

# DATA ON AFROTROPICAL HISTERIDAE (COLEOPTERA), WITH DESCRIPTION OF *HISTER SINDARAE* N. SP.

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Yélamos, T., 1992. Data on Afrotropical Histeridae (Coleoptera), with description of *Hister sindarae* n. sp. *Misc. Zool.*, 16: 37-43.

*Data on Afrotropical Histeridae (Coleoptera), with description of Hister sindarae n. sp.*— Thirty nine species from the Afrotropical region are recorded, including *Hister sindarae* n. sp. from Gabon. This species is related to *Hister montanus* Marseul, 1857, but it differs from it mainly by the morphology of the outer lateral stria of the pronotum, dorsal elytral striae, subhumeral fovea, pygidium and protibiae. Two species recently described from Gabon *Cyclobacanius morenoi* Yélamos & Gomy, 1990 and *Cyclobacanius teresae* Yélamos & Gomy, 1990) are also recorded. The most interesting species in relation to the localities where they were found are *Saprinus cruciatus flavipennis* Péringuey, 1888 (Kenya), *Saprinus rhytpterus* Marseul, 1862 (Gabon), *Hister amphystrius* Marseul, 1880 (Gabon), *Atholus chariensis* (Desbordes, 1916) (Gabon), *Atholus cycloides* (Burgeon, 1939) (Gabon), *Atholus ruptistrius* Lewis, 1913 (Kenya) and *Hololepta optiva* Lewis, 1914 (Gabon).

Key words: Coleoptera, Histeridae, *Hister sindarae* n. sp., Taxonomy, Distribution, Afrotropical region.

(*Rebut: 30 X 92: Acceptació condicional: 22 II 93; Acc. definitiva: 23 III 93*)

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## INTRODUCTION

YÉLAMOS & GOMY (1990) described two new species of Histeridae on material collected in Sindara (Gabon) *Cyclobacanius morenoi* and *C. teresae*. In an earlier study two specimens of the genus *Hister* from Sindara were doubtfully attributed to *H. montanus*. These specimens seemed to be of a new species related to *H. montanus* Marseul, 1857 (Mazur, pers. com.) and are here described as a separate species *Hister sindarae*.

## RESULTS

The abbreviations used are: (J.L.M.) José Luís Moreno and Teresa Mestre leg.;

(Ph.W.) Philippe Walter leg.; (X.C.) Xavier Carbonell leg.; (X.V.) Xavier Vázquez leg.

*Chaetabraeus (Mazureus) curtulus* (Fåhraeus, 1851)

Bankass (Mali) 30 VI 1987 (J.L.M.). This species has been described from South Africa but it is distributed in the whole Afrotropical region.

*Acritus serratus* Burgeon, 1939

Sindara (Gabon) 18 X 1986 (J.L.M.), under bark of fallen trees. This species was synonymized by MÜLLER (1944) with *A. infimus* (Desbordes, 1914). The validity of the later can possibly be stated after revision of the African *Acritus*. Distributed in central Africa.

*Teretriosoma affrum* Lewis, 1893

Sindara (Gabon) 30 VI 1985 (J.L.M.), under bark of fallen trees. Distributed in central and western Africa.

*Pygocoelis africanus* (Lewis, 1895)

Sindara (Gabon) 18 X 1986 (J.L.M.), under bark of fallen trees. Species known from central and western Africa.

*Saprinus cruciatus flavipennis* Péringuey, 1888

Taita Hills (Kenya) 12 XII 1989 (J.L.M.). Distributed in South Africa and Zambia (MAZUR, 1984).

*Saprinus rhytiterus* Marseul, 1862

Réserve de la Lode (Gabon) 7 IV 1983 (Ph.W.), living on rotting fish. Distributed in tropical Africa, mainly in the eastern areas.

*Saprinus splendens* (Paykull, 1811)

Taita Hills (Kenya) 12 XII 1989 (J.L.M.). This species has a wide distribution; it is known from the Afrotropical, Oriental and Australian regions, as well as from other Palaearctic areas (Japan, Kashmir, Afghanistan and Saudi Arabia).

