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Dimorphophthalmus, a new genus of the tribe Oosomini (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Entiminae) from the South African Eastern Cape

Dimorphophthalmus, nový rod tribu Oosomini (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Entiminae) z Východního Kapska v Jižní Africe

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Abstract. A new genus of Oosomini, *Dimorphophthalmus* gen. nov., is described for a new species *D. cata* sp. nov. collected in the Eastern Cape. The taxonomically important structures are described and illustrated. The taxonomic position and relationship of the genus is discussed.

INTRODUCTION

We know that a relatively large number of South African entimines occur on low vegetation, shrubs or trees. They can therefore be collected by traditional methods, such as sweeping, grassnetting and beating. However, our knowledge of the edaphic entimines – species associated with soil or forest litter – is only now starting to develop and grow. The majority of edaphic specimens currently at our disposal for examination, have been collected over the last few decades, mainly by sifting. Thus, several new genera in tribes such as the Embrithini Marshall, 1942 or Trachyphloeini Lacordaire, 1863, have been newly described during the last few years (for example Borovec & Skuhrovec 2019). A new tribe, comprising several new genera, was described from the north-western part of South Africa as recently as 2021 (Meregalli et al. 2021). It should be mentioned that tribes such as Embrithini or Oosomini Lacordaire, 1863 include genera which mostly contain medium-sized or large beetles that live on above-ground vegetation, but they also include small edaphic beetles. Some of them were described not too long ago, for example *Afrophloeus* Borovec et Oberprieler, 2013 (Embrithini) or *Basothorhynchus* Borovec, 2019 (Oosomini). It should be pointed out that there are still more undescribed genera and species. One of them, the topic of the present paper, was collected in a small area of the Eastern Cape province. It has an unusually shaped body, especially the head.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Body length was measured in dorsal view, rostrum excluded, from the anterior border of eyes to the apex of the elytra. Width/length ratio of the rostrum was measured as the width at base versus maximum length to the base of the mandibles in dorsal view. Width/length ratios of pronotum, elytra, antennal and tarsal segments were taken at the maximum width and length of the respective parts in dorsal view. Female genitalia were embedded in Solakryl BMX (Medika, Prague, Czech Republic), male genitalia were mounted dry on the same card as the respective specimen. Habitus images were taken with a Canon EOS 5D mark II in combination with a Canon MP-E65 1–5x macro lens. The images were focus stacked using Zerene Stacker and post-processed in Adobe Photoshop CC 2015. Terminology of the rostrum and genitalia follows Oberprieler et al. (2014).

The material is deposited in the following collections (identified by acronyms):

ANIC	Australian National Insect Collection, Canberra, Australia (Rolf Oberprieler);
BMNH	Natural History Museum, London, United Kingdom (formerly British Museum of Natural History) (Maxwell Barclay);
CMNC	Canadian Museum of Nature Collection, Ottawa, Canada (Robert Anderson);
JJRC	Jiří Janák private collection, Rtyně nad Bílinou, Czech Republic;
NMPC	National Museum Prague, Czech Republic (Jiří Hájek);
RBSC	Roman Borovec private collection, Sloupno, Czech Republic;
TMSA	Ditsong National Museum of Natural History (formerly Transvaal Museum), Pretoria, South Africa (Werner Strümpher).

TAXONOMY

Dimorphophthalmus gen. nov.

(Figs 1–11)

Type species. *Dimorphophthalmus cata* sp. nov. by present designation. Gender masculine.

Diagnosis. Very small wingless Oosomini, less than 2 mm; body glabrous, lacking dense appressed scales; rostrum almost twice as wide as long, distinctly tapered apicad, posteriorly continuous with head; ventral margin of rostrum in lateral view about half as long as thickness of rostrum at its base; epifrons at base reaching middle of anterior margin of eyes; frons glabrous; mandibles trisetose; scrobes in dorsal view visible as narrow furrows, in lateral view distinctly enlarging posteriad with ventral margin reaching ventral margin of rostrum; eyes large, positioned subdorsally, apparently larger in males than in females; funicle 6-segmented; elytra short, oval; suture between abdominal ventrites 1 and 2 straight; ventrites glabrous; femora unarmed; claws free; tegmen lacking parameres; female sternite VIII with long apodeme and small short plate; gonocoxites extremely slender, tube-shaped, with long apical styli.

