

## New Curculionidae (Col.) from Tropical Africa

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An interesting collection of African weevils kindly submitted to me for determination by Mr. P. BASILEWSKY, of the Belgian Congo Museum, proved to contain a number of new species, of which nine are described below.

### Subfamily BRACHYDERINAE

#### *Tanymecus furcatus*, sp. n.

♂♀. Derm black, with mostly dark grey scales above; rostrum and head with a pale stripe below the eye which continues backwards to the base of the prothorax; pronotum with an indefinite paler median stripe; elytra with intervals 3, 5, 7 more or less marked with brown, especially towards the apex, 5 having sometimes a complete brown stripe, the lateral margins beyond stria 7 with an ill-defined pale stripe, which is creamy or yellowish in the Rhodesian specimens and bluish in those from Katanga.

*Head* with the fine shallow punctures longitudinally confluent and not concealed by the fine setiform scales; frons at its narrowest a little narrower than the base of the rostrum and with a small median fovea; the rather large longitudinal elliptical eyes moderately convex. *Rostrum* about as long as the head, slightly narrowed from the base to the antennae; dorsum substriolate, with a strong median carina, which sometimes ascends the frons. *Antennae* with the scape reaching the hind margin of the eye; funicle with the two basal joints equal or 1 very slightly longer, 3-7 subequal. *Prothorax* as long as broad, gently rounded laterally, widest at about the middle, the truncate apex about as wide as the gently arcuate base, the apical margin somewhat oblique in lateral view; dorsum with fine confluent punctation

throughout. *Scutellum* distinct, with dense pale scales. *Elytra* shallowly bisinuate at the base, parallel from the broadly rounded shoulders to beyond the middle, gradually narrowing behind and shortly but sharply bifurcate at the apex; the shallow striae with distinct separated punctures, the broad flat intervals finely shagreened, with fairly dense, very short narrow scales, the lateral margins without long setae. *Legs* with uniform narrow grey scales; the anterior femora of ♂ without a fringe of setae beneath; the hind tarsi with joint 1 as long as 2 + 3, and 2 longer than 3.

*Length* 9-11 mm., breadth 2.5-3.5 mm.

NYASALAND: Mombera district, 4,000 ft., 1♂, VI, 1910.

(S. A. NEAVE). N. W. RHODESIA: Lukanga, 2♂, 3♀, III, 1915 (H. C. DOLLMAN-type); Kashitu, North of Broken Hill; 1♂, XI, 1915 (H. C. D.). BELGIAN CONGO: Katanga Province, Kundelungu, 1750 m., 3 ♀, on the bank of a pool in grass savannah, II, 1950 (N. LELEUP).

*Type* in the British Museum, cotypes in the Congo Museum.

Belongs to the typical *palliatus* group, and may be distinguished from all the known African members of that group by its bifurcate elytra.

#### *Protostrophus katangae*, sp. n.

♂♀. Derm black, with dense brown scaling and some rather indefinite paler markings; rostrum paler in the middle and at the apex; head with whitish scales along the anterior sulcus and a white spot behind the eyes; prothorax with a broad paler lateral stripe, a similar brown stripe immediately below it (behind the eye), and the remainder of the propleurae grey; elytra with an ill-defined paler stripe along the suture and another on intervals 7 and 8 (continuing the pale lateral stripe on the pronotum), and variable pale spots elsewhere.

*Head* separated from the rostrum by a transverse sulcus, which is mostly covered by scales; frons transversely convex, with a short median stria, the rugulose punctures hidden by scales; eyes moderately convex, highest behind the middle, produced backwards for about one-third of their length, the orbit not projecting on the hind margin. *Rostrum* much shorter than its basal with (3:5), much narrowed from base to apex with the sides shallowly sinuate; dorsum sloping downwards in the basal

