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A new species of *Heterocerus* from Tanzania (Coleoptera: Heteroceridae)

Nový druh rodu *Heterocerus* z Tanzánie (Coleoptera: Heteroceridae)

Stanislav SKALICKÝ

Dukla 322, CZ-562 01 Ústí nad Orlicí, Czech Republic

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Abstract. *Heterocerus snizeki* sp. n. from eastern Tanzania is described, figured and compared with similar *H. sennarensis* Grouvelle, 1909. The following species are reported from Bostwana: *H. thebaicus* Grouvelle, 1896; *H. alluaudi* Grouvelle, 1906; *H. vulpes* Grouvelle, 1906 and *H. elongatus* Grouvelle, 1896.

INTRODUCTION

During the study of Heteroceridae collected by Mr. M. Snížek in Africa, I successfully identified a new species of this group: *Heterocerus snizeki* sp. nov., which was collected together with the species *Littorimus pallens* (Charpentier, 1965) (3 spec.). Simultaneously, I can provide the appearance of the following species: *Heterocerus thebaicus* Grouvelle, 1896 (2 spec.); *H. alluaudi* Grouvelle, 1906 (25 spec.); *H. vulpes* Grouvelle, 1906 (3 spec.) and *H. elongatus* Grouvelle, 1896 (2 spec.) with the following data: "Botswana bor., Maun Island Safari Lodge env., 2-15.1.1994, M. Snížek lgt.". All material is deposited in the author's collection.

Heterocerus snizeki sp. n.

(Figs 1-3)

Description. Male: Length of body 4.48 mm; length of elytra 2.64 mm; width of pronotum 1.68 mm; width of shoulders 1.6 mm.

Labrum oblong, softly grained, black with semi-erected short and brownish pubescence, more developed laterally. Mandibles brown, robust and long, shape as in Fig. 1. Prostheca with single longer and hard hair. Clypeus with two hard horns, grained, black and shortly adjacently rusty pubescented. Single longer and erected hairs are above eyes. Antennae are 11-segmented, with 7-segmented apical club, lightly brown, basal segments with single long rusty and erected hairs.

Pronotum little wider than elytra, sides only with slight angle. Edges of pronotum are denticulated laterally up to about one third, basal part is fully bordered. Pronotum softly granulated, black, sides and front part narrowly thin brownish bordered. Pubescence of elytra short and adjacent.

Scutellum punctuated, twice longer than wide, darkly brown.

Elytra softly granulated and softly punctuated. Shoulders and part of border side on the ridge with distinct denticulations. Each elytron with 5 longitudinal ridges. Pubescence short, white and adjacent, semi-erected laterally. Elytra brown with orange design, shape and distribution as in Fig. 2. Epipleural ridges on the elytra absent.

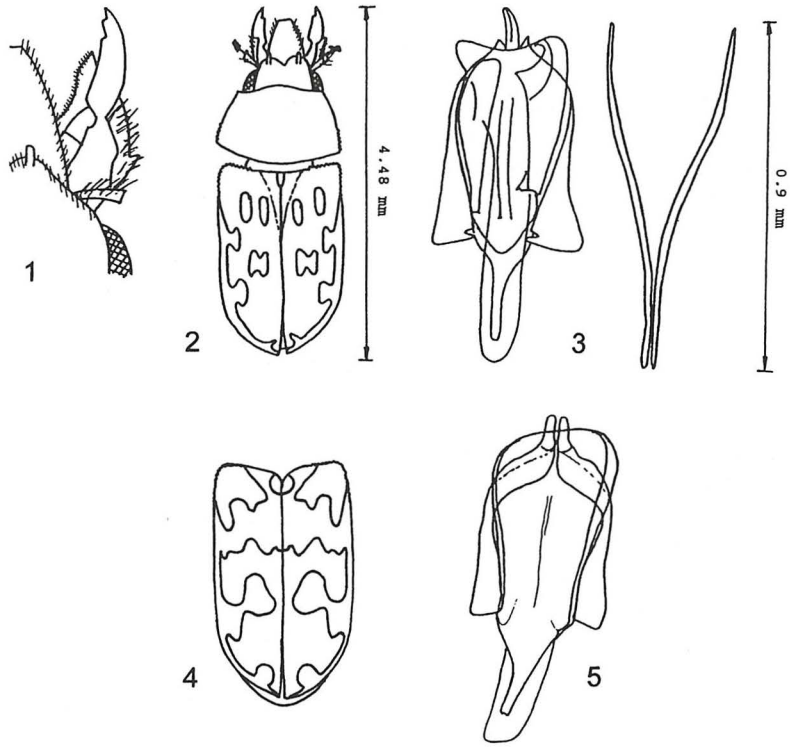
Thorax with a post-mesocoxal ridge. Legs lightly brown with dark outside ridge. First to third pair of tibiae with 8 spines. Abdominal ridge of first sternite uncomplete. Bottom part of body light brown, shortly adjacently pubescent with single erected and longer hairs.