Description. Body (Fig. 1) length 1.3–1.8 mm. Body dark brown, antennal scapes, funicles, tibiae and tarsi paler, reddish brown. Entire body glabrous, smooth, dorsal part sparsely covered with inconspicuous small appressed setae and conspicuous erect spatulate setae forming regular row on each elytral interstria and being irregularly scattered on head, rostrum and pronotum. Ventral part of body glabrous, with some sparse appressed scales on meso- and metasternum, abdominal ventrites with very sparse, short and fine, piliform semi-erect setae, only anterior and posterior margin of prosternum and surroundings of pro- and mesocoxae with small oval appressed scales. Scapes with sparse but conspicuous row of erect, spatulate, long setae on inner margins; funicles with inconspicuous, sparse, semi-appressed piliform setae; clubs finely setose; femora and tibiae with narrow, subspatulate, semi-erect setae; tarsi setose.

Rostrum (Figs 2–5) very short and wide, almost twice as wide as long, subtrapezoidal, enlarged apicad a short distance before eyes at outfall of scrobes, and here widest, then evenly and distinctly tapered apicad, with straight to slightly concave sides; in lateral view with dorsal and ventral margin slightly curved, ventral margin about half as long as thickness of rostrum at its base; rostrum posteriorly continuous with head. Epifrons short and wide, widest at base, evenly conspicuously tapered apicad with slightly concave sides, at base reaching middle of anterior margin of eyes, dorsally distinctly longitudinally deepened, depression reaching posteriorly to vertex, somewhat matt with some minute punctures. Frons short,



Fig. 1. *Dimorphophthalmus cata* gen. et sp. nov., male paratype, dorsal view (photograph by Pavel Krásenský).
Obr. 1. *Dimorphophthalmus cata* gen. et sp. nov., samec, paratyp, pohled shora (fotografie Pavel Krásenský).

glabrous, transversely somewhat depressed, posteriorly continuous with epifrons, slightly finely longitudinally striate, with 3–4 long stout setae. Mandibles small, asquamose, trisetose. Antennal scrobes in dorsal view well visible as narrow furrows, weakly curved and opened posteriad; in lateral view conspicuously enlarged posteriad, with short dorsal margin parallel with dorsal margin of rostrum and reaching eye and long ventral margin, conspicuously curved downwards, almost reaching ventral margin of rostrum; rostrum on sides matt. Eyes large, placed subdorsally, slightly prominent from outline of head, posteriorly almost reaching anterior margin of pronotum, larger in males than in females; in males longitudinal diameter

in dorsal view as long as length of rostrum, in lateral view eyes occupy half of head height; vertex narrower than transverse diameter of eye; in females longitudinal diameter in dorsal view shorter than length of rostrum, in lateral view eyes occupy third of head height; vertex about twice as wide as transverse diameter of eye. Ventral side of head glabrous. Submentum with two fine setae.

Antennae (Fig. 1) slender, medium length; scapes distinctly longer than funicle, in repose reaching anterior margin of pronotum, slightly curved, in apical half weakly evenly enlarging apicad; funicle 6-segmented; segment 1 conical, more robust than others, segments 4–6 almost isodiametric; club short oval.

Pronotum (Fig. 1) distinctly wider than long, constricted behind anterior margin, anterior margin slightly narrower than posterior one, rounded; base almost straight; sides distinctly rounded; disc regularly domed without furrow or keel; anterolateral margin lacking ocular lobes or vibrissae, directed distinctly obliquely ventrad to procoxae. Procoxal cavities contiguous, round, located very near to anterior margin; procoxae subglobular. Scutellar shield not visible.

Elytra (Fig. 1) oval with regularly rounded sides, apically broadly rounded, lacking laterally prominent humeral calli or subhumeral bumps; 10-striate; base almost straight, as wide as base of pronotum. Mesocoxae globular; mesoventral process narrow, about as wide as fifth of mesocoxa diameter. Metacoxae round, positioned sublaterally, not reaching lateral margin of elytra. Mesanepisternum large, glabrous, reaching metaventrite; mesepimeron narrow, long, well separated; metanepisternum narrow, well separated from metaventrite. Wingless.

