Lectotype designations, new synonymies and distribution records of the Neotropical Eupariini (Coleoptera: Scarabaeoidea: Aphodiinae)

Zdzisława STEBNICKA

Received: 10 Apr., 1998
Accepted for publication: 30 Sept., 1998


Key words: Coleoptera, Scarabaeoidea, Eupariini, taxonomy, Neotropical Region.

Zdzisława STEBNICKA, Institute of Systematics and Evolution of Animals, Polish Academy of Sciences, Sławkowska 17, 31-016 Kraków, Poland.
E-mail: stebnicka@isez.pan.krakow.pl

The tribe Eupariini sensu lato is an extremely diverse component of the Neotropical biota, with numerous genera and with groups of vicarious species being closely related to those of the United States. Many taxa are centered in Mexico and Middle America, whereas others are widely distributed from Mexico to Argentina. The species were commonly misidentified by taxonomists, due to their pronounced variability and a poorly known distribution. This confusion was reduced in part by CHALUMEAU (1992) who drew attention to the synonymies of several species. During ongoing studies on the Neotropical genus Ataenius and its allies (STEBNICKA 1997; 1999 in press), I have found further nomenclatural shortcomings that require clarification. Two new combinations, several instances of new synonymy and data on distribution are presented here. In addition, this paper designates lectotypes for three species, where all available informations show that each awaits a formal designation in accordance with Art. 74 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature.

The following acronyms indicate depositories for the type-material and other specimens examined:

Acknowledgments. I am greatly indebted to many people and institutions for lending the material upon which this study is based. Much of my work has been supported by an operating grant from the Natural Sciences Research Council in Poland.

*Phalangochaeta transversaria* (SCHMIDT), comb. nov.

(Figs 1, 3)


Material examined. Lectotype here designated, labelled “Typus”, “Songo Bolivia”, “*Ataenius transversarius m.*”, “*Phalangochaeta transversaria*” det. F. CHALUMEAU “80 lectotype” [in litteris!], in NRS.

Specimens (3). Brazil – Sao Paulo state (SP), Agudos; Rondonia state (Ro), SW Ariqueumes (ISEA).

Description. Length 4.0-5.0 mm. Body as in Fig. 3; colour dark brown to black. Head large, pronotum transverse. Mesocoxae widely separated, mesometasternum as in Fig. 1. Tarsal segments setaceous; basal segment of metatarsus equal in length or longer than following tarsal segments combined.

Male. Head and disc of pronotum with larger and closer punctures than in female, pronotum wider with base on each side distinctly emarginate, mesosternal callosity larger.

Female. Metasternum and abdomen with larger and deeper punctures than in male, punctures of elytra closer and deeper especially on apical declivity.

Remarks. The species will be discussed and keyed in a separate contribution dealing with the genus *Phalangochaeta* MARTINEZ.

*Ataenius stercorator* (FABRICIUS)

*Scarabaeus stercorator* FABRICIUS, 1775, Syst. Ent.: 20.–OLIVER, 1789, Ent. Col. 1: 89, t.17, fig. 155.


**A. opacus**: described from Brazil. Lectotype designated by CARTWRIGHT 1973, Coleopterist Bull. 27: 42, in MNHN.

**Specimens** (80). **Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay** (in all collections studied).

**Remarks.** A misinterpretation of the *Ataenius stercorator* status presented above has been initiated by HAROLD (1875) and followed by several authors up to this time. BATES (1887) in his redescriptions of *stercorator* states that "the species is of a dull sooty-black colour" and "a remarkable distinguishing character of the species is a series of tubercles or denticulations at regular intervals on the inner side of the four hind tibiae". Such characters are quite similar to those of *A. opacus* HAROLD. The lectotypes and other specimens of misidentified species *A. strigicauda* BATES and *A. columbicus* HAROLD have scarcely short setae on the metatibia with no trace of tubercles and are more or less shining black. It can be assumed that HAROLD saw a specimen of "strigicauda" described later by BATES and identified it as "stercorator".