angles, shallowly depressed in the middle, with a fine median carina. *Antennae* red-brown; funicle with joint 1 as long as 2 + 3, 3 as long as broad, 4-7 transverse and widening distally. *Prothorax* transverse (3:4), moderately rounded laterally, widest slightly behind the middle, not constricted at the base or apex, which latter is gently arcuate and as wide as the truncate base; dorsum strongly convex transversely and flat longitudinally, with a small oval flattened area in the middle of the disk containing a short flattened carina, the surface appearing smooth on the disk with squamose granules in the pale lateral stripe. *Elytra* rather broadly ovate, widest at about the middle, jointly sinuate at the base, with the basal angles projecting shortly and obtusely forwards, so as to embrace the base of the prothorax; the impressed striae with distinct separated punctures showing through the scaling, the broad intervals somewhat convex, but 7-9 becoming almost subcostate; the dense small round scales partly overlapping, the very short scale-like setae recumbent. *Legs* red-brown, with dense brown and grey scales; the front tibiae with very short close apical spines, the hind pair with the corbels bare.

*Length* 4,5-5,5 mm., *breadth* 2,0-2,5 mm.

BELGIAN CONGO: Katanga Prov., Kundelungu, 1750 m., 3♂, 1♀, in grass savannah, II, 1950 (N. LELEUP).

*Type* in the Congo Museum.

The nearest ally is *P. sebakuanus* MSHL., from Southern Rhodesia, which is an entirely grey species with a much longer rostrum that is quite flat dorsally and separated from the head by a curved sulcus; the median sulcus on the frons is much longer, ascending to the vertex; and the prothorax has a small lateral angle in front of a basal constriction.

#### Subfamily OTIORRHYNCHINAE

##### *Liosystates leleupi*, sp. n.

♂♀. Derm of type piceous brown, with the antennae and legs testaceous; elytra with a broad common V-shaped testaceous band at the top of the declivity, which is fairly well defined on its anterior margin but extends indefinitely behind on to the declivity. In the remaining four examples (possibly immature) the whole body is testaceous, except for a very broad indefinite V-shaped piceous band adjoining the anterior margin of the poste-

rior pale band, and the small depressed tubercles on the pale basal part are often blackish.

*Head* smooth, bare and impunctate, except the frons, which is very faintly punctate, with sparse short recumbent white setae and a short deep median sulcus. *Rostrum* a little longer than its width at the genae, gradually narrowing from the base to the antennae and widening rapidly at the genae; the dorsal area smooth, bare and impunctate, broadest at the base and narrowing to the antennae, sometimes with a slightly raised median line, the apical declivity a little steeper than usual and quite smooth. *Prothorax* a little broader than long, gently rounded laterally, widest at the middle, the apex very nearly as wide as the base; dorsum flat longitudinally, closely set with very low bare granules, without any smooth median line, and with a very indefinite lateral stripe on each side formed of short setiform scales. *Elytra* narrowly ovate in ♂, much broader in ♀, in which the apex is slightly produced downwards, the base shallowly sinuate; dorsum slightly convex longitudinally in ♂, more strongly so in ♀, the punctures in the striae irregularly duplicated; intervals 3, 5 and 7 (and 1 posteriorly) slightly raised and with small distant tubercles, which are much flattened on the disk and more prominent on the declivity, 7 with a short low costa at the apex; the intervals with a row of short curved suberect pale setae, the V-shaped pale band at the top of the declivity thinly clothed with short setiform pale scales. *Legs* red-brown to red-yellow; anterior femora of ♂ without any long erect setae beneath, the front tibiae sparsely denticulate beneath and strongly curved inwards at the apex, the hind pair very deeply sinuate beneath on the apical two-thirds and with a strong angle at one-third from the base.

*Length* 5,5-6,0 mm., *breadth* 2,5-3,0 mm.

BELGIAN CONGO: Uvira, Ulindi Valley, 2550 m., 3♂, 2♀, in humus in bamboo forest, IX, 1950 (N. LELEUP).

*Type* in the Congo Museum.

Most nearly allied to *L. burgeoni* HUST., from Kivu, which differs in having the basal sulcus of the rostrum truncate in the middle (angulate in *leleupi*) and the dorsal area parallelsided in the basal half and widening in front; the hind tibiae of the male are less deeply sinuate and there is no definite angle on the lower edge; on the elytra the setiform scales are generally distributed,

those on the transverse band being broader and much denser, and the erect setae are longer.