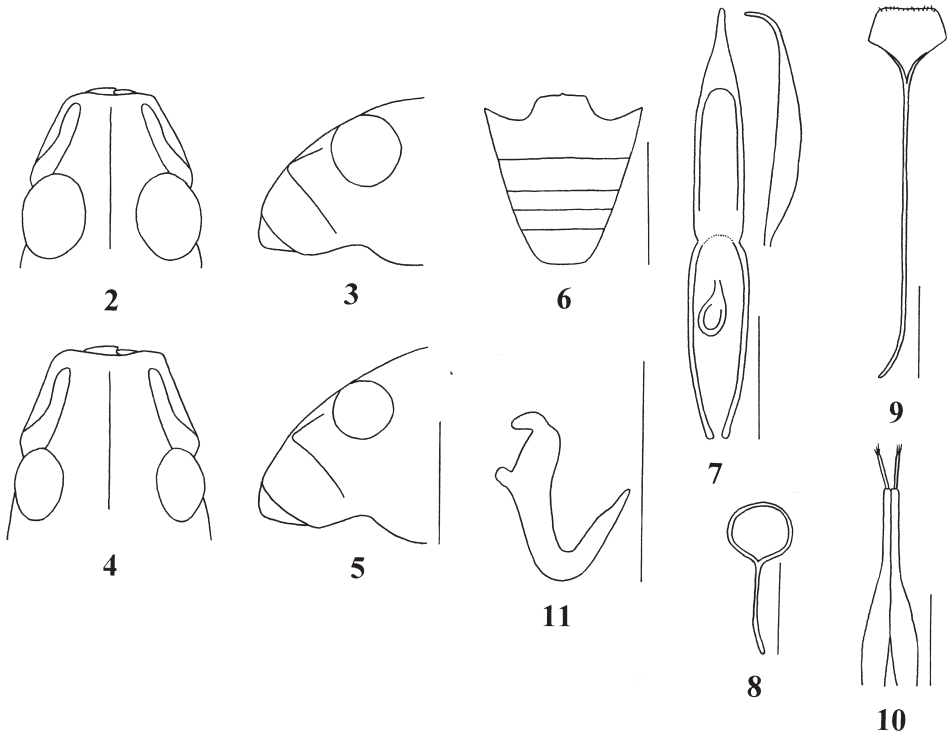
Abdominal ventrites (Fig. 6) short, hardly longer than wide; ventrite 1 at midline twice as long, behind metacoxa 1.5× as long as ventrite 2; ventrite 2 slightly shorter than ventrites 3 and 4 combined; ventrite 5 in males very short, obtuse, in females slightly longer, slightly rounded at apex. All sutures straight; suture between ventrites 1 and 2 fine, others rough and wide. Metaventral process narrow, narrower than transverse diameter of metacoxa. Ventrites glabrous, smooth, with several sparse, short, fine inconspicuous setae.

Femora medially inflated, unarmed. Tibiae short. Protibiae with lateral margin straight and mesal margin slightly sinuose, not denticulate, in apical portion only slightly enlarged laterally and mesally, rounded, fringed with very short, fine yellowish setae, with unobtrusive mucro. Meso- and metatibiae with unobtrusive mucro; metatibiae with glabrous apical surface and with short setose bevel. Tarsi short; segment 3 distinctly wider than previous segments; onychium short, slightly longer than segment 3; claws free, parallel, tightly pressed together.

Sexual dimorphism. Both sexes are easily distinguishable by the eye size being distinctly larger in males than in females.

Male terminalia. Penis (Fig. 7) moderately long and slender; temones slightly shorter than body of penis, endophallus with rounded sclerite. Tegmen (Fig. 8) with slender complete ring lacking parameres, manubrium about 1.5× as long as diameter of ring. Sternite IX with spiculum gastrale moderately long, anteriorly curved and posteriorly with fused basal arms.

Female genitalia. Sternite VIII (Fig. 9) with long and slender apodeme, 6–7× as long as plate, apically slightly curved and tapered; plate small and short, wider than long, subtrapezoidal with slightly concave apical margin bearing fringe of short fine setae; apodeme terminating just at base of plate forming its very short basal margins. Ovipositor (Fig. 10) extremely slender, constituted by two long, very slender tube-shaped gonocoxites, with long slender apical styli bearing fine setae. Spermatheca (Fig. 11) U-shaped, with developed ramus and collum.



