

PARC NATIONAL DE LA GARAMBA. — MISSION H. DE SAEGER

en collaboration avec

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G. TROUPIN et J. VERSCHUREN (1949-1952).

Fascicule 33 (3)

HETEROCERIDAE
(COLEOPTERA POLYPHAGA)

BY

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Most collections contain only a small number of the members of this family. The collection from the National Park of Garamba is no exception. However, although it contains only six specimens, there are representatives of three species, one of which new to science.

I am very grateful to Dr. V. VAN STRAELLEN for the privilege of studying this material. It is also my pleasant duty to express my cordial thanks to M. P. BASILEWSKY, of Tervuren, who has kindly arranged for the loan of type specimens of *Heterocerus minusculus* MAMITZA, and other valuable material for comparison. Finally, I wish to thank the Officials of Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, for their kind cooperation when I was working there.

***Heterocerus capensoïdes* n. sp.**

(Figs. 1 and 2.)

This species is very closely related to *H. capensis* PÉRINGUEY which is endemic in Cape, but it has brighter femora, and the reddish-yellow of the pronotum is confined to the front angles and not all along the lateral edge. It differs from *H. incertus* GROUVELLE in the presence of a distinct, light spot in the region of the diffuse, wide, and shallow depression of the elytral disc.

Description.

Length : 3,5-3,6 mm; width (over the shoulders) : c. 1,4 mm.

Head brownish-black, the width (across eyes) is about twice the length from front of clypeus to back of eyes. Frons slightly sloping, convex; cly-

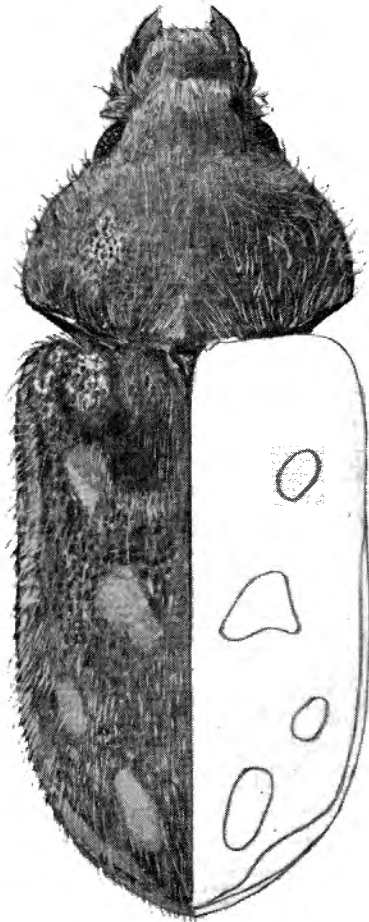


FIG. 1. — *Heterocerus capensoides* n. sp., ♂ (holotype).

peus without horns, like frons and labrum covered with close, pale, forwardly directed pubescence of varying length, shorter and thinner at base of labrum and base of frons. Frons with slightly rugose punctures, smaller than eye facets, separated by about one diameter; surface between them smooth. Labrum broader than long, apically more or less notched (Fig. 2, A). Mandibulae normal, without prolonged lobes or projections. Antennae clothed with light coloured hairs, 11-jointed with 7-segmented club, 3rd and especially 4th joints very small, basal four segments brownish-yellow, succeeding segments becoming increasingly darker distally.

Pronotum quite black or black-brown, only front angles and sometimes front margin diffusely reddish-yellow, nearly twice as broad as long (5 : 3), evenly arched, broadest between hind angles or just in front of them, base with a distinct and rather straight, elevated line, reaching the fairly strongly convex lateral edges. Surface densely and minutely punctate; punctures of two kinds, very small punctures and others about five times larger; larger punctures third to half the size of eye facets, separated by one to three times their own width; interspaces smooth, not bulbous. Dorsal pubescence rather thin, yellowish, directed forwards except at front angles, consisting in part of fairly short recumbent hairs and in part of rather long semi-erect hairs.

Elytra parallel (their width more or less equal throughout length) or slightly broader about two-thirds from base, evenly and slightly arched, with a distinct shallow depression basally near lateral margin, extending backwards parallel with epipleuron and confluent with another depression which is wide and shallow. This extends outwards from the elytral suture at a point about one-third from the base of the latter; sides slightly depressed about one-third from shoulders, above and along lateral margins; disc sometimes vaguely substrate. Shoulders even. Surface densely and rather roughly punctate; punctures of two sizes, larger punctures rather deep, twice to three times as large as eye facets, basally and near scutellum slightly smaller, separated by a half to one diameter; small punctures between the large ones, as minute as on pronotum, interspaces smooth but slightly bulbous. Pubescence light yellowish, rather thin, with short, recumbent, slender and straight hairs and two-thirds to four-fifths longer, semi-erect hairs of about the same density and thickness. Colour black, shining, with five reddish-yellow spots or bands on each wing-sheath (Fig. 1); one spot (*a*) in anterior half, near the wide and shallow depression, another spot or band (*b*), more or less triangular at the middle of the disc, another spot or band (*c*) behind and outside (*b*), another spot or band (*d*) somewhat elongate near apex, and, finally, one band (*e*) close to the apical side margin; in one paratype specimen spot *b* is associated with spot *c*, and spot *d* with band *e*. Epipleura reddish-brown or black, their bases without an oblique, elevated line.

Scutellum beneath elytra, narrowly triangular, not rounded at corners.

