

**Contributions to the knowledge on the subgenus *Meligethes*  
(*Clypeogethes* Scholtz, 1932) from Kenya (Coleoptera:  
Nitidulidae)**

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**Abstract** – Five new species of *Meligethes* (*Clypeogethes*) collected in Kenya are described: *M. (C.) attactus* sp. n., *M. (C.) fistuca* sp. n., *M. (C.) impexus* sp. n., *M. (C.) leileri* sp. n. and *M. (C.) relativus* sp. n. With 32 figures.

**Key words** – Coleoptera, Nitidulidae, new species, *Meligethes* (*Clypeogethes*), Kenya.

## INTRODUCTION

This paper presents description of five new species of *Meligethes* (*Clypeogethes*). Three of them were collected by the second author together with Dr. P. PÄTS with a light trap set up on the roof of the restaurant Tsavo Inn in Mtito Andei alongside the main road between Nairobi and Mombasa, Kenya. Two additional new species were collected by the Swedish entomologist T.-E. LEILER: one was collected near the Athi river in Nairobi National Park and the another on Mt. Elgon. Mr LEILER's collection was donated to the Swedish Museum of Natural History in 1996, where part of the material studied is deposited. Finally, a greatest number of specimens of one of the type series was found in the collection of Hungarian Natural History Museum.

The fauna of the genus *Meligethes* STEPHENS, 1830 of equatorial Africa and adjacent territories was revised in the second half of the century by A. M. EASTON (1959, 1960, 1964, and others) and has been supplemented by some recent papers (including KIREJTSHUK 1990, AUDISIO 1994 etc.). However, knowledge of the species represented in the region is still far from well-known, although more than one hundred species of the largest subgenus (*Clypeogethes* SCHOLTZ, 1932) have been reported from the Afrotropical region.

Most African species of the subgenus *Clypeogethes* have quite characteristic and stable structures of genitalia in both sexes. In all cases the authors provide the description of each new species with drawings of these organs. Specific features included in the illustrations are not mentioned in the text, except in those cases when some comments are necessary to draw more attention for future comparison.

Abbreviations of depositories – HNHM – (Hungarian Natural History Museum) Magyar Természettudományi Múzeum, Budapest; NRS – Naturhistoriska Riksmuseet, Stockholm; ZISP – Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Sankt-Petersburg;

## DESCRIPTIONS

### *Meligethes (Clypeogethes) attactus* sp. n. (Figs 1–6)

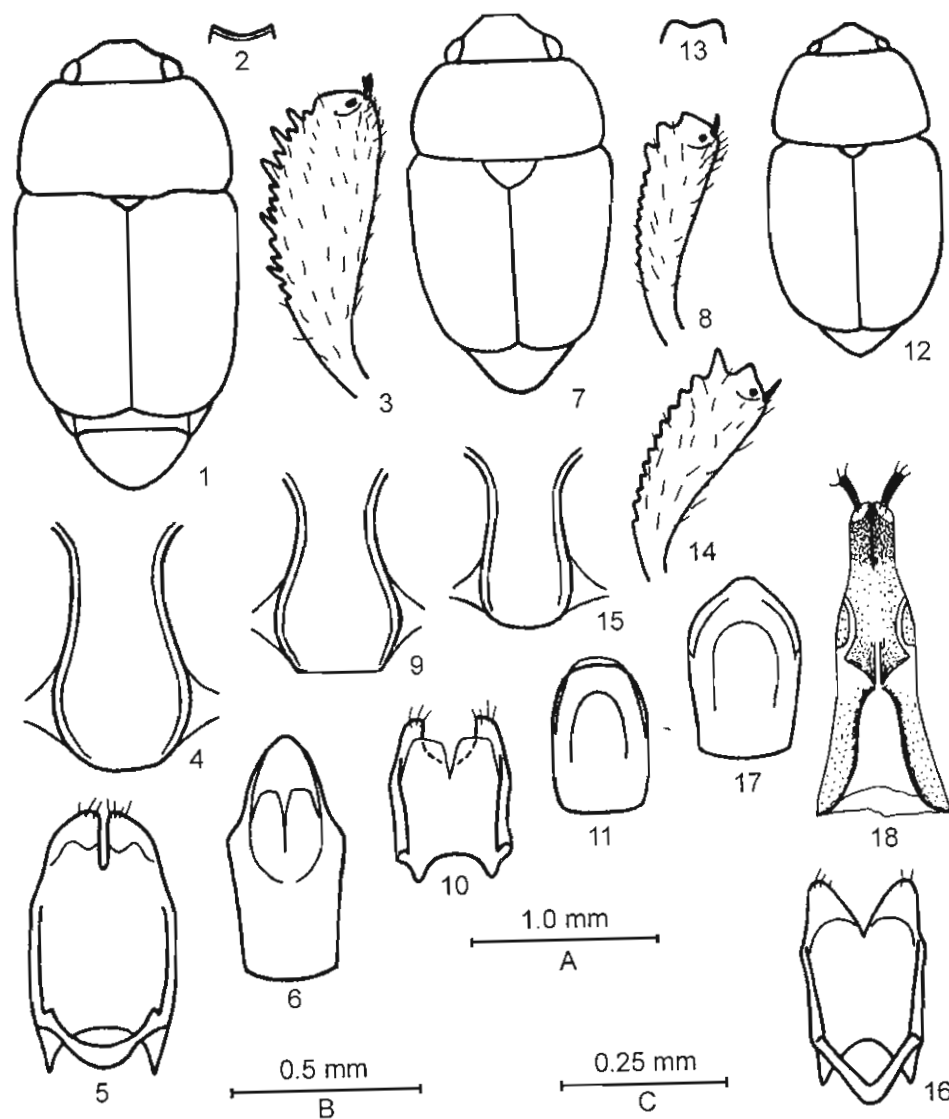
*Specimen examined* – Kenya: holotype, male (NRS) – “Voi: Mtito Andei, light-trap on the roof of Tsavo Inn, 24/11–25/11/1990, Peeter Päs & Bert Viklund”.