*Cyclobacanius morenoi* Yélamos & Gomy, 1990

Sindara (Gabon) 18 X 1986 (J.L.M.), living under bark of fallen trees. This species was described from this locality (YÉLAMOS & GOMY, 1990), and is known now from the greater part of central and western Afrotropical region (YÉLAMOS & GOMY, 1992).

*Cyclobacanius teresae* Yélamos & Gomy, 1990

Sindara (Gabon) 28 XI 1986 (J.L.M.), under bark of fallen trees. It is only known from Gabon and Cameroon.

*Carcinops troglodytes* (Paykull, 1811)

Sindara (Gabon) 28 XI 1986 (J.L.M.). This species has a wide distribution in all the tropical areas of the world.

*Diplostix mayeti* (Marseul, 1870)

Sindara (Gabon) 18 X 1986 and 28 XI 1986 (J.L.M.), under bark of fallen trees. It is known from tropical Africa, Cap Vert Islands, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

*Platylomalus digitatus* (Wollaston, 1867)

Sindara (Gabon) 18 X 1986 and 28 XI 1986 (J.L.M.), under bark of fallen trees. It has been recorded from tropical Africa, Cap Vert Islands and Comoro Islands.

*Pactolinus gigas* (Paykull, 1811)

Djenné (Mali) 7 VIII 1990 (X.V.), found in dung; Masai Mara National Park (Kenya) 6 XII 1989 (J.L.M.), found in dung. It is distributed in tropical Africa.

*Pachylister adjectus* (Marseul, 1861)

Mpassa, Makokou (Gabon) 24 XII 1981 (Ph.W.); Forêt Nzoua-Méyang, west of Bifoun (Gabon) 2 III 1981 and 24 II 1982 (Ph.W.), in elephant dung. Species known from tropical Africa.

*Pachylister caffer* (Erichson, 1834)

Région de la Lode (Gabon) 7 IV 1983 (Ph.W.), in elephant dung; Samburu National Park (Kenya) 4 XII 1989 (J.L.M.); Amboseli National Park (Kenya) 10 XII 1989 (J.L.M.); Hluhluwe Reserve (Natal, South Africa) 30 XII 1978 (Ph.W.). Afrotropical distribution.

*Pachylister nigrita* (Erichson, 1834)

Tchibanga (Gabon) 24 XII 1984 (Ph.W.). Afrotropical region.

*Hister amphystrius* Marseul, 1880

Tchibanga (Gabon) 24 XII 1984 (Ph.W.). It

is known from Angola, Zaire and Cameroon (MAZUR, 1984).

*Hister calidus* Erichson, 1842

Masai Mara National Park (Kenya) 6 XII 1989 (J.L.M.). Afrotropical distribution.

*Hister fossor* Erichson, 1834

Douentza (Mali) 10 VIII 1990 (X.V.). It is known from Senegal, Sudan, central and western Africa.

*Hister gehini* Marseul, 1854

Amboseli National Park (Kenya) 10 XII 1989 (J.L.M.); Bamako (Mali) 26 VI 1987 (J.L.M.); Mopti (Mali) 8 VIII 1990 (X.V.); Douentza (Mali) 10 VIII 1990 (X.V.). It has an Afrotropical distribution and is also living in Saudi Arabia and other areas from the north of the African continent.

*Hister ignavus* (Fåhraeus, 1851)

Hluhluwe Reserve (Natal, South Africa) 30 XII 1978 (Ph.W.). It only lives in South Africa.

*Hister nomas* Erichson, 1834

Masai Mara National Park (Kenya) 6 XII 1989 (J.L.M.). Afrotropical distribution.

*Hister pilicollis* Schmidt, 1889

Hluhluwe Reserve (Natal, South Africa) 30 XII 1978 (Ph.W.). It only lives in South Africa.

*Hister sindarae* n. sp. (figs. 1-4).

#### Description

Body broadly oval, less convex, black, with legs and antennal funicle reddish.

Head with large, very strong and convex mandibles. Labrum long, very convex, not sinuate and glabrous. Epistoma very short, inclined towards the labrum, impunctate. Front flat, impunctate, with frontal stria very wide and very impressed, nearly semicircular,

slightly recurved in front. Antennae with very long, narrow and recurved scape, with few setae; first segment of funicle rather longer than the other segments; antennal club large and pubescent. Eyes large.