**Anaplesius musculus**, sp. n.

♂♀. Derm black, concealed by dense brown scales, with a few small indefinite grey spots on the elytra and a faint paler median stripe on the pronotum.

*Head* with very fine longitudinal carinulae beneath the scales; frons flat, on a level with the rostrum, much wider than the length of an eye. *Rostrum* about as long as broad, very slightly narrowed from base to apex; dorsum flat, subcarinate, the space between the large dorsal scrobes parallel-sided and slightly narrower than a scrobe. *Antennae* testaceous, rather stout; scape gradually clavate, with sparse erect pale setae; funicle with joints 3-7 short, transverse, subequal, 7 being a little broader than the others. *Prothorax* somewhat transverse (5:6), gently rounded laterally, widest at the middle, not constricted at the apex, which is truncate dorsally and only slightly narrower than the base; dorsum appearing quite smooth and even when the scaling is intact, but really finely rugulose, with very short suberect stout setae. *Elytra ovate*, very similar in the two sexes, jointly rounded at the apex; the dorsal outline moderately convex, higher than that of the pronotum, nearly vertical close to the apex; the shallow striae with close distinct punctures that are partly concealed by scales, the broad intervals smooth and of equal height, with a row of short stout truncate erect pale setae. *Legs* red-brown, with thin grey scales, the tibiae and tarsi paler; hind tibiae with a row of four or five separated teeth on the lower edge.

*Length* 2,5-3,0 mm., *breadth* 1,5-2,0 mm.

BELGIAN CONGO: Katanga Province, Kundelungu, 1750 m., 2♂, 5♀, on the banks of a pool in grass savannah, II, 1950 (N. LELEUP).

*Type* in the Congo Museum.

Subfamily BRACHYCERINAE

**Brachycerus micalis**, sp. n.

♂♀. Derm black, with sand-colored scales throughout, except on the granules, the vertex of the head normally more or less crimson.

*Head* separated from the rostrum by a deep right-angled sulcus, with a low ridge above each eye, the surface smooth with the punctation hidden by dense scaling. *Rostrum* shorter than the pronotum (6:7), broad and deep, widening from base to apex; and narrowing into a right angle at the base; dorsum nearly flat, the very shallow punctures almost concealed by scaling, narrowing posteriorly from the apex, with the sides shallowly sinuate (but not interrupted) at one-third from the base; epistome small, raised, forming an equilateral triangle with the lateral margins obtusely carinate; mandibles shear-like, bidentate, projecting far beyond the mentum, which is shallowly impressed without a median carina, the submentum not pedunculate. *Antennae* with joint 2 of the funicle shorter than 1 and equal to 3; club ending in a point. *Prothorax* as long as its basal width, the sides strongly dilated into a sharp angle behind the middle, the lateral margins more or less granulate; the base truncate, much broader than the apex, which is arcuate dorsally and not constricted laterally, the postocular lobes being very prominent and broadly rounded; the longitudinal outline highest near the base and sloping steeply in front; dorsum comparatively even, with large shallow punctures that are partly covered by scales and sometimes with low bare granules between them, and on the disk two narrow admedian curved carinae that are outwardly angulated in the middle and do not reach either base or apex. *Elytra* globose, dorsally with irregular shallow subconfluent punctures and numerous small separated granules, which are mostly bare and also irregular except for two rows adjoining the suture, in which the granules in the second row are usually larger than any of the others; on the inflexed lateral areas the granules are regular and more closely placed, the upper row (interval 7) being subcostate; each granule with a very short horizontal dark seta. *Legs* with dense yellowish to pale orange scales; the posterior pairs of femora smooth, with a few black spots, the shallow punctures quite concealed, the front pair sometimes more granulate; the anterior pairs of tibiae with a row of sharp separated granules along the dorsal edge, the front pair with a long broad curved process at the outer apical angle; tarsi bare beneath, except for a tuft of long setae at the apical angles of the first three joints. *Venter* with the three intermediate ventrites subequal, the anal one with a shallow apical depression in ♂.

Length 11,5-12,5 mm., width 7,8 mm.