*Description of male (holotype)* – Length 2.3, width 1.3, height 0.6 mm (Fig. 1). Rather convex dorsally and ventrally; black, with dark brown legs and reddish palpi and antennae; dorsum rather shining, with dense, conspicuous, but moderately short and fine reddish grey hairs, markedly longer than distance between their insertions; underside slightly shining, with more conspicuous and longer pubescence.

Head and pronotum with distinct punctures, somewhat smaller than eye facets in diameter, interspaces between them about a puncture diameter (or broader at anterior edge of head) and completely smooth. Elytra with distinct and not quite oval (slightly elongate) punctures markedly larger than eye facets (in diameter up to twice larger), forming scarcely traced oblique rows, interspaces between punctures about half a puncture diameter and quite smooth. Pygidium finely granulose with indistinct punctation (similar to that of the head). Surface of prosternal process similar to that of head and pronotum, but punctures as those on anterior part of head and interspaces between them about 2 puncture diameters. The surface of metasternum and ventrite 1 as punctured and sculptured as elytra, but interspaces somewhat narrower; punctures and microreticulation of other ventrites similar to those of pygidium.

Head slightly and gently convex dorsally, nearly as long as distance between eyes, with arcuate striae along anterior part of inner edge of eyes, its anterior edge distinctly bordered, arcuately excised and with pointed lateral angles (Fig. 2). Antennae about  $3/5$  as long as head width, their club sub-ovoid, about 1 and  $1/4$  as long as wide and rounded at apex (with greatest length about twice more than length of antennomere 2), constituting about  $2/7$  of total antennal length. Pronotum with steeply sloping and not explanate sides (narrowly bordered), posterior angles broadly rounded. Scutellum with broadly rounded apex. Elytra with steeply sloping sides and with marked trace of humeral stria; lateral edges visible from above. Pygidium with subangular apex.

Antennal grooves distinctly divergent. Mentum subquadrangular and slightly bisinuate at anterior edge of its basal part, about 2.5 times as wide as long, surface without distinct fossa. Prosternal process rather wide (about twice wider than antennal club) and far projecting posteriorly, with a