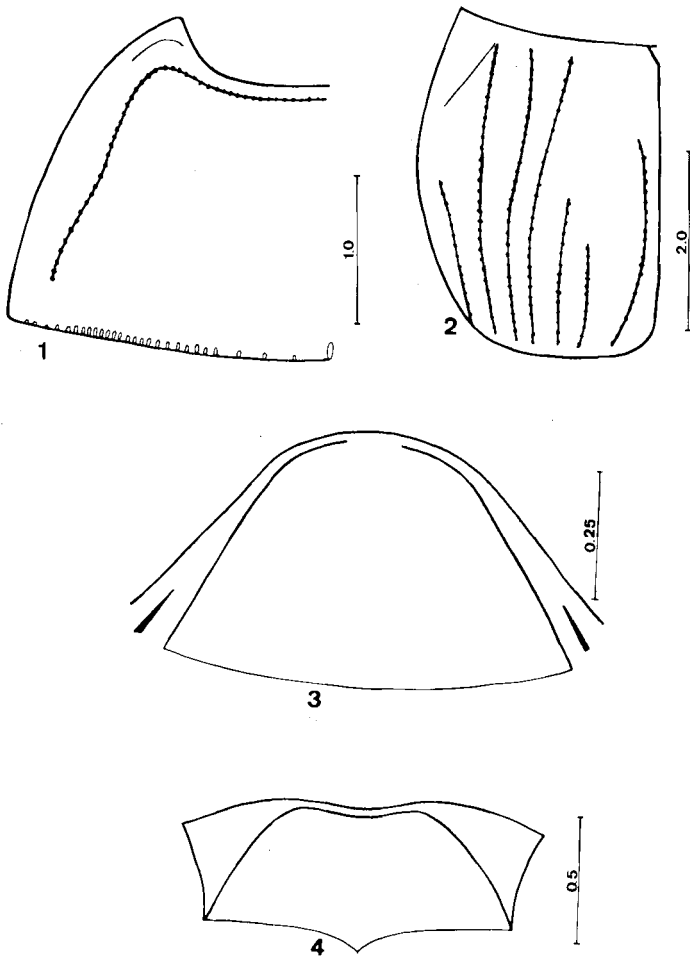
Pronotum impunctate, slightly convex; anterior angles directed downwards; marginal stria complete; outer lateral stria reduced as short arches situated on the anterior angles, fine and crenulate; inner lateral stria deeply impressed, complete, crenulate, not reaching the base, sinuate on the sides (fig. 1).

Elytra very dilated, slightly convex, impunctate; humeral stria very fine and long; inner subhumeral stria deep and crenulate, slightly surpassing the middle; first three dorsal striae very distinct, deep, crenulate, coming closer on the middle; fourth and fifth striae slightly finer and crenulate, the fourth distal, nearly reaching the middle, somewhat longer than the fifth; sutural stria deep and very crenulate, distal, coming near the suture from the apex and feebly recurved outwards on the basal end, reaching the 2/3 of elytral length (fig. 2); subhumeral fovea very deep, smooth; epipleurae with one stria, very narrow and reduced on the basal half.

Propygidium with two lateral very shallow impressions, convex on the middle; with a double punctuation, formed by distinct irregularly distributed, not dense punctures, as well as other smaller and scarce punctures.

Pygidium very convex, with similar punctuation as the propygidium, but somewhat more densely punctate.

Prosternal keel without striae, narrow and feebly punctate; prosternal lobe short and wide very finely punctate, with a marginal stria, interrupted on the middle (fig. 3).



Figs. 1-4. *Hister sindarae* n. sp.: 1. Left part of pronotum; 2. Left elytrum; 3. Prosternal lobe; 4. Mesosternum. (Scales in mm).

*Hister sindarae* sp. n.:  
1. Parte izquierda del pronoto; 2. Élitro izquierdo; 3. Lóbulo prosternal; 4. Mesosterno. (Escala en mm).

Mesosternum slightly sinuate at the anterior margin, with complete lateral stria, very slightly bisinuate at the base; meso-metasternal suture distinct (fig. 4); surface impunctate, slightly convex.

Metasternal disc convex and smooth; lateral metasternal stria complete, deep, very arcuate towards the sides; post-mesocoxal plaque with large and irregular punctures; epimeron large, with large foveae, setose; metepisternum very wide, with a deep irregular impression.