Ventral Surface reddish-brown to brownish-black, anal sternite apically more or less yellow; sparsely clothed with thin, long, pale hairs, denser on the last three sternites, densest on the last one. Metasternum finely and fairly distinctly punctured, punctures round, smaller than eye facets, separated by about one diameter. Abdominal ventral surface minutely and rugosely punctate, punctures transverse and slightly scattered on first

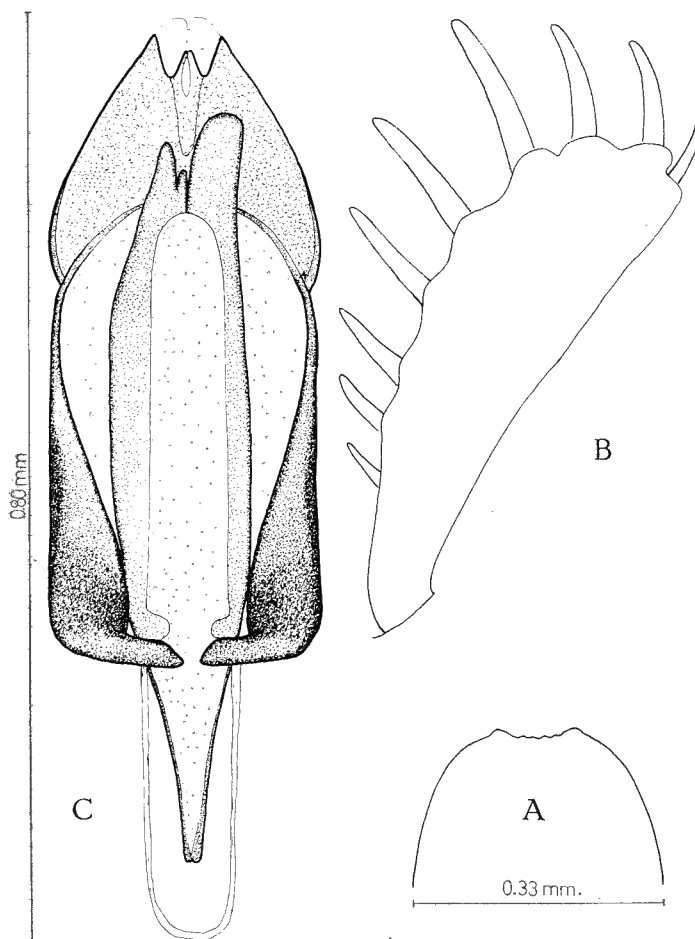


FIG. 2. — *Heterocerus capensoides* n. sp., ♂.

A : labrum, pubescence omitted (holotype);
 B : left front tibia, pubescence omitted (paratype specimen); C : aedeagus (holotype).

two sternites, increasingly more rounded and crowded on succeeding three segments. Elevated post-mesocoxal line of metasternum fairly distinct. The ridges of the first sternite incomplete, i. e. they extend from the front angles posteriorly and inwards until they almost meet in the posterior median region where they terminate (and do not continue forward in median line).

Legs clothed with light coloured hairs, femora yellow to yellowish-brown, proximally darker (most pronounced in femora of forelegs); anterior tibiae rather short, at their outer edge with 6-8 rather long, slender spurs (Fig. 2, B).

Aedeagus, see Fig. 2, C; uniformly and rather weakly sclerotized, parameres and basal piece fused together; length: c. 0,80 mm.

Geographical distribution.

Three male specimens from CONGO, National Park of Garamba, coll. H. DE SAEGER : 1.II.1951, in humid sand (II/fd/17, 1174); 30.XI.1951, at light (II/gd/4, 2812); 29.II.1952, 14-17 p. m., swept on sand-banks, humidity 100 % (II/fd/Gar., 3152), holotype.

Type material, holotype (♂) and two paratypes (♂♂) belonging to Institut des Parcs Nationaux du Congo.

Heteroceris nodieri GROUVELLE.

Heteroceris nodieri GROUVELLE, 1919, Mém. Ent., 2 (déposé 1917), Paris, pp. 62-63, (SENEGAL : Badoumbé).

Heteroceris jeanneli GROUVELLE, 1920, Voyage ALLUAUD et JEANNEL, Paris, pp. 221-223 (KENYA : Tschania), **syn. nov.**

Heteroceris conterminus GROUVELLE, 1920, Voyage ALLUAUD et JEANNEL, Paris, pp. 223-25, (TANGANYIKA : Taita), **syn. nov.**

CONGO : National Park of Garamba, 24.I.1951, coll. H. DE SAEGER (II/e/17, 1147, galerie forestière, feuille, terreau et sable humide, sous des *Irvingia* en fleurs), 1 specimen (♀).

Heteroceris parvus GROUVELLE.

Heteroceris parvus GROUVELLE, 1909, Bull. Soc. Ent. Fr., Paris, pp. 137-138 (THE SUDAN : Roseires).

Heteroceris minusculus MAMITZA, 1930, Rev. zool. bot. afr. Bruxelles, **XIX**, 3, Bruxelles, pp. 369-370 (CONGO : Kasai, Mushie), **syn. nov.**

CONGO : National Park of Garamba, 24.I.1951, coll. H. DE SAEGER (II/e/17, 1147, galerie forestière, feuille, terreau et sable humide, sous des *Irvingia* en fleurs), 2 specimens (♂ ♀).

Heteroceris nodieri and *H. parvus* are both widely distributed in Africa, belonging to the Sudanese fauna as well as that of Guinea.

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Published December 31, 1962.