**Figs 1–18.** Species of subgenus *Clypeogethes* of genus *Meligethes* (orig.). 1–6: *M. (C.) attactus* sp. n., 1 = body, dorsal; 2 = anterior edge of head, dorsal; 3 = male protibia, dorsal; 4 = prosternal process, ventral; 5 = tegmen, ventral; 6 = penis trunk, dorsal; 7–11: *M. (C.) impexus* sp. n., 7 = body, dorsal; 8 = male protibia, dorsal; 9 = prosternal process, ventral; 10 = tegmen, ventral; 11 = penis trunk, dorsal; 12–18: *M. (C.) relativus* sp. n., 12 = body, dorsal; 13 = anterior edge of head, dorsal; 14 = male protibia, dorsal; 15 = prosternal process, ventral; 16 = tegmen, ventral; 17 = penis trunk, dorsal; 18 = ovipositor, ventral. Scales: A – to Figs 1, 7, 12; B – to Figs 2, 13; C – to Figs 3–6, 8–11, 14–18

subtruncate and unbordered posterior edge (Fig. 4). Distance between mesocoxae about 2 times and that between metacoxae about 3 times as great as that between procoxae. Metasternum flattened to shallowly depressed, and with a shining median stripe without punctures before posterior edge, its anterior edge straight. Submetacoxal line very weakly deviating from posterior edge of coxal cavities. Hypopygidium with a transverse posterior edge and scarcely raised arcuate ridge at the middle.

Protibia about 1.5 times as wide as antennal club (Fig. 3), meso- and metatibiae nearly twice as wide as antennal club; meso- and metatibiae with dense, fine and short setae along outer edge. Femora about 1.5 times as wide as correspondent tibia, but protibia with strongly convex anterior edge. Protarsus about a third as wide as protibia, but meso- and metatarsi somewhat narrower, claws narrow and simple.

Aedeagus (Figs 5–6) well sclerotized.

**Diagnosis** – This new species is closely related to *M. microclavatus* EASTON, 1964, and differs from it in the outline of prosternal process, nearly simple hypopygidium, having dense and conspicuous pubescence on dorsum, type of punctation and microreticulation (especially size and density of punctures on elytra, sculpture between them and trace of transrugosity, oblique rows between punctures as well as much larger punctures on underside), and narrower lateral lobes of tegmen with deeper excision between them.

**Etymology** – The name of this new species is formed from the past participle of “attingo” meaning “to touch”, “to approach”, “to border”.

### *Meligethes (Clypeogethes) fistuca* sp. n. (Figs 19–25)

**Specimens examined** – Kenya: holotype, male (NRS) and 2 paratypes, males (NRS, ZISP) – “EAK. Mt. Elgon, Kaptega, 2280 m, 17.1.1979, T.-E. Leiler”.

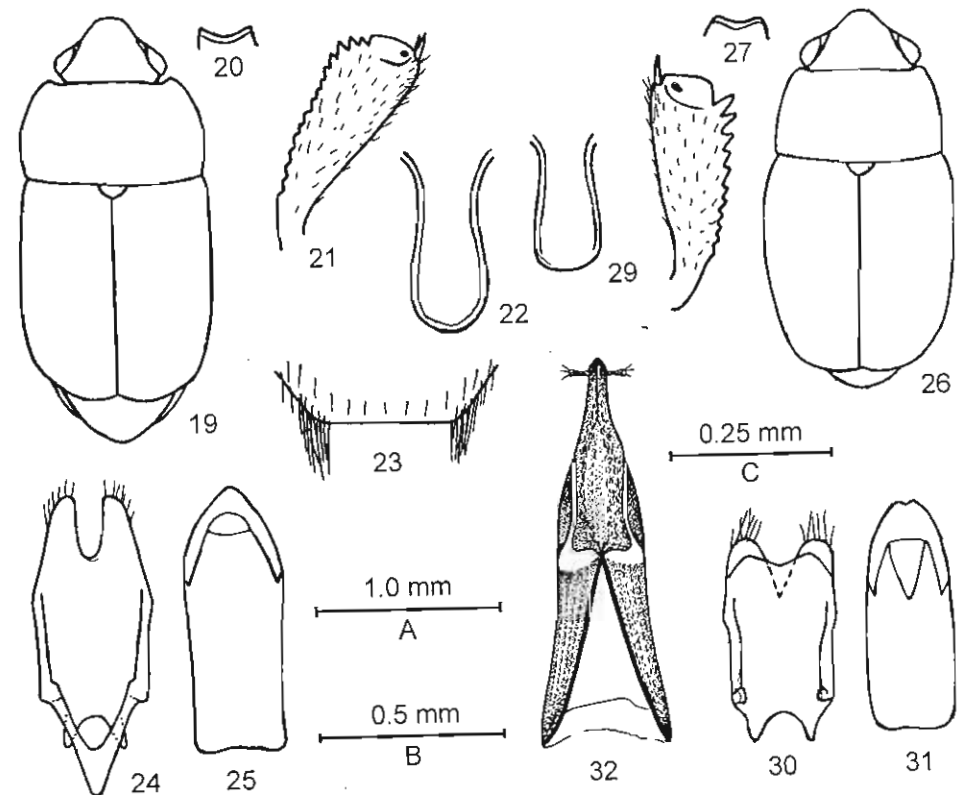
**Description of male (holotype)** – Length 2.0, width 1.0, height 0.5 mm (Fig. 19). Rather convex dorsally and moderately so ventrally; body almost unicolorous black, with appendages dark brown, but antennomere 2, protibia and tarsomeres 1–3 nearly reddish; body rather shining; dorsum with moderately dense, well conspicuous and fine yellowish silver hairs, about twice longer than distance between their insertions; underside with more conspicuous and longer hairs.

