurivillius, 1913* (Pl. I, Figs 3-4)**

Congo belge, Kondué, E. Luja [lgt.], E. Luja don. 1911, *Poimenesperus* pr. *phrynetoides* Jord., 1♂ ; Ituri, Congo belge, 1♀.

Remarks. The female from Ituri (Fig. 4), all grey except for an only postmedian transversal black band, perfectly corresponds to *Nyctopais macularis* Aurivillius, 1914.

BREUNING (1934) synonymised this species with *N. jordani*, asserting that it is about an “insignificant aberration with a larger praemedian [black] band”. He even claimed to have compared the types ; nonetheless, AURIVILLIUS (1914) selected such name just because its elytral pattern (“*pone medio fascia lata transversa*”) looked “*mirabili modo simillimus*” to *Phrynetia macularis* Harold!

Ignoring AURIVILLIUS' paper, TEOCCHI (1988) described again the same variety as the "morph *balteata*" ; actually, an infrasubspecific name according to the ICZN, Art. 45.6.2 and consequently, invalid according to the ICZN, Art. 1.3.4.

The male from Kondué (Fig. 3) has the same pattern of *N. burgeoni* Breuning, 1934, which the author separated from *N. jordani* through the brown (rather than black) scape and the cheeks scarcely shorter (rather than longer) than under eye-lobes. Actually, *N. burgeoni* has an intermediate pattern between the typical *jordani* and the melanistic form *jordani* var. *nigriscens* Breuning, 1943, while the cheeks of the female of *N. jordani* are evidently longer than those of the male. Hence, *N. burgeoni* might be another variety of *N. jordani*.

***Coptops aedificator* (Fabricius, 1792)**

= *Phymasterna inhambanensis* Bertoloni, 1876 new synonymy

Congo belge, Kondué, E. Luja [lgt.], E. Luja don. 1907, *Coptops aedificator* F. det. E. Hintz, 6♂♂6♀♀ ; ditto, coll. A. Kuntgen, *Coptops aedificator* F. det. E. Hintz, 4♂♂8♀♀ ; Congo belge, Ituri, 1♂2♀♀.

Remark : Among the many synonyms of this species, it is necessary to add *Phymasterna inhambanensis* Bertoloni, 1876, whose types are preserved in the collection of Zoological Museum of the University of Bologna (TOMMASINI & MARINI, 1988).

***Monochamus (Ethiopiochamus) irrorator cineraceus* (Jordan, 1894)**

restored name

= *Monochamus cinerascens* (Jordan) PLAVILSTSHIKOV, 1927 misspelling

= *Monochamus aethiopicus* PLAVILSTSHIKOV, 1927 unjustified emendation

= *Monohammus cinerascens* (Jordan) BREUNING, 1944 misspelling

= *Ethiopiochamus irrorator cinerascens* (Jordan) DILLON & DILLON, 1961 misspelling

Congo belge, Kondué, E. Luja [lgt.], E. Luja don. 1907, *Monohammus cineraceus* Jord. det. E. Hintz, *Monochamus cineraceus* Jord. [det. V. Ferrant], 2♂♂2♀♀.

Remark. JORDAN (1894) described this species as "*Monohammus cineraceus*", which AURIVILLIUS (1921) correctly mentioned. Nevertheless, subsequent authors (PLAVILSTSHIKOV, 1927 ; BREUNING, 1944 ; DILLON & DILLON, 1961) misspelled it as "*cinerascens*". PLAVILSTSHIKOV, considering it as a younger synonym of *M. galloprovincialis cinerascens* Motschulsky,

PLANCHE I



1

2

3

4

10 mm



5

1860, even proposed the new name *M. aethiopicus*. Actually, the original spelling is perfectly valid and must be restored.

***Macrohammus deyrollei* (Thomson, 1879) new record (Pl. I, Fig. 5)**

Congo belge, Kondué, E. Luja [lgt.], E. Luja don. 1911, *Macrohammus Deyrollei* Thoms. det. E. Hintz, 1♂.

Remark. After having examined numerous materials present in several European Museums and private collections, ADLBAUER (2003) concluded that this species was present in Cameroon, Central African Republic, Gabon and Congo-Brazzaville but not in Congo-Kinshasa. Nonetheless, the specimen preserved in the MNHN proves that *Macrohammus deyrollei* is or was present in this state as well.

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PLANCHE \ PLATE I. Fig. 1 : *Acmocera conjux* var. *albofasciata* Hintz, 1911 ♂, paratype. Fig. 2 : *Acmocera conjux* Thomson, 1858 forma typica ♀. Fig. 3 : *Nyctopais jordani* Aurivillius, 1913 ♂. Fig. 4 : ditto, var. *macularis* Aurivillius, 1914 ♀. Fig. 5 : *Macrohammus deyrollei* (Thomson, 1879) ♂.