Figs 2–11. *Dimorphophthalmus cata* gen. et sp. nov.: 2 – male head with rostrum, dorsal view; 3 – male head with rostrum, lateral view; 4 – female head with rostrum, dorsal view; 5 – female head with rostrum, lateral view; 6 – male abdominal ventrites; 7 – penis, dorsal and lateral view; 8 – tegmen, dorsal view; 9 – sternite VIII of female, dorsal view; 10 – ovipositor, dorsal view; 11 – spermatheca. Scale bars 0.25 mm for 2–5, 7–11; 0.5 mm for 6.
Obr. 2–11. *Dimorphophthalmus cata* gen. et sp. nov.: 2 – samec, hlava s noscem, pohled shora; 3 – samec, hlava s noscem, pohled zboku; 4 – samice, hlava s noscem, pohled shora; 5 – samice, hlava s noscem, pohled zboku; 6 – zadečkové ventrity; 7 – penis, pohled shora a zboku; 8 – tegmen, pohled shora; 9 – sternit VIII samice, pohled shora; 10 – ovipositor, pohled shora; 11 – spermatéka. Měřítko 0,25 mm u obrázků 2–5, 7–11; 0,5 mm u obrázku 6.

Etymology. The name is a compound word formed from the Ancient Greek words *di-* meaning two; *morpheus* meaning form or shape; and *ophthalmos* meaning eye, referring to the obvious dimorphism of eyes between males and females.
Biology. All material was sifted from the litter in an indigenous forest.
Distribution. Known only from two localities in South Africa, Eastern Cape, not far from each from other.
Species included. The genus is described as monotypic.
Remarks. The newly described genus belongs to the tribe Oosomini as redefined by Oberprieler (2020) based on free claws (this character distinguishes it from the Embrithini and the Trachyphloeini); trisetose mandibles (distinguishing it from the Otiorhynchini Schoenherr, 1826); dorsally placed scrobes (distinguishing it from the Brachyderini Schoenherr, 1826 and the Sciaphilini Sharp, 1891); lack of ocular lobes and vibrissae (distinguishing it from

the Tanyrhynchini Schoenherr, 1826 and the Tanymecini Lacordaire, 1863); lack of a protruding humeral callus (distinguishing it from the Polydrusini Schoenherr, 1823); and glabrous frons, as well as large, dorsally placed eyes, slender scapes and narrow metaventral process (distinguishing it from the Namaini Borovec et Meregalli, 2021).

Dimorphophthalmus gen. nov. shares no obvious characters with any currently known genus of Oosomini. Several characters are unique in the tribe Oosomini, primarily the following: base of the epifrons reaches the middle of the anterior margin of the eyes; eyes large, subdorsal, larger in males than in females; longitudinal diameter eyes of male in dorsal view as long as length of rostrum; body glabrous in dorsal and ventral aspects; rostrum almost twice as wide as long, distinctly tapered apicad; ventral margin of rostrum in lateral view very short; claws free, parallel, close each to other; very small plate of female sternite VIII that is wider than long; and gonocoxites extremely slender and tube-shaped.

Compared to other genera in the Oosomini, *Dimorphophthalmus* gen. nov. is easily distinguishable from those comprising large-sized species (*Cladeyterus* Schoenherr, 1842, *Phlyctinus* Schoenherr, 1826, *Piezoderes* Schoenherr, 1842, and *Pyctoderes* Schoenherr, 1823) not only by its small body size less than 2 mm (more than 5.8 mm in the afore mentioned genera); but also by its rostrum posteriorly continuous with head (separated by a clearly edged transverse sulcus in the afore mentioned genera); base of epifrons wider than space between inner margins of eyes (distinctly narrower in the afore mentioned genera) and epistome not developed (well developed in the afore mentioned genera).

Its very short wide rostrum easily distinguishes *Dimorphophthalmus* gen. nov. from all genera that have a long slender rostrum (at least 1.2× longer than wide, but mostly conspicuously longer than wide) such as *Oosomus* Schoenherr, 1826, *Oxymorus* Borovec et Meregalli, 2020, *Holcolaccus* Marshall, 1953, *Periderces* Marshall, 1926, *Nastomma* Marshall, 1908, *Anathresa* Marshall, 1908, *Stereorhynchus* Lacordaire, 1863, *Malosomus* Faust, 1898, and *Umzila* Marshall, 1908.

The only genus of the Oosomini which is similar to *Dimorphophthalmus* gen. nov. is *Basothorhynchus* Borovec, 2019. This genus was recently described from Lesotho. It has several newly discovered undescribed species from KwaZulu-Natal, a province of South Africa adjacent to Lesotho. Both genera primarily share: a small body size of at most 3 mm; glabrous body; rostrum wider than long, evenly tapered apicad with straight sides, and posteriorly continuous with the head; base of epifrons not narrower than space between inner margins of eyes; and frons glabrous. Both genera can be distinguished by the following character sets:

***Dimorphophthalmus* gen. nov.:** rostrum almost twice as wide as long; ventral margin of rostrum in lateral view about half as long as width of rostrum at its base; scrobes in lateral view conspicuously enlarged posteriad, with ventral margin reaching ventral margin of rostrum; epifrons reaching middle of anterior margin of eyes basally; funicle 6-segmented; procoxal cavities placed very near to anterior margin of pronotum; tegmen lacking parameres; and female sternite VIII with apodeme many times longer than oval transverse plate.