Head and pronotum with distinct and deep punctures, about as large as eye facets in diameter, interspaces between them about as broad as a puncture diameter or somewhat narrower, with moderately contrasting and somewhat smooth microreticulation. Elytra with similar punctation and sculpture, but punctures somewhat coarser and interspaces between them with denser and more contrasting microsculpture. Pygidium indistinctly punctured and rather coarsely microreticulated. Surface of prosternal process, metasternum and ventrite 1 with very small, rather sparse and quite distinct punctures and broad interspaces mostly completely smooth; other ventrites with somewhat larger and less distinct punctation and with very contrasting microreticulation.

Head slightly and gently convex dorsally, about as long as distance between eyes, with arcuate striae along inner edge of eyes, its anterior edge distinctly bordered, arcuately excised and with

pointed lateral angles (Fig. 20). Antennae about 3/4 as long as head width, their nearly regularly oval club 1.6 as long as wide and comprising about 1/4 of total antennal length, but subacute at apex. Pronotum gently sloping to very narrowly explanate sides, its posterior angles with widely rounded apices, its base very slightly and almost regularly convex. Elytra with steeply sloping sides and without marked trace of humeral stria; lateral edges scarcely visible from above. Pygidium with widely rounded apex.

Antennal grooves subparallel to slightly divergent. Mentum bisinuate at anterior edge of its basal part, more than 3 times as wide as long, surface behind it without distinct fossa. Prosternal process moderately wide (about 1.5 times as wide as antennal club) and far projecting posteriorly, with a broadly rounded and margined posterior edge (Fig. 22). Distance between mesocoxae almost twice and that between metacoxae about 3.5 times broader than that between procoxae. Mesosternum vaulted medially. Metasternum widely, triangularly and shallowly depressed, and with a shining me-



**Figs 19–32.** Species of subgenus *Clypeogethes* of genus *Meligethes* (orig.). 19–25: *M. (C.) fistuca* sp. n., 19 = body, dorsal; 20 = anterior edge of the head, dorsal; 21 = male protibia, dorsal; 22 = prosternal process, ventral; 23 = male hypopygidium, ventral; 24 = tegmen, ventral; 25 = penis trunk, dorsal; 26–32: *M. (C.) leileri* sp. n., 26 = body, dorsal; 27 = anterior edge of head; 28 = male protibia, dorsal; 29 = prosternal process, ventral; 30 = tegmen, ventral; 31 = penis trunk, dorsal; 32 = ovipositor, ventral. Scales: A – to Figs 19, 26; B – to Figs 20–23, 27–29; C – to Figs 24–25, 30–32

dian stripe without punctures, with anterior edge slightly convex. Submetacoxal line running closely to posterior edge of coxal cavities. Hypopygidium with a truncate posterior edge and with lateral brushes of long and extremely dense hairs (Fig. 23).

Protibia almost twice as wide as, meso- and metatibiae about 1.5 times as wide as antennal club (Fig. 21); meso- and metatibiae with extremely dense, fine and short setae. Pro- and mesofemora about twice, but metafemur almost 3 times as wide as correspondent tibiae. Protarsus slightly narrower, but meso- and metatarsi much narrower than correspondent tibiae, claws narrow and simple.

Aedeagus (Figs 24–25) moderately sclerotized.

*Variability* – Length 1.9–2.2 mm. The paratypes show a little variability in coloration of appendages, development of microsculpture of interspaces between punctures and conspicuousness of pubescence.