**Ataenius crenator** HAROLD

(Fig. 4)


**Description of lectotype.** Length 5.5 mm, greatest width 2.9 mm. Body (Fig. 4) oval, slightly alutaceous, black. Elytra relatively short, arcuate toward apex, humeral denticles conical; striae deep with close punctures creating inner margins of intervals; intervals convex, microreticulate and very finely punctate. Ventral surface alutaceous, punctate; mesocoxae approximate; meso- and metatibiae slender with small accesory spine; tarsi slender, basal segment of metatarsus 1/3 longer than upper tibial spur and subequal in length to following tarsal segments combined.
Remarks. No additional specimens of this species were found in the material examined. *Ataenius crenator* belongs to the group of species including *A. blapoides* Balthasar, *A. talpa* Balthasar (Chalumeau 1992) and *A. nigritus* Petrovitz. It is most closely related to *nigritus*, but differs in having the pronotal punctures equal in size and closer than in *nigritus*. The affinities of this group of species can be established only after a revision and delimitation of the Neotropical *Ataenius*.

*Ataenius purator* HAROLD

(Fig. 2)


Material examined. *A. purator*: Lectotype here designated, with hand-written labels: green label “Pará”, white label “Ataenius purator m. Para”, in ZMHB.

*A. gothi*: described from Venezuela. Holotype (studied in 1983), in NMP.

*A. gagates*: Holotype (sex undetermined) and paratypes (3) labelled “Pelotas Süd-Brasilien”, in MHNG.

*A. splendens*: Holotype female, labelled “Suriname, Dirkshoop, v.1959, J. van der Drift”, in RVNH; paratypes (3), same data as holotype, in HNHM.


Description. Length 4.8-5.5 mm, greatest width 1.9-2.3 mm. Body elongate, shining, colour brownish black to black. Head smooth, punctures minute to fine, evenly spaced, sep-

Figs 3-4. 3 – Phalangocheta transversaria (SCHMIDT): habitus. 4 – Ataenius crenator HAROLD: habitus.
Rated by 2-3 diameters. Pronotal punctures mixed fine and moderate in size, unevenly distributed. Male genitalia as in Fig. 2.

Remarks. The lectotype measures 4.8 mm in length and 1.9 mm in greatest width and it is dark brown in colour; otherwise it does not differ significantly from the series of specimens. *Ataenius purator* seems to be most closely related to *A. fattigi* CARTW. distributed in southern US. It is more slender than *fattigi* with finer punctures of the pronotum and with smooth, almost impunctate abdominal sternites.

**Ataenius opacipennis** SCHMIDT


Material examined. *A. opacipennis*: Holotype (sex undetermined) labelled "Typus", "Brasilien", "Ataenius opacipennis m.", in NRS.

* A. drifti*: Holotype (sex undetermined) labelled "Suriname, La Poulle, viii.1959, J. van der Drift", in RVNH; paratypes (4), same data as holotype, in HNHM.

Specimens (60). **Brazil** – Mato Grosso state (MT), Corumba. **Paraguay** – Villarica; Independencia; San Pedro. **Suriname. Venezuela** – La Linda (ISEA, SMNS, TM, ZMH).

Remarks. *A. opacipennis* (2.5-3.0 mm long) varies considerably in the pronotal and elytral sculpture. It seems to be close to *A. gracilis* (MELSH.) and to *A. nocturnus* NOM.

**Ataenius petrovitzi** BALTHASAR


Material examined. *A. petrovitzi*: Holotype (sex undetermined) labelled "Bolivia, Espiritu, 25.iv.1954 W. Forster", in ZSM.

* A. aurorpunctatus*: Holotype (sex undetermined) labelled "Nord-Brasilien, Serra Pacaraima", in MHNG.