First abdominal sternite long, convex, finely punctate; longitudinal striae deep and

very oblique; sides irregularly punctate, as well as the other sternites.

Legs short and dilated; protibiae less dilated, with four teeth; tarsal groove very deep; meso- and metatibiae spinose.

Length: 4.7-5.4mm (head, propygidium and pygidium excluded).

Maximum width: 4.3-5.0mm.

Only females known.

Found in elephant dung.

Diagnosis

It may be distinguished from *Hister montanus* Marseul, 1857 chiefly by the following

combination of characters: outer lateral stria of pronotum shorter, reduced as a short arch on the anterior angles, close to the marginal stria, similarly recurved like the inner lateral stria, whereas in *H. montanus* the outer lateral stria is longer, coming near the inner stria but less arcuate than this stria; inner lateral stria of pronotum reduced at the base; elytral striae more impressed, the fourth and the fifth striae being longer; subhumeral fovea deep, unistriate, with two striae in *H. montanus*; pygidium less densely punctate; protibiae with four teeth, three in *H. montanus* (MARSEUL, 1857; BICKHARDT, 1919). It is also similar to *Hister pharaonis* Schmidt, 1889 and *Hister schimperi* Desbordes, 1917, but both species have the prothoracic epipleurae ciliate, glabrous in the new species; elytral epipleurae with two striae in *H. pharaonis* (one in *H. sindarae*) and protibiae with three teeth in *H. schimperi* (four in *H. sindarae*) (BICKHARDT, 1919; DESBORDES, 1917; SCHMIDT, 1889).

#### Type series

Holotype, ♀ labelled: /GABON, Sindara, 15.9.1986, excremento de elefante, J.L. MORENO-T.MESTRE LEG./, /HOLOTYPUS, *Hister sindarae*, T.Yélamos Des. 1992/. Paratype, ♀ with same data label as the holotype. Deposited in the author's collection.

#### Etymology

This species is dedicated to Sindara, daughter of José Luís Moreno and Teresa Mestre, collectors of these Histeridae, in honour of their constant entomological collaboration.

#### Geographical distribution

Only known from Sindara (Gabon), locality situated near the Ngounié River (Fougamou area).

#### *Hister ritsemae* Marseul, 1882

Fort Nzoua-Méyang, west of Bifoun (Gabon)

7 VI 1981 (Ph.W.), in carrion of fish. It lives in the greater part of the Afrotropical region, with the exception of the south.

#### *Hister tropicus* Paykull, 1811

Masai Mara National Park (Kenya) 6 XII 1989 (J.L.M.); Hluhluwe Reserve (Natal, South Africa) 30 XII 1978 (Ph.W.); Bamako (Mali) 27 VI 1987 (J.L.M.). It lives in tropical Africa and Saudi Arabia.

#### *Hister zulu* Marseul, 1853

Bamako (Mali) 27 VI 1987 (J.L.M.), in human excrements. Distributed in central and western Africa.

#### *Contipus digitatus* Marseul, 1853

Bamako (Mali) 27 VI 1987 (J.L.M.), in human excrements. Distributed in central and western Africa.

#### *Atholus chariensis* (Desbordes, 1916)

Found in elephant dung in two localities from Gabon, Région de la Lode (7 IV 1983) (Ph.W.) and Sindara (15 IX 1985) (J.L.M.). It is known from Congo and Zaire.

#### *Atholus cycloides* (Burgeon, 1939)

Forêt Nzoua-Méyang, west of Bifoun (Gabon) 24 II 1982 (Ph.W.), in elephant dung. It is known from Zaire, Congo, Guinea, Cameroon and Ghana.

#### *Atholus geminus* (Erichson, 1834)

Forêt Nzoua-Méyang, west of Bifoun (Gabon) 24 II 1982 (Ph.W.), in elephant dung; Mpassa, Makokou (Gabon) 12 XII 1983 (Ph.W.); Taita Hills (Kenya) 15 X 1990 (X.C.). Afrotropical distribution.

#### *Atholus rothkirchi* Bickhardt, 1919

Mpassa, Makokou (Gabon) 25 V 1982 (Ph.W.), in human excrements; Masai Mara National Park (Kenya) 6 XII 1989 (J.L.M.).