***Basothorhynchus*:** rostrum at most 1.2× as wide as long; ventral margin of rostrum in lateral view about as long as width of rostrum at its base; scrobes in lateral view furrow-shaped, with ventral margin directed towards ventral margin of eyes; base of epifrons reaching inner margins of eyes; funicle 7-segmented; procoxal cavities situated medially in pronotum; tegmen bearing two parameres; and female sternite VIII with apodeme as long as subtriangular plate.

Dimorphophthalmus cata **sp. nov.**
(Figs 1–11)

Type locality. South Africa, Eastern Cape, Cata env.
Type material. Holotype: ♂, "South Africa, Eastern Cape, Cata env., ind. forest, 32°34.7′ S, 27°06.3′ E, 19.i.2016, J. Janák lgt." (TMSA). **Paratypes:** 12 ♂♂ 6 ♀♀, same data as holotype (1 spec. ANIC, 1 spec. BMNH, 1 spec. CMNC, 10 spec. JJRC, 1 spec. NMPC, 4 spec. RBSC); 1 ♂, 1 ♀, "South Africa, Eastern Cape, Hogsback State Forest, Contour track env., 32°35.2′ S, 26°56.6′ E, 10.i.2015, J. Janák lgt." (JJRC); 10 ♂♂ 10 ♀♀, ditto, but 18.i.2016 (JJRC).
Description. Body length holotype 1.47 mm, paratypes 1.31–1.81 mm. Appressed scales (Fig. 1) on body distinctly V-shaped, split to their base with tips strongly divaricate forming one irregular row on each elytral interstria and irregularly scattered on pronotum, hardy visible on head with rostrum. Elytra with one row of conspicuous, spatulate erect setae, apically rounded, about as long as interstria width, distance between two setae slightly longer than twice the length of one seta, setae in some specimens denser on odd than even interstriae. Pronotum with almost identical erect setae, irregularly scattered; head with rostrum with shorter, semi-erect, almost rounded setae densely distributed mainly between and behind eyes and along epifrons margins.

Rostrum (Figs 2–5) 1.88–1.92× as wide as long, at base 1.29–1.43× as wide as at apex.

Antennae (Fig. 1) with scapes 5.6–5.8× as long as wide at apex, 1.4× as long as funicle, at apex 0.8× as wide as club. Funicle segment 1 1.8–1.9× as long as wide, twice as long as segment 2, which is 1.9–2.0× as long as wide; segment 3 1.3–1.4× as long as wide; segments 4 and 5 isodiametric; segment 6 1.1× as long as wide; clubs 1.7–1.8× as long as wide.

Pronotum (Fig. 1) 1.46–1.53× as wide as long, smooth, shiny, with very fine, sparse, hardly visible punctures; in lateral view vaulted, behind anterior margin flattened.

Elytra (Fig. 1) 1.16–1.19× as long as wide; striae sparsely distinctly punctured, slightly narrower than interstriae, space between punctures deepened; interstriae slightly vaulted, smooth, shiny; elytra in lateral view distinctly vaulted, posterior declivity in dorsal view not overhanging apex of elytra.

Protibiae 5.3–5.5× as long as wide at middle. Tarsi with segment 2 1.2–1.3× as wide as long; segment 3 1.3–1.4× as wide as long and 1.5× as wide as segment 2; onychium 1.2–1.3× as long as segment 3.

Penis (Fig. 7) in basal three quarters subparallel-sided, in apical quarter distinctly tapered apicad, tip elongate with slightly concave sides; in lateral view slender, in basal three quarters straight, in apical quarter distinctly curved ventrad, tip slender, elongate; sclerite long, slender, U-shaped.

Spermatheca (Fig. 11) with cornu straight, irregularly tapered apicad; corpus elongate; ramus and collum perpendicular to corpus, moderately distant each other, both straight, collum somewhat longer and wider than ramus.
Etymology. The species takes its name from the type locality.