*Diagnosis* – This new species is a member of the *forcipatus* species-group (see EASTON 1957, 1959, KIREJTSHUK & EASTON 1988). It differs from *M. (C.) forcipatus* KIREJTSHUK et EASTON, 1988 in its larger punctation of dorsal sclerites, characters of secondary sexual dimorphism in metasternum and hypopygidium, somewhat wider male protibia, peculiar aedeagal structure and moderately sclerotized apices of lateral lobes of tegmen. The secondary sexual characters of metasternum and hypopygidium and the aedeagal structure of this species are very different from those of other species of the group with known male. Furthermore, *M. (C.) fistuca* sp. n. is also distinct:

- from *M. (C.) astylus* EASTON, 1959 in its rounded posterior angles of pronotum, paler appendages, wider protibia with more regular crenellation;
- from *M. (C.) advertus* EASTON, 1957 in its paler appendages and different coloration of pubescence, deeply excised anterior edge of frons, rounded posterior angles of pronotum, wider protibia with more regular crenellation;
- from *M. (C.) cornutus* EASTON, 1959 in its more shining surface, paler appendages, somewhat silvery pubescence and wider protibia;
- from *M. (C.) livens* GROUVELLE, 1908 in its more arcuate pronotal sides with rounded posterior angles, deeply excised anterior edge of the frons, weaker shine and finer punctation of dorsum, more conspicuous and somewhat silvery pubescence;
- from *M. (C.) lividus* EASTON, 1957 in its larger body, more arcuate pronotal sides with rounded posterior angles, broader prosternal process;
- from *M. (C.) vacca* EASTON, 1959 in paler appendages, more arcuate pronotal sides, broader prosternal process and distinctly regular crenellation of protibia.

*Etymology* – The name of the this new species means “beetle”, “rammer”, “pile-driver”, “pipe”.

## *Meligethes (Clypeogethes) impexus* sp. n.

(Figs 7–11)

*Specimen examined* – Kenya: holotype, male (NRS) – “Voi Mũto Andei, light-trap roof Tsavo Inn, 24/11–25/11/1990, Peeter Pãts & Bert Viklund”.

*Description of male (holotype)* – Length 2.0, width 1.1, height 0.5 mm (Fig. 7). Moderately convex dorsally and ventrally; chestnut brown, with rather dark head, pronotum, scutellum and sutural part of elytra; appendages somewhat paler brown; body strongly shining, with sparse, slightly conspicuous, but rather short and very fine yellow hairs slightly longer than distance between their insertions.

Head and pronotum with distinct and deep punctures somewhat smaller than eye facets in diameter; interspaces between them about 2 puncture diameters on head and 1.5 puncture diameters on pronotum, completely smooth. Elytra with distinct but extremely small punctures and finely raised transrugosity between widely separated punctures, broad interspaces between rugae completely smooth. Pygidium finely granulate, with large and coarse punctation. Surface on prosternal process, metasternum and ventrite 1 similarly punctured and sculptured as elytra, but without a trace of transrugosity; other ventrites with obsolete punctation and finely alutaceous interspaces, except subapical shining plate lacking punctation and other sculpture.

Head slightly and gently convex dorsally, slightly longer than distance between eyes. Antennae about 2/3 as long as head broad, their club slightly longer than wide, comprising about 3/7 of total antennal length and nearly blunt at apex. Pronotum with gently sloping and not explanate (but widely bordered) sides, its posterior angles broadly rounded. Elytra with gently sloping sides and without marked trace of humeral stria; lateral edges visible from above. Pygidium with broadly subtruncate apex.

Antennal grooves subparallel to slightly convergent. Mentum bisinuate at anterior edge of basal part and slightly convex at posterior one, about 3 times as wide as long. Prosternal process extremely wide, about 2.5 times as wide as antennal club and far projecting posteriorly, with a subtruncate and unbordered posterior edge (Fig. 9). Distance between mesocoxae about 1.5 times and that between metacoxae 2.5 times as great as that between procoxae. Mesosternum with a median fossa. Metasternum slightly convex, its anterior edge rather concave, and with a shining median stripe without punctures before posterior edge. Submetacoxal line running closely to posterior edge of coxal cavities. Hypopygidium with a transverse posterior edge and with an isolated transverse (quadrangular) shining plate (its length a little less than width of antennal club).