SOUTHERN RHODESIA: Victoria Falls, 1♂, XII, 1915 (R. LOWE THOMPSON). SOUTH WEST AFRICA: near Windhoek, 2♂, I, 1936 (K. HARTMANN); Otavi, 1♀, I, 1934 (J. OGILVIE-type).

Type in the British Museum; cotypes in the Congo Museum.

The nearest known ally is *B. sculpticollis* MSHL. (*Ann. Mag. N. H.* (9) XII, 1923, p. 120, f. 4), which differs in having the prothorax markedly constricted at the apex, and the lateral angles rounded and not acuminate; the granules on the elytra are larger and almost regular throughout.

#### Subfamily HYLOBIINAE

##### *Aparopionella trinodosa*, sp. n.

♂♀. Derm piceous, normally concealed by an amorphous indumentum, set with tufts of clavate setae.

Head rather abruptly narrowed in front, so that the small coarsely-faceted eyes appear to be placed on the base of the rostrum, the rugosely punctate frons being three-fourths of the basal width of the rostrum. Rostrum two-thirds of the length of the pronotum in both sexes, moderately curved, very gradually narrowing from the base to the antennae, and slightly widened at the apex; dorsum very rugosely punctate almost to the glabrous apex, but with a smooth median stripe on the apical half that is broadest at the apex and narrows posteriorly to a point at the middle; having a shallow median sulcus; without erect setae; underside without a median sulcus, but with a stout erect tooth at the apex of the submentum in the ♂. Antennae testaceous; funicle with joint 1 longer than 2, the distal joints not or only slightly longer than broad. Prothorax as long as broad, more or less parallel-sided in the middle, narrowed to the base and more so to the apex, which has a collar-like constriction, the apical and basal margins both arcuate; dorsum longitudinally convex, very rugosely punctate, with a transverse row of four small setigerous tubercles beyond the middle, the inner ones being much larger than the outer. Elytra suboblong, broadly sinuate at the base with the basal angles projecting forwards, the lateral outline irregular owing to prominences on interval 7, the posterior declivity entirely vertical; dorsal rows of punctures

irregularly duplicated (but normally concealed), near the top of the declivity three large conical setigerous tubercles (on intervals 3, 5 and 1) forming almost an equilateral triangle, a smaller one on interval 3 at one-third from the base, two smaller ones on 5 (one at one-third from the base and the other behind the middle), a short broad laterally projecting carina at the base of 7 and a tubercle on 7 at one-third from the apex; all the elevations bear tufts of erect clavate setae. Legs with only short recumbent setae. Underside with the space between the front coxae almost as wide as that between the middle coxae; the pygidium curved over so as to be broadly visible from beneath in the ♂ only (as in *Ithyporus*).

Length 3,0-3,5 mm., breadth 1,6-1,7 mm.

BELGIAN CONGO: Uvira, Luvubu Valley, 2570 m., 2♂, 1♀, in humus in marshy copse, IX, 1950 (N. LELEUP).

Type in the Congo Museum.

The three previously described species have all been recorded from Kenya only; the two that are known to me (*crinata* and *echinata* MSHL., 1940) differ from the present species, *inter alia*, in having no tubercles; the rostrum and legs bear erect spatulate setae; the space between the front coxae is much narrower than that between the middle pair; the males have no tooth on the submentum and the pygidium is not visible below.

#### Subfamily ZYGOPINAE

##### *Faustiella decemnotata*, sp. n.

♀. Derm very shiny black, with large spots of yellow scales; prothorax with a transverse band of scales from the apical external angles down to the margin of the pectoral sulcus; elytra with the following yellow spots: a broad basal one from the suture to stria 5 (but not covering the scutellum), a subquadrate one behind the middle between striae 1 and 5, a transverse apical one from the suture to stria 9, and a transverse lateral one before the middle, between striae 7 and 10; underside with narrow white scales in the middle, but the whole of ventrites 1 and 2 and the lateral areas if the metasternum and of ventrites 3-5 with broad white or yellow scales; the squamose areas on the elytra appear rugose when the scales are abraded. The body comparatively narrow and elliptical.