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SOUHRN

Fauna nosatců podčeledi Entiminae jižní Afriky je známa především podle druhů obývajících nadzemní vegetaci bylinného, keřového a stromového pásma, tedy podle relativně větších forem, které se dají sbírat sklepáváním nebo smýkáním. Půdní druhy žijící v lesní hrabance anebo v půdě bezlesých biotopů dosud téměř nebyly studovány. Významnější materiály těchto rodů a druhů byly sbírány především v posledních několika málo dekádách let, především prosevem. Triby jako jsou např. Embrithini Marshall, 1942 nebo Oosomini Lacordaire, 1863 tak dnes obsahují významnou většinu rodů s druhy již popsanými, které žijí na nadzemní vegetaci. Tyto triby ovšemzahrnují i rody a druhy s terikolním způsobem života. Některé z nich byly popsány v nedávné době, např. rod *Afrophloeus* Borovec et Oberprieler, 2013 z Jižní Afriky v tribu Embrithini, anebo rod *Basothorhynchus* Borovec, 2019 z Lesotha v tribu Oosomini. Nemálo dalších rodů terikolních nosatců ale ještě popsáno není. Jedním z nich je i rod sbíraný v lesní hrabance na dvou lokalitách Východního Kapska, jehož popis předkládá tato práce.

Nově popsaný rod *Dimorphophthalmus* gen. nov. patří do tribu Oosomini především tykadlovými rýhami uloženými dorsálně, kusadly se třemi sétami, lysým frons, dorsálně uloženýma očima, štíhlými tykadlovými násadci, chybějícími očními laloky, chybějící řádkou sét na boku předního okraje štítu, nevystupujícími ramenními hrbolky krovek, volnými drápky a úzkým výběžkem zadohrudi. Nově popsaný rod není v tribu Oosomini blízce podobný žádnému dosud známému rodu. Liší se od ostatních rodů především několika unikátními znaky, jako je epifrons v basální části dosahující středu předního okraje očí, velkýma, subdorsálně uloženýma očima, která jsou větší u samců než u samic. Dále se liší lysým tělem při pohledu shora i zespodu, noscem téměř dvakrát tak širokým jako dlouhým, silně zúženým dopředu, velmi krátkým ventrálním okrajem nosce při pohledu z boku, volnými ale paralelními drápky, malou, širší než delší destičkou samičího sternitu VIII, a také velmi štíhlým, trubičkovitým ovipositorem.

Jediným rodem, kterému je v tribu Oosomini *Dimorphophthalmus* gen. nov. podobný, je rod *Basothorhynchus*. Oba rody jsou si podobné především krátkým tělem, méně než 3 mm



Fig. 12. Habitat of *Dimorphophthalmus cata* gen. et sp. nov., Cata (photograph by Jiří Janák).
Obr. 12. Lokalita *Dimorphophthalmus cata* gen. et sp. nov., Cata (fotografie Jiří Janák).

dlouhým, noscem širším než delším, rovnoměrně zúženým dopředu s rovnými stranami, neoddělený od hlavy příčnou rýhou, bazí epifrons tak širokou anebo širší než je vzdálenost mezi očima a lysým frons. *Dimorphophthalmus* gen. n. se od *Basothorhynchus* liší noscem téměř dvakrát tak širokým jak dlouhým (maximálně 1,2× tak široký u *Basothorhynchus*), spodní hranou nosce při pohledu z boku polovičně tak dlouhou jako je výška hlavy (stejně dlouhou u *Basothorhynchus*), tykadlovými rýhami při pohledu z boku nápadně rozšířenými se spodním okrajem téměř dosahujícím spodního okraje nosce (rýhami úzkými, paralelními, se spodní hranou směrovanou ke spodnímu okraji oka u *Basothorhynchus*), epifrons na bázi dosahujícím do poloviny šířky očí (dosahující k vnitřním okrajům očí u *Basothorhynchus*), bičíkem šestičlánkovým (sedmičlánkovým u *Basothorhynchus*), předními kyčlemi uloženými velmi blízko k přednímu okraji štítu (uprostřed štítu u *Basothorhynchus*), tegmenem bez paramer (s paramerami u *Basothorhynchus*), sternitem VIII u samic s apodemou mnohokrát delší než je oválná, příčná destička (apodemou stejně dlouhou jako trojúhelníkovitá destička u *Basothorhynchus*).

Jméno rodu je složeno ze tří starořeckých slov, které vyjadřují významný unikátní znak rodu – rozdílně velké oči u obou pohlaví. Do rodu je zařazen jeden nově popsaný druh, který nese jméno typové locality Cata ve Východním Kapsku.

12. JUNIORSKÁ VĚDECKÁ KONFERENCE

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