

PHAEOGALA FAIRMAIRE TRANSFERRED TO MYCTERIDAE
FROM PEDILINAE [COL. ANTHICIDAE] WITH DESCRIPTION
OF A NEW SPECIES FROM MADAGASCAR

BY

M. ABDULLAH (*)

The Madagascan genus *Phaeogala* was originally described for a single species (*P. grisescens*) and was thought to be related to the Chilean genus *Mitraelabrus* SOLIER, 1851 (FAIRMAIRE, 1896 : 353). The same author later described two more species, *P. breviscutata* and *P. laterifusca* (FAIRMAIRE, 1898). Finally, PIC described the fourth known species (*P. major*) of the genus (PIC, 1945 : 4).

Mitraelabrus is a Pediline Beetle (*Anthicidae*) but *Phaeogala* is not an Anthicid and should be placed in the family *Mycteridae* (*sensu* CROWSON, 1955). A combination of the following characters distinguishes *Phaeogala* as a Mycterid : apical segment of maxillary palp securiform; front coxae distinctly projecting, prosternal process very narrow between them, their cavities visibly (= externally) open but internally closed; tarsi with only penultimate segment lobed below; tarsal claws appendiculate; middle coxal cavities closed outwardly by sterna; abdomen with first three visible sternites connate and second bearing a spinous tubercle in the male.

I place *Phaeogala* FAIRMAIRE, 1896 near the Mycterid genus *Loboglossa* SOLIER, 1851 from Chile which is known for a single species, *L. variipennis* SOLIER, 1851. It is possible that earlier authors mistook specimens of *Loboglossa* for *Mitraelabrus* and were actually referring to *Loboglossa* when they suggested a possible connexion of *Phaeogala* with *Mitraelabrus* as I have examined specimens of *L. variipennis* misidentified as *M. sericeus* in the Paris Museum collection. In any case the previous family association was erroneous.

The sexes are easy to separate : a spinous tubercle is present on the second visible abdominal sternite in males and absent in females. In this paper, I regard a puncture to be « fine » if the diameter is less than 0.04 mm, otherwise « coarse ».

(*) Coleopterological contribution number 28.

Key to the species of *Phaeogala*

1. Pronotum wider than long; vestiture on elytra uniform..... 2
 — Pronotum as long as wide; vestiture dimorphic on elytra, at places clustered into small tubercles..... *laterifusca* FAIRMAIRE
2. Antennae filiform..... 3
 — Antennae weakly moniliform (figure 1)..... *rufa*, n. sp.
3. General shape elongate; punctures on pronotum coarse..... 4
 — General shape compact or less elongate; punctures fine. *breviscutata* FAIRMAIRE
4. Punctures on elytra fine; in the male, tubercle on second visible abdominal sternite less than half the length of sternite, and seventh tergite entire at apex..... *grisescens* FAIRMAIRE
 — Punctures on elytra coarse; in the male, tubercle on second visible abdominal sternite more than half the length of sternite, and seventh tergite truncate or weakly emarginate at apex *major* PIC

(1) *Phaeogala breviscutata* FAIRMAIRE, 1898

Phaeogala breviscutata FAIRMAIRE, 1898, p. 413.

HOLOTYPE : Female (author's no. 615), Madagascar, Nossi-Bé (= Nosy Be Island), in the Paris Museum.

Dark brown. General shape compact and less elongate. Antennae filiform; segment I twice or less longer than wide, segment XI missing. Head finely punctate. Pronotum wider than long, finely punctate; surface wrinkled; anterior, posterior and lateral margins arcuate; two lateral pits with round, small apertures present at base. Elytron finely punctate; widest before middle near apex; vestiture uniform; five punctate striae apparent in half portion, rest irregularly punctate in a ventral view; length/width ratio less than 4. Seventh abdominal sternite and tergite entire at apex. Length 5 mm; maximum width 2.3 mm.

(2) *Phaeogala grisescens* FAIRMAIRE, 1896

Phaeogala grisescens FAIRMAIRE, 1896, p. 354 (Type species of the genus).

HOLOTYPE : Male (author's no. 611), Madagascar, Diégo-Suarez (Ch. ALLUAUD, 1893) in the Paris Museum.