*Head* with the narrowest space between the eyes wider than the apex of the scape. *Rostrum* (♀) somewhat longer than the pronotum, closely punctate laterally on the basal half, with only a very short low median carina at the extreme base, the apical two-thirds very shiny, with sparse minute punctures. *Antennae* blackish, with the distal joints of the funicle longer than broad, except 7 which is as long as broad. *Prothorax* transverse (10:13), subconical, the sides straight from base to apex, not constricted apically but with a broad transverse subapical depression dorsally, the median basal lobe well-developed but not emarginate at its apex; dorsum with the highest point rather further forward than usual and less steeply declivous behind, the discal punctures near the base and apex strong and laterally confluent, those near the base forming coarse wrinkles, the lateral punctures much finer and sparser, except in the squamose areas at the apex which are rugosely punctate. *Scutellum* trapezoidal, widest behind, sparsely squamose. *Elytra* with the sides continuous with those of the prothorax, the shoulders being only slightly prominent; striae 1-6 very fine on the disk, the distant punctures being wider than the striae; the intervals flat and shiny, the discal ones finely transversely rugulose, the lateral ones with very fine irregular punctures, but the squamose areas rugose. *Legs* black, with sparse white setiform scales; femora with only one tooth, the hind pair exceeding the elytra.

Length 8.5 mm., breadth 4 mm.

CAMEROONS: Bitje, Ja R., 1♀, 1920 (type). BELGIAN CONGO: Eala, 1♀, 1936 (J. GHESQUIÈRE).

*Type* in the British Museum; cotype in the Congo Museum.

A very distinct species on account of its elongate form and conspicuous markings.

#### *Scaphus*, gen. n.

*Head* with eyes comparatively small, oval, very narrowly separated, not visible directly from above when the rostrum is in the pectoral sulcus. *Rostrum* entirely immersed in a pectoral sulcus. *Prothorax* conical, with a median basal process and no trace of postocular lobes. *Scutellum* with a median longitudinal costa. *Elytra* ovate, bare, jointly rounded at the apex, with deep striae, and stria 1 reaching the actual base; the dorsal outline continuous with that of the pronotum. *Legs* with the femora slightly clavate,

partly and shallowly sulcate beneath, with a single sharp tooth, carinate externally, the hind pair not exceeding the elytra; tibiae slender, not carinate dorsally; tarsi with only joint 3 spongy beneath, the claws small and simple. *Sternum* with the prosternum deeply sulcate in front of the widely separated front coxae, the sulcus continuing to the posterior end of the mesosternum, being bounded laterally by mesosternal flanges but not enclosed apically; metepimera much narrowed behind. *Venter* with the intercoxal process angulate, ventrite 2 a little longer than 3 or 4.

Genotype: *Scaphus azureus*, sp. n.

Owing to the presence of mesosternal flanges enclosing the pectoral sulcus this genus comes nearest to *Coryssopus* SCHÖNH., but in the latter genus the sulcus deeply invades the metasternum, the intercoxal process of the venter is broadly truncate, the eyes are broadly visible from above, the hind femora much exceed the elytra, and the compressed tibiae are carinate dorsally.

#### *Scaphus azureus*, sp. n.

♂♀. Derm shiny dark blue, the body bare, except for an area in the middle of the metasternum and of ventrite 1 that is rather densely clothed with long stout yellowish recumbent setae.

*Head* aciculate, with close shallow punctures. *Rostrum* as long as the pronotum, its dorsal outline forming a wide angle with the frons, without any carinae in either sex, rugosely punctate throughout in ♂, shiny and almost impunctate dorsally in ♀, but closely and finely punctate laterally from the base to three-fourths. *Antennae* inserted behind the middle of the rostrum, black. *Prothorax* somewhat transverse (5:6), conical, narrowing rapidly from base to apex, with the sides quite straight and without any apical constriction, the truncate apex being half as wide as the bisinuate base; dorsum very slightly convex longitudinally, not depressed at the base, with very shallow separated punctures, which become larger and stronger in a very shallow impression on each side near the apex; pleurae covered with a wide network formed of very fine low ridges. *Elytra* ovate, without any basal depression, the fine deep striae containing catenulate punctures, the broad intervals very finely shagreened and impunctate. *Legs* black, coarsely punctate, with a short pale squamiform seta in each puncture.