Protibia about as wide as antennal club (Fig. 8), meso- and metatibiae about 1.5 times wider; meso- and metatibiae with not very dense, fine and short setae along outer edge. Femora nearly 2.0–2.5 times as wide as correspondent tibia, but profemur with strongly convex anterior edge. Protarsus slightly narrower, but meso- and metatarsi much narrower than correspondent tibiae, claws narrow and simple.

Aedeagus (Figs 10–11) moderately sclerotized.

*Diagnosis* – This new species is similar to *M. (C.) undosus* EASTON, 1964 described from Democratic Republic of Congo (Zaire) and *M. (C.) relativus* sp. n., but differs from both in its very shining and not unicolourous body (without raised microreticulation on dorsum), peculiarities of punctation, shapes of male pygidial apex, prosternal process and hypopygidium, and very different aedeagal structure

(especially short and blunt apex of penis trunk). Furthermore, this new species in contrast to the *M. (C.) undosus* has the punctation of elytra combined with transrugosity, but its protibia in contrast to *M. (C.) relativus* sp. n. has smaller teeth. Two subapical teeth of the protibia in this new species are more prominent than preceding one, although not so developed as those in *M. (C.) undosus*, while the protibia of *M. (C.) relativus* sp. n. bears more regular crenellation with teeth regularly increasing in size towards the apex. All these three species are related to *M. (C.) atomus* GROUVELLE, 1904, well differing in the more slender and darker body, more distinct punctation, much narrower mid and hind legs. Aedeagus of *M. (C.) atomus* has very generalized characters in structure of tegmen and penis trunk, partly similar to those of *M. (C.) relativus* sp. n., but with the longer and narrower lateral lobes of tegmen and rather short penis trunk rounded at apex. *M. (C.) impexus* sp. n., *M. (C.) undosus* and the two following new species can be provisionally included in the *ruficollis* species-group (sensu KIREJTSHUK 1996, 2001), although in contrast to all members of this group these species have much smaller body, comparatively large antennal club and smaller teeth at the outer edge of protibiae.

*Etymology* – The name of this new species means “uncombed”, “tousled”, “unicolorous”, “simple”, “rough”, “coarse”, “rude”.

### *Meligethes (Clypeogethes) leileri* sp. n.

(Figs 26–32)

*Specimens examined* – Kenya: holotype, male (NRS) – “EAK. Nairobi, 12.1.1979, T.-E. Leifer”; 3 paratypes, male (ZISP) & 2 females (NRS) – ibid., “12.1.1979, T.-E. Leifer”.

*Description of male (holotype)* – Length 2.0, width 1.0, height 0.6 mm (Figs 26). Rather convex dorsally and moderately so ventrally; dorsum almost unicolorous dark chestnut brown, with translucent explanate pronotal sides; underside somewhat paler, appendages bright reddish; body moderately shining with a slight coppery lustre on dorsum; dorsum with sparse, slightly conspicuous and very fine yellowish grey hairs, not longer than distance between their insertions; underside with denser, more conspicuous and longer hairs.

Head and pronotum with distinct and deep punctures, somewhat smaller than eye facets in diameter, interspaces between them about 2 puncture diameters, with fine and dense, somewhat smoothed microreticulation, although punctation at posterior angles of pronotum becoming larger and denser. Elytra with similar punctation and sculpture, but punctures on disk becoming finer with smoother interspaces between them, and punctures at apices becoming finer and shallower with coarser interspaces. Pygidium indistinctly punctured and very coarsely microreticulated. Surface on prosternal process, metasternum and ventrite 1 with very small, rather sparse and more or less distinct punctures and broad interspaces smoothly alutaceous (or smooth on prosternal process); remainder of ventrites with somewhat larger and less distinct punctation.

Head slightly and gently convex dorsally, somewhat shorter than distance between eyes, with arcuate striae along inner edge of eyes, its anterior edge as in Fig. 27. Antennae about 3/4 as long as head width, their nearly regularly oval club about 1.3 times as long as wide, comprising about 1/4 of total antennal length and arcuate at apex. Pronotum gently sloping to distinctly and narrowly explanate sides, its posterior angles with pointed apices, its base very shallowly sinuate at sides of scutellum. Elytra with steeply sloping sides and without marked trace of humeral striae; lateral edges scarcely visible from above. Pygidium with broadly rounded apex.

