

A new African genus of Metriorrhynchini (Coleoptera: Lycidae)

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Tricautires isabelae gen. et sp. n. is described from Bioko Island (Equatorial Guinea). The relationships of the new genus classified in Metriorrhynchina (Metriorrhynchini) are discussed.

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Among the Metriorrhynchini material from the Biafra Gulf, an interesting new taxon was found. It unquestionably belongs to the subtribe Metriorrhynchina (Bocák, 2002). Examination of the beetle showed that a new genus must be erected.

Specimens were dissected after softening for several hours in water. Some organs, including external female genitalia, were cleared in 10% KOH.

Tricautires gen. n.

Type species: *Tricautires isabelae* sp. n.

Description. Body elongate (Fig. 1). Head short, transverse, slightly narrowed behind eyes. Fastigium almost right-angled. Labrum elongate, distally convex. Eyes moderately large, spherical. Mandibles small, strongly curved at apices. Maxillary and labial palps slender, with ultimate segment pointed distally. Ventral genal closure narrow. Antennal prominence conspicuous; antennal sockets separated by minute lamina. Antennae 11-segmented, relatively long, flattened and serrate starting with segment 3; segment 3 considerably longer and wider than segment 2 (Fig. 1).

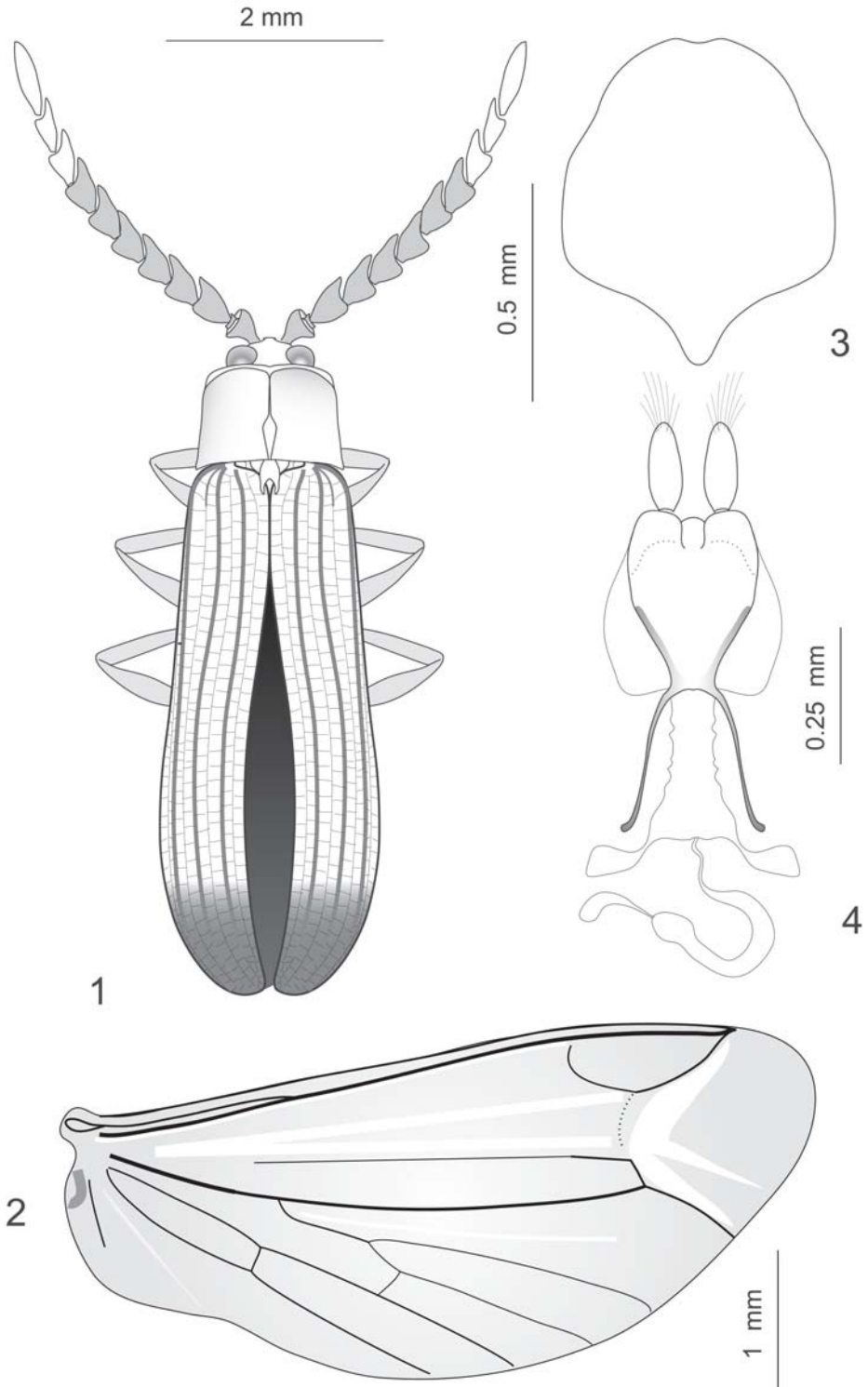
Pronotum transverse, with median carina in anterior half and elongate median cell in posterior half; anterior margin formed by two carinae; posterior angles slightly produced laterally (Fig. 1). Prosternum short, T-shaped, with relatively robust trapezoidal median part. Mesothoracic spiracles slightly protruding laterally beyond mesepisternal margins, hooded dorsally; orifice with hairy brush. Mesepimeron relatively wide, almost half as long as mesepisternum. Postnotal plate of scutellum conspicuously incised (Fig. 1). Elytra long, dehiscent, except at basal third, with three (first, second and fourth) primary costae; costa 3 noticeable at base (Fig. 1); interstices with double rows of square cells; short