Aedeagus heavy sclerotized, brown; shape and size as in Fig. 3.

Female: Length 4.5 mm; length of elytra 2.7 mm; width of pronotum 1.6 mm; width of shoulders 1.7 mm. Mandible less developed. Clypeus without horns. Structural features except genitalia as in male.

Variability. It is not perceptible in the type series. Sexual dimorphism is most striking in the size and form of mandibles: mandibles of male are bigger and with more developed prostheca.

Material examined. Holotype ♂: Tanzania or. Utete - Rufiji Kindwiti 10.-14.12.1993; M. Snížek lgt. Allotype ♀: the same data as in holotype. Paratypes: 4 ♀♀, the same data as in holotype. Holotype and allotype are deposited in the author's collection, paratypes in the autor's collection (3 spec.) and in the collection of Dr A. Mascagni, Scandicci, Italy (1 spec.).



Figs 1-5. *Heterocerus snizeki* sp. n., holotype (1-3): 1 - right mandible, dorsal view; 2 - habitus, dorsal view; 3 - aedeagus and spicular fork, dorsal view. *H. sennarensis* Grouvelle (after Charpentier 1965) (4-5): 4 - colour pattern of elytra; 5 - aedeagus, dorsal view.

Obr. 1-5. *Heterocerus snizeki* sp. n., holotypus: (1-3): 1 - pravé kusadlo, pohled svrchu; 2 - celkový vzhled, pohled svrchu; 3 - aedeagus a spikulární vidlice, pohled svrchu. *H. sennarensis* Grouvelle (podle Charpentiera 1965) (4-5): 4 - rozmístění skvrn na krovkách; 5 - aedeagus, pohled svrchu.

Derivatio nominis. I name this species after Ing. Miroslav Snížek (České Budějovice, Czech Republic) who collected the type material.

Affinites. Uncompleted abdominal ridge on the first abdominal sternite ranged this species to genus *Heterocerus* Fabricius, 1792. This species by shape of aedeagus and other main characters as 11-segmented antenna, male clypeus with spits, denticulated sides of pronotum and shoulders belong to the *Heterocerus bredoi* - group. This group is common in the Ethiopian, Oriental, Australian, Neotropical and Holarcic regions; for the Ethiopian region contains the following species: *H. bredoi* Mamitza, 1931, *H. abyssinicus* Mamitza, 1930, *H. peringueyi* Grouvelle, 1919, *H. meridionalis* Péringuey, 1892, *H. denticulatus* Mamitza, 1930, *H. fairmairei* Grouvelle, 1906, *H. sennarensis* Grouvelle, 1909 (all according to Charpentier 1965) and *H. hardei* Mascagni, 1988 (according to Mascagni 1988). *H. snizeki* sp. n. is closely related with *H. sennarensis*, distributed in Sudan, Mali and Nigeria (Charpentier 1965). The new species differs from *H. sennarensis* by the structure of aedeagus (Figs 3,5), coloration (*H. sennarensis* have color of elytra black-brown or black and pronotum is widely bordered with reddish-yellow colour all around) and distribution of patches on the elytra (Figs 2,4); female without clypeal horns (female of *H. sennarensis* with clypeal horns present).

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SOUHRN

K osmi africkým druhům čeledi Heteroceridae ze skupiny *Heterocerus bredoi* (Charpentier 1965; Mascagni 1988) přiřazuji nový druh *H. snizeki* sp. n., který je blízce příbuzný druhu *H. sennarensis* Grouvelle, 1909. Nový druh se od *H. sennarensis* odlišuje především strukturou aedeagu, tvarem kusadel, barvou těla, rozmístěním skvrn na krovkách a geografickým rozšířením - *H. sennarensis* je znám ze Sudánu, Mali a Nigérie (Charpentier 1965), kdežto nový druh byl sbírán pouze v Tanzánii. Samice *H. snizeki* sp. n. nemají na rozdíl od *H. sennarensis* vyvinuté clypeální růžky.

Nový druh je pojmenován k poctě nálezce, Ing. Miroslava Snížka (České Budějovice).