Antennal grooves subparallel. Mentum bisinuate at anterior edge of its basal part, more than 3 times as wide as long, surface behind it without any raised fossa. Prosternal process moderately wide, about 1.3 times as wide as antennal club, and far projecting posteriorly, with a widely rounded and unbordered posterior edge (Fig. 29). Distance between mesocoxae almost twice and that between metacoxae about 3.0 times broader than that between procoxae. Mesosternum vaulted medially. Metasternum subflattened, with anterior edge emarginate and a pair paramedian longitudinal tubercles at sides of a weak median depression lacking of punctation and pubescence. Submetacoxal line running closely to posterior edge of coxal cavities. Hypopygidium with a transverse posterior edge and with an isolated transverse shining concavity without punctation and pubescence (its length somewhat less and its width more than width of antennal club).

Protibia slightly wider, meso- and metatibiae about 1.5 times wider than antennal club (Fig. 28); meso- and metatibiae with extremely dense, fine and short setae. Femora less than 1.5 times as wide as correspondent tibiae, profemur with moderately convex anterior edge. Protarsus about 1.5 times narrower, but meso- and metatarsi much narrower than correspondent tibiae, claws narrow and simple.

Aedeagus (Figs 30–31) moderately sclerotized.

*Female* – Differs from male in absence of secondary sexual characters in structure of metasternum and hypopygidium. Ovipositor (Fig. 32) moderately sclerotized.

*Variability* – Length 2.0–2.2 mm. Females are somewhat larger than the males. Coloration of underside in the two paratypes much paler than in the holotype. Configuration of teeth on the protibial outer edge shows some variability maintaining a general outline similar to that in the holotype.

*Diagnosis* – *M. (C.) leileri* sp. n. most resembles *M. (C.) nobilis* EASTON, 1964 described from Democratic Republic of Congo (Zaire), but differs from it in the more slender and more shining body, paler underside and especially appendages, broadly rounded lateral angles of anterior part of the frons, different and almost uniform punctation of dorsum, narrower protibia with smaller teeth, peculiarities in the characters of male metasternum and hypopygidium. The antennal grooves of this new species are nearly subparallelsided, but those in *M. (C.) nobilis* are clearly divergent behind mentum.

This new species and *M. (C.) nobilis* are very similar in many characters to *M. (C.) ruficollis* REITTER, 1872 (distributed through Eastern Africa to the southernmost Cape region) and can be included in the composition of the *ruficollis* (including *gloriosus*) species-group (see EASTON 1959, KIREJTSHUK 1996). They are more similar to *M. (C.) ruficollis* and *M. (C.) mitis* KIREJTSHUK, 1996 (described from Namibia), but this new species differs from both of the latter in its smaller, more slender and shining body, narrower pronotum with angular apices of its pos-

terior angles, narrower prosternal process, configuration of outer edge of protibia, secondary sexual characters in structure of male metasternum, and from *M. (C.) ruficollis* also in its widely rounded lateral angles of anterior edge of frons, wider concavity at apex of male hypopygidium, and from *M. (C.) mitis* also in its aedeagal structure. The outline of body of this new species is rather similar to *M. (C.) candidus* EASTON, 1964 and *M. (C.) suffuscus* EASTON, 1964 (both known only from female holotypes originated from Zaire, studied by the senior author), but it differs from both in its more shining body, paler underside and appendages, more deeply emarginate anterior edge of frons with rounded lateral angles, larger subtarsal plate of protibia, absence of raised fossae behind mentum and absence of trace of transrugosity on elytra. This new species has some similarity also with *M. (C.) imitans* KIREJTSHUK, 1988 and *M. (C.) opacidorsum* KIREJTSHUK, 1996 (both known from Namibia), differing from them in the more slender, darker and more shining body with almost unicolorous dorsum, subparallel-sided antennal grooves, configuration of teeth along protibial outer edge, characters of sexual dimorphism in both metasternum and hypopygidium, genital structures of the both sexes, and from *M. (C.) imitans* also in its more distinct and denser punctation, and from *M. (C.) opacidorsum* also in its less conspicuous pubescence and much narrower pronotum with distinct apices of posterior angles.

*Etyymology* – This species is named in the honour of TOR-ERIK LEILER whose collecting activities in the past have generated many new species of beetles in several faunal regions.