pubescence manifests along costae. Discrimen (metasternal suture) incomplete. Metathoracic wing with *Sc* vein joining *RA*, *Cu* veins connected to *M*; wedge cell absent; *cu-a* brace present (Fig. 2).

Protrochantins slightly larger than mesotrochantins. Mesocoxae transverse and distinctly separated. Legs relatively short; trochanters elongate; femora and tibiae conspicuously flattened; tibiae with a pair of minute spurs. Tarsi short; segments 1 and 2 narrow, not lobed, with apical plantar pads; all claws simple. Abdominal spiracles located dorsally on membrane. Female ultimate ventrite with feeble median emargination distally; spiculum ventrale absent (Fig. 3). Valvifers fused with coxites; coxites non-sclerotized and fused with each other (Fig. 4).

Diagnosis. *Tricautires* gen. n. is readily distinguishable from Oriental genus *Bulenides* Waterhouse, 1879, the only Metriorrhynchina genus with similar pronotal structure, by the three primary elytral costae. On the other hand, it differs from *Prometanoeus* Kleine, 1925, also with shortened third primary elytral costa, in the anterior pronotal margin formed by two carinae and the complete absence of lateral pronotal carinae. *Tricautires* gen. n. differs from both mentioned genera in the fused valvifers and coxites.

Tricautires gen. n. is characterized by a number of hypothesized plesiomorphies including the complete secondary elytral reticulation and absence of spiculum ventrale. On the other hand, *Tricautires* gen. n. shares with *Prometanoeus* Kleine some rare among the Metriorrhynchina features, such as the pointed maxillary and labial palps and reduced third elytral costa. These structures are probably symplesiomorphic for these two genera. *Prometanoeus* is known only from Sri Lanka (Bocák, 2002), the new genus has been found in Bioko Island (Fernando Poo) of the Biafra Gulf. It is noteworthy that the two taxa are



Figs 1-4. *Tricautires isabelae* gen. et sp. n., holotype, female: 1, habitus; 2, hind wing; 3, sternite 8; 4, female genitalia.

distributed on islands at the border of the area of the subtribe in two different zoogeographic regions: Ethiopian (*Tricautires* gen. n.) and Oriental (*Prometanoeus*).

Etymology. The name is derived from combination of “Tri” and “Cautires” alluding to the fact that the new genus has three primary elytral costae only, being in many aspects similar to the widespread Palaeotropical *Metriorrhynchini* genus *Cautires* Waterhouse, 1879. Gender masculine.

***Tricautires isabelae* sp. n.**
(Figs 1-4)

Holotype. ♀. **Equatorial Guinea, Bioko (Fernando Poo)**, Mt. Santa Isabel, 1974, A. Petrov leg.; Zoological Institute, St. Peterburg.

Paratype. ♀. The same data; in the author’s collection.

Description. Female. Dark brown. Palps, antennal segments 9-11, pronotum, scutellum, elytra except apical fifth, femurs and tarsi yellow.

Head slightly impressed behind antennal prominence. Eyes moderately large (interocular distance slightly longer than radius). Antennae almost attaining to elytral two thirds (Fig. 1); segments 3-10 strongly serrate; segment 3 seven times as long as segment 2 and 1.4 times as long as segment 4; antennal pubescence short and decumbent.

Pronotum transverse (1.2 times as wide as long), almost parallel-sided; hind angles acute,

but little produced laterally (Fig. 1). Scutellum elongate, triangular, with roundish distal emargination (Fig. 1).

Elytra long, 3.65 times as long as wide at humeri and 5.6 times as long as pronotum, slightly widening posteriorly, with equally developed primary costae 1, 2 and 4; costae 2 and 4 reaching elytral apices; costa 1 not quite reaching it (Fig. 1).

Valvifers narrow, about as long as coxites and only slightly longer than styli (Fig. 4).

Length: 6.3-7.0 mm. Width (at humeri): 1.4-1.7 mm.

Male: unknown.

Diagnosis. *Tricautires isabelae* sp. n. differs from all known Ethiopian lycids in the generic characters.

Etymology. The name is derived from Santa Isabel Mt. (Bioko, Equatorial Guinea) where the type series of the new species was collected.

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References

- Bocák, L.** 2002. Generic revision and phylogenetic analysis of the *Metriorrhynchinae* (Coleoptera: Lycidae). *European J. Entomol.*, **99**: 315-351.

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