Length 4,0-4,5 mm., breadth 1,8-2,0 mm.

KENYA: Maramas district, Ilala, 14 miles east of Mumias, 4,500 ft., 1♂, 1♀, VI, 1911 (D<sup>r</sup> S. A. NEAVE-type). BELGIAN CONGO: Kibali-Ituri, Geti, 2 ♀, 1934 (Ch. SCOPS).

Type in the British Museum; cotypes in the Congo Museum.

A blue coloration is by no means rare among the African Bari-dinae, but it has not previously been recorded among the Zygo-pinae.

#### Subfamily COSSONINAE

#### *Tetraclerus*, gen. n.

Head globose, separated from the rostrum by a deep transverse impression; the small elliptical and coarsely faceted eyes placed so low that they are not visible from above, though widely separated beneath. Rostrum nearly straight, subparallel-sided; scrobes starting at a little beyond the middle and extending obliquely to the base. Antennae short, stout, squamose; scape not quite reaching the eye, straight, gradually widening from base to apex; funicle as long as the scape, with only four joints; club not wider than the funicle, the basal joint longer than the rest together, shiny, with stiff recumbent setae. Prothorax longer than broad, truncate at base and apex, the apical margin obliquely truncate laterally. Scutellum very small, immersed. Elytra much wider than the prothorax at the rectangularly rounded shoulders, parallel from there to two-thirds, with stria 10 abbreviated. Legs rather short and stout; femora not clavate, very gradually widening from base to apex; tibiae stout, straight, with a strong uncus, but the mucro obsolete; tarsi very short and broad, with joint 2 strongly transverse, 3 broader than 2 and deeply lobate, the claws very small. Sternum with the space between the middle coxae as wide as a coxa, the prosternal process half as wide; metasternum between the coxae three times as long as a middle coxa, the mesosternum not depressed. Venter with the intercoxal process ogival, as wide as a coxa; ventrite 2 a little longer than 1 behind the coxa and also longer than 3+4.

Genotype: *Tetraclerus squamosus*, sp. n.

In spite of the four-jointed funicle this genus evidently belongs to the *Himatium* group, characterised by the inferior position of the eyes and by the impression separating the head from the

rostrum. It comes nearest to the West African *Leptodemasius* Voss (Arb. morph. tax. Ent. I, 1934, p. 192, f. 1), which differs in having seven joints in the funicle, the much larger eyes closely approximated beneath, the femora distinctly clavate, and the third joint of the tarsi not lobate.

#### *Tetraclerus squamosus*, sp. n.

♂. Deriv. piceous, with dense brown scaling throughout.

Head with the frons as wide as the base of the rostrum, the sculpture concealed by scaling. Rostrum a little shorter than the pronotum (7:8), almost parallel-sided, but widening very slightly at the base and apex; dorsum convex transversely, very rugosely punctate, but the sculpture entirely concealed by dense scales and short suberect clavate setae. Antennae with large basal joint a little longer than broad, the remaining three joints transverse. Prothorax longer than broad (4:3), almost parallel-sided from the base to beyond the middle, then rapidly narrowing into a long parallel-sided collar; dorsum nearly flat longitudinally, with a broad shallow transverse impression at one-third from the base and another near the apex, the sculpture otherwise concealed. Elytra elongate, parallel from the roundly rectangular shoulders to far beyond the middle, truncate at the base, jointly rounded at the apex; dorsum flat, with the posterior declivity steep, and a rather deep transverse depression just behind the scutellum extending to stria 2; the striae containing deep close punctures that are not covered by the dense scaling on the intervals, which latter are not wider than the punctures (though the scaling may make them appear to be so) and are somewhat uneven, with a sparse row of short scale-like subrecumbent setae. Legs with dense brown scales and recumbent squamiform setae throughout.

Length 3,5 mm., breadth 1,0 mm.

CAMEROONS: 1 ♂ (CONRADT-type). BELGIAN CONGO: Bambesa, 1 ♂, VIII, 1942 (J. VRYDAGH).

Type in the British Museum, cotype in the Congo Museum.