It lives in the greater part of Tropical Africa.

*Atholus ruptistrius* Lewis, 1913

Masai Mara National Park (Kenya) 6 XII 1989 (J.L.M.). It is only known from Uganda and Tanzania.

*Platysoma (Apobletes) foliaceum* (Paykull, 1811)

Sindara (Gabon) 18 X 1986 and 28 XI 1986 (J.L.M.), under bark of fallen trees. Afrotropical distribution.

*Platysoma* (s. str.) *castanipes* Marseul, 1853

Sindara (Gabon) 12 X 1986 (J.L.M.), under bark of fallen trees. Species distributed in the whole African continent.

*Hololepta optiva* Lewis, 1914

Mpassa, Makokou (Gabon) 22 XII 1981 (Ph.W.). It is known from Congo, Zaire, Cameroon and Togo.

*Hypobletus minusculus* (Schmidt, 1893)

Sindara (Gabon) 18 X 1986 (J.L.M.), under bark of fallen trees. Distributed in central and western Africa.

*Platysomatinus diversicollis* (Schmidt, 1889)

Mpassa, Makokou (Gabon) 22 XII 1981 and 15 XII 1983 (Ph.W.) in human excrements. Dimonika (Gabon) 14 VI 1987 (Ph.W.), in human excrements. It is known from the greater part of the Afrotropical region, with the exception of the south.

*Pachycraerus cyanescens* (Erichson, 1834)

Bitam (Gabon) August 1985 (J.L.M.); Sindara (Gabon) 11 V 1985, 18 X 1986 and 28 XI 1986 (J.L.M.), under bark of fallen trees. Distributed in the Afrotropical region and Comoro Islands.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author would like to thank Mr. José Luís Moreno (Barcelona), Mrs. Teresa Mestre (Barcelona), Dr. Philippe Walter (Nantes), Dr. Xavier Vázquez (Barcelona) and Mr. Xavier Carbonell (Barcelona) for providing the material under study. I am grateful to Miss. Nicole Berti (Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris) for sending the type of *Hister montanus*; Dr. Slawomir Mazur (Warszawa) and Dr. Piet Kanaar (Leiderdorp) by their valuable comments on the work.

## RESUMEN

*Datos sobre Histeridae afrotropicales (Coleoptera), con descripción de Hister sindarae sp. n.*

Como resultado del estudio del abundante material recolectado en África tropical y cedido por diversos entomólogos, se citan 39 especies.

Entre ellas se describe *Hister sindarae* de Sindara (Gabón). Esta especie es próxima de *Hister montanus* Marseul, 1857, de la cual se diferencia básicamente por la siguiente combinación de caracteres: estría lateral externa del pronoto más corta, limitada a un corto arco en los ángulos anteriores, próxima a la estría marginal e igualmente curvada que la lateral interna, mientras que en *H. montanus* la estría lateral externa es más larga, muy aproximada a la interna y menos arqueada que ésta; estría lateral interna del pronoto acortada en la base; estrías elitales más marcadas, siendo la cuarta y quinta más largas; foseta subhumeral profunda y con una sola estría, con dos en *H. montanus*; pigidio menos densamente punteado y protibias con cuatro dientes, tres en *H. montanus*. También presenta bastante similitud con *Hister pharaonis* Schmidt, 1889 e *Hister schimperi* Desbordes, 1917, pero estas dos especies tienen las epipleuras protorácicas pubescentes, glabras en la nueva especie; epipleuras elitales con dos estrías en *H. pharaonis* (una en *H. sindarae*) y protibias con tres dientes en *H. schimperi* (cuatro en *H. sindarae*).

Entre las especies que aquí se citan, algunas son nuevas localizaciones o raras para sus respectivos países, destacando las siguientes: *Saprinus cruciatus flavipennis* Péringuey (Kenya), *S. rhytipterus* Marseul (Gabón), *Cyclobacanius morenoi* Yélamos & Gomy (Gabón), *Cyclobacanius teresae* Yélamos & Gomy (Gabón), *Hister amphystrius* Marseul (Gabón), *Atholus chariensis* (Desbordes) (Gabón), *A. cycloides* (Burgeon) (Gabón), *A. ruptistrius* Lewis (Kenya) y *Hololepta optiva* Lewis (Gabón).

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