

# A new species of the genus *Brachypterus* Kugel from Ethiopia

(*Coleoptera, Nitidulidae, Cateretinae*)

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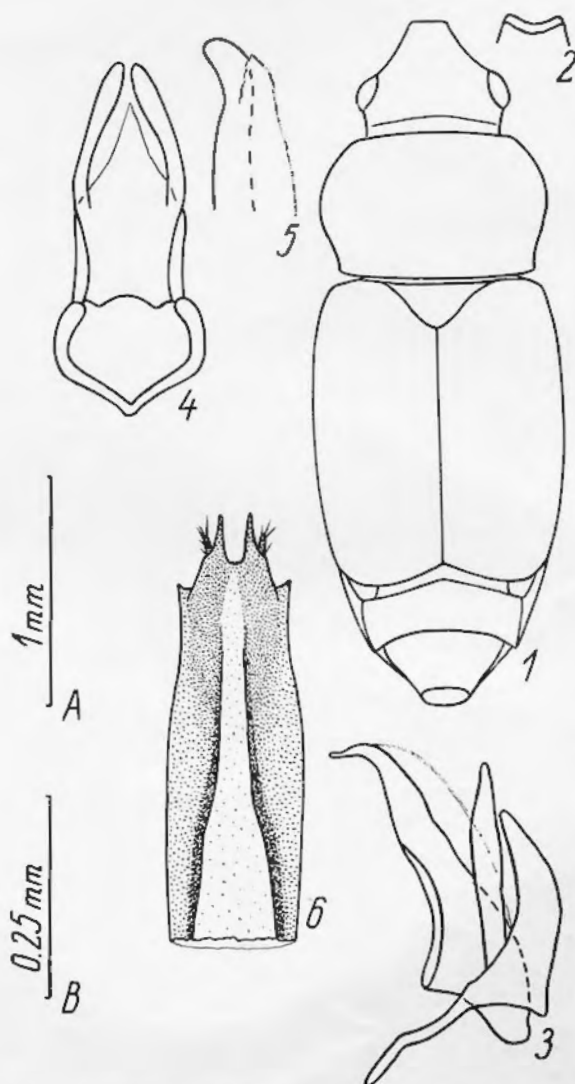
In this paper is described *Brachypterus aethiopicus* sp. n., the second species of the subfamily *Cateretinae*, recorded from the afro-tropical region. The holotype and one of the paratypes are kept in collection of the Musée Royal de l'Afrique Centrale (Tervuren, Belgium) and the second paratype (male) is deposited in the collection of the Zoological Institute of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences.

### ***Brachypterus aethiopicus* Kirejtshuk, sp. n. (figs. 1-6)**

**Material.** 2 ♂, 1 ♀ (holotype ♀ and paratypes): Ethiopia, Goba, 3,200 m, 4.6.1975, R.O.S. Clarke.

**Male (holotype).** Length 2.8, breadth 1.1, height 0.8 mm. Elongate, rather strongly convex; black with deep greenish hue; mouth parts, antennae and legs reddish; shiny; with sparse, fine, whitish pubescence.

Head convex, its anterior margin widely arcuately emarginate with pointed side angles; clypeus viewed as a narrow reddish strip. Surface with oval punctures considerably larger than eye facets, separated by less than a puncture diameter, the space between punctures distinctly cellularly reticulated. Antennae with length somewhat more than head breadth; scapus  $\frac{2}{3}$  as wide as fore tibia, somewhat longer than each of 2 next segments; antennal club composing about  $\frac{1}{3}$  of total antennal length, slightly wider than scapus.



Figs. 1-6. — *Brachypterus aethiopicus* sp. n., ♂ - 1. body shape; - 2. anterior part of head; - 3. aedeagus, lateral view; - 4. tegmen, ventral view; - 5. penis, dorsal view. — ♀ - 6. ovipositor, ventral view.

A: scale to fig. 1.

B: scale to figs. 2-6.

Pronotum transversal, its sides with weak emargination before hind angles. Surface with oval puncture larger than those on head, but the space between them smoothedly reticulated and on the disc smooth and shiny.

Scutellum transversal, with widely rounded apex, its surface with very small and comparatively shallow punctures, the space between which smoothedly reticulated.

Elytra with fairly well raised shoulders and without subsutural lines. Surface approximately as on pronotum, but the space between punctures with strongly smoothed reticulation and on the discs only with feeble traces of one.

Exposed tergites, pygidium and anal sclerite with surface nearly as on scutellum.

Ventral surface considerably less pubescent than dorsal; metasternum nearly as on elytra; prosternum sparser punctated, but with same punctures, the space between which more or less distinctly reticulated; surface of abdominal sternites nearly as on scutellum and exposed tergites. Mentum strongly transversal, with oval anterior edge. Prosternal process narrow and short, scarcely surpassed the hind margin of fore coxae. Metasternum flattened, its hind margin between hind coxae acutely excised. The last abdominal sternite with widely rounded apex.

Legs moderately long. All tibiae triangular, their most width nearly  $1\frac{1}{4}$  as one of antennal club. Fore femur 1.5 times as wide as tibiae, intermediate and hind femora twice wider than the latter. All tarsi subequal, slightly narrower than antennal club; tarsal claws with well raised tooth at basis.

Genitalia. Aedeagus well sclerotized and moderately dorsoventrally curved. Apex of penis trunk strongly asymmetrical, its right part membranous.

Female. Outwardly differs from male by lack of exposed anal sclerite and comparatively narrower tibial apicis.

Genitalia. Ovipositor moderately sclerotized, with forked apex.

Variations. Length 2.7 - 2.8 mm. The both paratypes are very similar to the holotype, only the male paratype is somewhat shorter.

Diagnosis. *A. aethiopicus* sp. n. is quite distinct from other species of *Brachypterus* by its large body size and also from the most of congeners by greenish hue of its body surface. Besides, it differs from *B. latipes* Grouvelle\* from Tanzania by larger body, greenish hue, its sparser pubescence on dorsum and by well raised tooth at basis of its claws. It is necessary to record that some north african species of *Brachypterus* have more or less expressed metallic hue in body colour, but they are smaller than *B. aethiopicus* sp. n.

#### REFERENCE

- GROUVELLE, A., 1908. — Clavicornes récoltés dans l'Afrique Orientale Allemande par le Dr. F. Eichelbaum, 1903; 1. — *Rev. d'Ent.* 27 : 5-22.

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\* *B. latipes* Grouvelle is known to the author after the original description (Grouvelle, 1908: 5).