Dark brown to fuscous. General shape elongate. Antennae filiform; segment I more than twice longer than wide, segment XI nearly twice longer than X. Head finely to coarsely punctate. Pronotum wider than long, coarsely punctate; surface wrinkled; anterior, posterior and lateral margins arcuate; two lateral pits with triangular to round apertures present at base. Elytron finely punctate; widest around middle; vestiture uniform; ten punctate striae apparent in a ventral view; length/width ratio about 4. Spinous tubercle on second visible abdominal sternite small, less than half the length of sternite. Seventh

abdominal sternite and tergite entire. Tegmen ventral, median lobe dorsal in orientation. Length 11 mm; maximum width 3.5 mm.

RECORDS AND VARIATION : Tananarive, 1 female (ex. coll. Pic), in the Paris Museum. Mt. Tsaratanana, October 1949, 1 male, in the Paris Museum. Madagascar label only, 1 female, in the Paris Museum. Colour varies from brown to brownish black. Length varies from 11-12 mm. Elytral striations are very distinct even in a dorsal view in the last-mentioned female.

(3) *Phaeogala laterifusca* FAIRMAIRE, 1898

Phaeogala laterifusca FAIRMAIRE, 1898, p. 414.

Female (author's no. 616), Madagascar, Maroantsetra (J. VADON, October 26), in the Paris Museum (ex. coll. Pic).

Black to fuscous ventrally and laterally above, longitudinally dark brown in middle dorsally. General shape elongate. Antennae weakly moniliform; segment I more than twice longer than wide, segment XI nearly twice longer than X. Head finely punctate. Pronotum nearly as long as wide, coarsely to finely punctate; surface wrinkled; anterior margin arcuate, posterior margin arcuate in middle, and lateral margins subparallel; two lateral pits with square large apertures present at base. Elytron finely punctate; widest just before middle near apex; vestiture dimorphic, black and yellowish brown, at places clustered, erect and appearing as small tubercles; irregularly punctate, even in a ventral view; length/width ratio about 4. Seventh abdominal sternite and tergite entire. Length 8 mm; maximum width 3.2 mm. Type locality. Fénériver.

REMARKS : This species is quite distinct and differs from other species in the genus in some important characters : shape of pronotum, absence of elytral striations, and presence of dimorphic vestiture. A new subgeneric if not generic name could be proposed for the above reasons. A coleopterist undertaking a revision of the family *Mycteridae* should think about it.

(4) *Phaeogala major* PIC, 1945

Phaeogala major PIC, 1945, p. 4

HOLOTYPE : Male (author's no. 617), Madagascar, Midongy, in the Paris Museum (ex. coll. Pic.). Dark brown to fuscous. General shape elongate. Antennae fili-