Specimens (26). **Bolivia** – Guayaramerin. **Brazil** – Rondonia state (Ro), SW Ariquemes; Roraima state (Rr), Serra Pacaraima. **Paraguay** – Asuncion (FSCA, HNHM, ISEA).

Remarks. This species (2.5-3.0 mm long) belongs to the group of several species which are closely related to *Ataenius imbricatus* (MELSH.) and distributed from North America to Argentina.

**Ataenius carinatipennis** PETROVITZ


* A. granulipennis*: Holotype female, labelled "Mamanguape Paraiba Estate Bras.", "Ataenius granulipennis PETROVITZ", in MHNG.
Remarks. Comparison of the two holotypes showed them to be the same species, *A. carinatipennis*. No additional specimens were found in the material examined.

**Ataenius complicatus** HAROLD


Material examined. *A. complicatus*: described from Brazil. Lectotype designated by CARTWRIGHT 1973, Coleopterist Bull. 27: 42, in MNHN.


Specimens (56). **Argentina** – Salta; Cordoba (Capilla del Monte, Norte Lago San Roque); Cabara Corral. **Bolivia** – Santa Cruz; Rio Pilcomayo. **Brazil** – Minas Gerais state (MG), Cordisburgo; Unai (Faz. Bolivia); Pernambuco state (PE), Recife. **Honduras** – Augustine. **Mexico** – Chiapas. **Panama** – Chiriqui. **Venezuela**. (CMN, ISEA, TM, ZMH).  

Remarks. *Ataenius complicatus* (6.0-7.0 mm long) is one of the most widely distributed species, known from Mexico to Argentina. It closely resembles only one species, *A. hispidus* HAROLD, in the presence of similar character states such as wide, undulate striae and erect, sparse setae on the elytra. In the original description of *complicatus*, HAROLD (1869) commented:

“Ab *A. hispidus*, cui simillimus, differt corpus minus nitido et thorace multo densius punctato”. *A. hispidus* is hitherto known to occur only in Venezuela.

**Ataenius impressus** (PETROVITZ), comb. nov.


Material examined. Holotype (sex undetermined), labelled “Brasilien, Mato Grosso, Corumba, ex. coll. Kaufel”, “*Didlytes impressus* m. PETROVITZ”, in ZSM; paratypes (3), same data as holotype, in MHNG.

Specimens (6). **Brazil** – Goias state (Go), Lagoa Formosa (MHNG).

Remarks. *Ataenius impressus* (4.5-4.8 mm long) closely resembles *A. petrovitz* BALTH. but it can be easily distinguished from the other species in the *imbricatus*-group to which it belongs by having the first, apical tooth of protibia directed forward.

**Aphotaenius convexus** (HAROLD)


Type data. *Saprosites convexus*: described from Columbia, Bogota [La Luzera, Medellin]. Location of type unknown. *Aphotaenius colombiensis*: described from Columbia. Holotype in NMNH.

Material examined. Specimen compared with holotype, labelled “Columbia, Guasca, Cundinamarca”, “*Aphotaenius colombiensis*, det. O.L. CARTWRIGHT”, in ISEA; 11 speci-

Description. Length 3.5-3.6 mm. Head nearly smooth, impunctate, clypeal margin denticulate. Prosternum with large, laterally compressed process. Meso- and metatibiae with incomplete transverse ridges; apex of metatibia with two triangular teeth.

Remarks. In the genus Aphotaenius CARTWRIGHT, the apical fringe of setae of the metatibia found in the genus Ataenius is replaced by two or three teeth similar to those occurring in Saprosites REDTENBACHER. Aphotaenius convexus is most closely related to A. carolinus (VAN DYKE) described from North Carolina. Both species show similarities in their pronotal and elytral characters and in the shape of metatibiae, but they significantly differ in size. In convexus, the basal marginal line of the pronotum is widely broken at middle, the pronotal punctures are larger and the elytral striae are deeper than in carolinus.

REFERENCES