### *Meligethes (Clypeogethes) relativus* sp. n.

(Figs 12–18)

*Specimens examined* – Kenya: holotype male (HNHM) and 9 paratypes (HNHM, ZISP) – “Tsavo, West National Park, near Kitani Lodge”, “14.IV.1988, A. Vojnits”; 3 paratypes (NRS, ZISP) – “Voi, Mtito Andei, light-trap, roof, Tsavo Inn, 24/11–25/11/1990, Peeter Päts & Bert Viklund”.

*Description of male (holotype)* – Length 1.7, width 0.8, height 0.5 mm (Fig. 12). Moderately convex dorsally and ventrally; dark chestnut brown with paler appendages (protibiae and tarsi as well as antennae almost reddish); body a little shining with a slight copper lustre on dorsum; dorsum with sparse, almost inconspicuous and very fine greyish hairs not longer than half a distance between their insertions; underside with more conspicuous and slightly longer hairs.

Head and pronotum with distinct and deep punctures, somewhat smaller than eye facets in diameter, interspaces between them somewhat broader than a puncture diameter on head and 1.5–2.5 puncture diameters on pronotum, distinctly cellularly microreticulated (on pronotum somewhat smoothed). Elytra with rather shallow and small punctures (distally becoming shallower and smaller, up to obsolete), interspaces between them 2–4 puncture diameters and with cellular microreticulation more smoothed than those on head and pronotum, trace of striae visible between some punctures at elytral base. Pygidium very finely submicrogranular and with extremely fine punctation. Surface on

prosternal process, metasternum and ventrite 1 with very small, rather sparse and distinct punctures and broad interspaces between punctures smoothly alutaceous; other ventrites with somewhat larger punctation and very fine microreticulation.

Head slightly and gently convex dorsally, somewhat shorter than distance between eyes, its anterior edge as in Fig. 13. Antennae about 2/3 as long as head width, their club about 1.5 times as long as wide, with rounded apex and comprising about 3/7 of total antennal length. Pronotum with gently sloping and not explanate sides (but widely bordered), its posterior angles widely rounded. Elytra with gently sloping sides and without marked trace of humeral striae; lateral edges scarcely visible from above. Pygidium with broadly rounded apex.

Antennal grooves subparallel to slightly divergent. Mentum bisinuate at anterior edge and slightly convex at posterior one, about 3 times as wide as long. Prosternal process moderately wide, about 1.5 times as wide as antennal club and far projecting posteriorly, with a subtruncate and unbordered posterior edge (Fig. 15). Distance between mesocoxae about twice and that between metacoxae about 3.0 times broader than that between procoxae. Mesosternum vaulted medially. Metasternum subflattened, its anterior edge slightly but distinctly emarginate and without any median shining stripe before posterior edge. Submetacoxal line running closely to posterior edge of coxal cavities. Hypopygidium with a transverse posterior edge and with an isolated transverse (quadrangular) shining concavity without punctation and pubescence (its length somewhat less than width of antennal club).

Protibia slightly narrower, meso- and metatibiae about 1 and 1/3 times wider than antennal club (Fig. 14); meso- and metatibiae with not very dense, fine and short setae along outer edge. Femora less than 2.0 times as wide as correspondent tibiae, profemur with moderately convex anterior edge. Protarsus slightly narrower, but meso- and metatarsi much narrower than correspondent tibiae, claws narrow and simple.

Aedeagus (Figs 16–17) slightly sclerotized.

*Female* – Differs from male in slightly narrower protarsus as well as simple and longer hypopygidium with rounded apex. Ovipositor (Fig. 18) moderately sclerotized.

*Variability* – Length 1.6–1.8 mm. Some paratypes nearly unicolorous, only tarsi paler. General coloration varies from brown to very dark brown. Some variability is observed in punctation and sculpture, particularly in distinctness of transverse striae between punctures on elytra. Length of dorsal hairs varies within 1/2–2/3 of distance between their insertions.

*Diagnosis* – This new species is similar to *M. (C.) undosus* EASTON, 1964 and *M. (C.) impexus* sp. n. (see Diagnosis of the latter species). The most expressive external difference from *M. (C.) undosus* is the finer and sparser punctation of the smaller body, and that from *M. (C.) impexus* sp. n. are the raised microreticulation between diffuse punctures on dorsum and characteristic apex of male pygidium. This new species has a peculiar configuration of teeth along protibial outer edge and very distinct aedeagal structure.

*Etyymology* – The name of this new species means “relative”.

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