

A new genus of Ceutorhynchinae from tropical Africa (Coleoptera: Curculionidae)

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Alphonsinus gen. n. is erected for *Coeliodes boviei* Hustache, 1923 (type species) and 2 undescribed species from West Africa.

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Genus *Alphonsinus* gen. n.

Type species *Coeliodes boviei* Hustache, 1923 (Congo).

Description. Rostrum shorter than prothorax, somewhat broader than fore tibia but only 2/3 as broad as fore femur, weakly curved, noticeably tapering and sometimes narrowing apically. Punctuation on rostrum fine, dense, except in short apical part; carinae absent. Antennae inserted near the middle of rostrum. Scape short, without any projection at apex. Funicle short, 6-segmented. Club ovate, with shining basal half. Eyes large, oval, weakly convex. Frons at anterior margin as broad as base of rostrum, strongly broadening posteriorly, weakly to moderately depressed. Prothorax weakly transverse; basal margin very strongly angularly produced posteriorly and deeply notched along scutellum. Sides rounded to nearly straight, converging to shallow apical constriction, without lateral tubercles. Apical margin weakly to moderately raised, rounded or slightly angulate in the middle. Disc flattened, not sulcate, rather finely evenly punctate. Ocular lobes poorly developed. Scutellum elongate, oval to keel-shaped. Elytra slightly broader than long, strongly rounded laterally, moderately narrowing in apical half, with very broadly rounded apices. Disc flat. Humeri strongly bevelled; humeral prominences moderately or weakly convex; 9th and basal half of 10th intervals clearly visible dorsally. Apical prominences moderately convex, not muricate. Basal margin not raised, except for the area at base of 3rd to 6th intervals, which is weakly to moderately raised and more or less strongly produced anteriorly. Fifth interval broadened at base. Rostral furrow reaching to the level of hind margin of middle coxae, very deep, with steep walls and almost lamelliform raised margins. Legs stout; all femora armed with large acute tooth, more or less clavate; hind femur somewhat broader than middle one. Tibiae broad, short, strongly S-shaped, weakly outcurved and broadened apically. Apical comb not extending on outer surface of tibiae, formed of moderately dense, short, stout spines. All tibiae in both sexes with small mucro; the one on middle

tibia the largest. Tarsi short, narrow, noticeably compressed. Third tarsal segment about 1.5 times as broad as 2nd. Claw-segment slender, medium-long. Claws short, appendiculate. Pygidium more or less raised along midline and apical margin, deeply depressed along sides. Body brown, with more or less dense and broad dull fuscous scales on dorsal surface and broader pale scales on ventral side. White oval scales forming an ill-defined scutellar spot and sparsely scattered over elytral disc. Body length 2.8-3.8 mm.

Comparison. The species of the new genus are similar to *Mononychus* Germ. in the vestiture and in the structure of head, rostrum, rostral furrow, prothorax, elytra, and pygidium. The new genus differs in having the rostrum tapering apically, apical constriction of prothorax less conspicuous, median sulcus missing, antennal funicle 6-segmented, legs very short, femora strongly dentate, apical combs of the broad, strongly S-shaped tibiae not extending on their outer surface, all tibiae mucronate, and in the presence of 2 claws. Species of *Alphonsinus* resemble large species of the tribe Lioxyonychini Colonnelli, but sharply differ from them in the stouter rostrum less strongly tapering apically; very short legs with strongly dentate femora and broad, S-shaped tibiae mucronate in both sexes; and larger size. *Alphonsinus* gen. n. may be related to both of these groups and requiring a tribe of its own.

Species included. In addition to the type species, 2 apparently undescribed species from Togo and Cameroon are known.

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