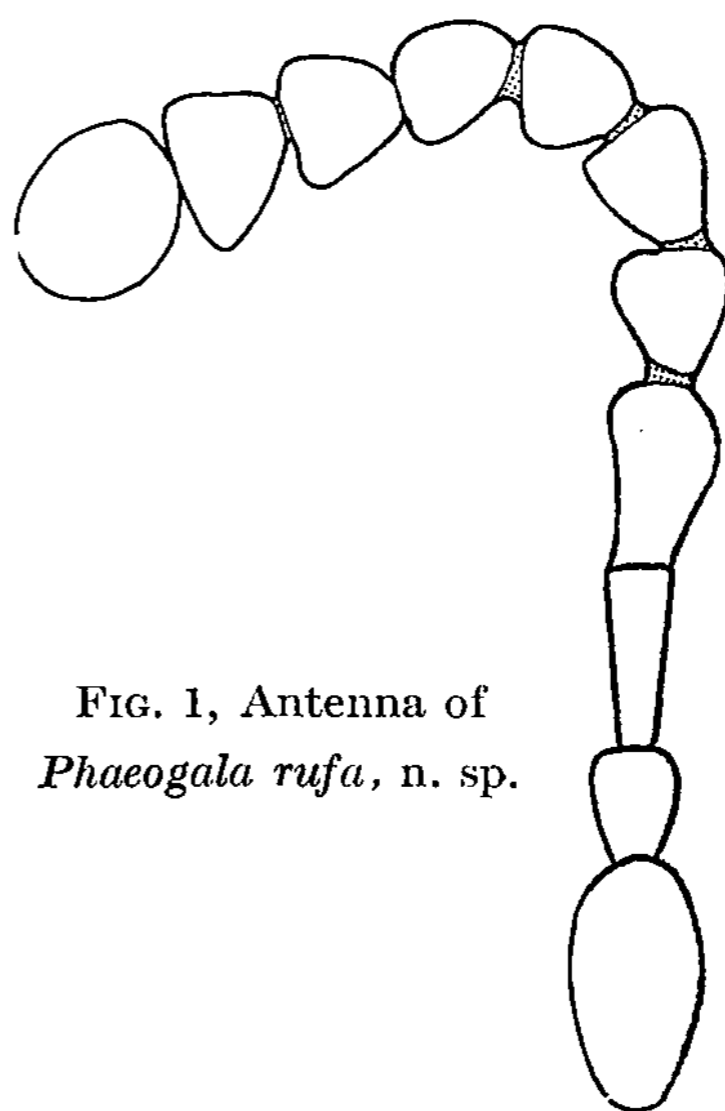


FIG. 1, Antenna of *Phaeogala rufa*, n. sp.

form; segment I more than twice longer than wide, segment XI less than twice longer than X. Head coarsely punctate. Pronotum slightly wider than long, coarsely punctate; surface wrinkled; anterior and posterior margins arcuate, lateral margins anteriorly convergent; two lateral pits with round apertures present at base. Elytron coarsely punctate; widest around middle; vestiture uniform; ten punctate striae apparent in a ventral view; length/width ratio about 4. Spinous tubercle on second visible abdominal sternite large, more than half the length of sternite. Seventh abdominal sternite entire, seventh tergite truncate to weakly emarginate at apex. Tegmen ventral, median lobe dorsal in orientation. Length 14 mm; maximum width 4.5 mm.

(5) *Phaeogala rufa*, n. sp.

(Figure 1)

HOLOTYPE : Female (author's no. 618), Madagascar, Mananjary, in the Paris Museum (ex coll. Pic).

Brown, elytra light, remaining portions dark. General shape slightly elongate. Antennae weakly moniliform (figure 1); segment I nearly twice longer than wide, segment XI less than twice longer than X. Head finely to coarsely punctate. Pronotum slightly wider than long, coarsely punctate; surface wrinkled; anterior and posterior margins arcuate, lateral margins less so; two lateral pits with small, triangular apertures present at base. Elytron finely to coarsely punctate; widest before middle near apex; vestiture uniform; ten punctate striae not clearly visible in a ventral view, more like irregularly punctate; length/width ratio about 4. Seventh abdominal sternite and tergite entire. Length 7.5 mm; maximum width 3 mm.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am thankful to Dr. Guy COLAS, Laboratoire d'Entomologie, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France for the loan of specimens. For their kind interest in my work, I am grateful to Dr. M. Ian CRICHTON and Professor Alastair GRAHAM of this Department, and to Mr. Roy A. CROWSON of the University of Glasgow in Scotland. The work was carried out while holding a Postgraduate Studentship of the University of Reading.

RÉSUMÉ

Le genre *Phaeogala* FAIRMAIRE, 1896 (type : *P. grisescens* FAIRMAIRE, 1896) de Madagascar, originellement classé parmi les *Anthicidae Pedilinae*, est transféré à la famille des *Mycteridae*, près du genre *Loboglossa* SOLIER, 1851.

Description de *Phaeogala rufa*, n. sp. (Madagascar).

REFERENCES

- CROWSON, R. A. — 1955. The natural classification of the families of *Coleoptera*. — London.
 FAIRMAIRE, M. L. — 1896. Matériaux pour la faune Coléoptérique de la région malgache. — *Ann. Soc. ent. Belgique*, 40, p. 353-354.
 — 1898. Matériaux pour la faune Coléoptérique de la région malgache. — *Ann. Soc. ent. Belgique*, 42, p. 390-439.
 PIC, M. — 1945. Coléoptères du globe. — *Échange*, p. 61, 1-4.

(Department of Zoology, University of Reading, England)