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**ON THE ALLOTYPE OF
RHANTUS COLYMBITOIDES GSCHWENDTNER, 1932**

(Insecta Coleoptera Dytiscidae)

Riassunto

[*Sull'allotipo di *Rhantus colymbitoides* Gschwendtner, 1932*]

Si descrive l'allotipo maschio di *Rhantus colymbitoides* Gschwendtner, 1932, specie dell'Africa centrale, di cui finora si conosceva solamente l'olotipo femmina.

Abstract

[On the allotype of *Rhantus colymbitoides* Gschwendtner, 1932 (Insecta Coleoptera Dytiscidae)]
Description of the male allotype of *Rhantus colymbitoides* Gschwendtner, 1932. Only the female holotype was known so far.

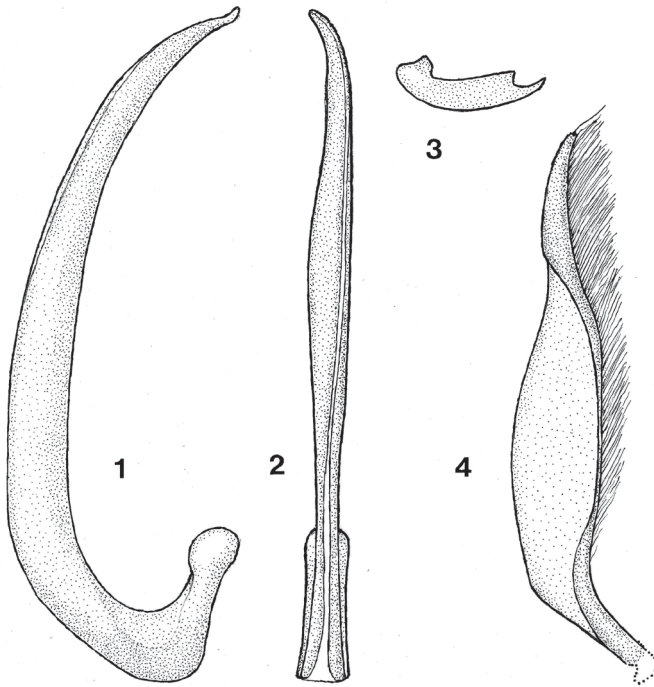
Key words: Dytiscidae, *Rhantus colymbitoides*, allotype, Zambia.

In a collection of Dytiscidae from Northern Zambia I found a male specimen of *Rhantus*, most likely identifiable as *Rhantus colymbitoides* Gschwendtner, 1932. The species was described on a single female collected by G. F. de Witte at Kakyelo, Katanga (GSCHWENDTNER, 1932). The holotype depository is Musée Royal de l'Afrique Centrale, Tervuren, Belgium. As far as I know the female holotype was to date the unique known specimen of the species. Therefore the specimen dealt with in this paper is the allotype of *Rhantus colymbitoides* Gschwendtner, 1932 and will be described here below.

Rhantus colymbitoides Gschwendtner, 1932, male allotype.

Material: 1 ex., NE Zambia, 150 Km S of Mwinilunga, 2.11.2008, legit M. Snižek (most probably at light). The specimen is pinned, penis is glued on a card and parameres are mounted in Euparal on a transparent support, pinned with the studied specimen. The specimen is deposited in author's collection.

Description: total length: 15.6 mm, max. width: 8.28 mm. The colour pattern is well represented by fig. 2, pag. 232, in BALKE (1995). It is entirely black with narrow marginal yellow border, like some *Hydaticus* group *vittatus*, e.g. *Hydaticus ugandaensis* Guignot, etc. The underside is dark brown, with anterior and inter-



Figs 1-4. *Rhantus colymbitoides* ♂. 1: Penis in lateral view; 2: Penis in dorsal view; 3: Anterior (inner) claw of right fore-leg; 4: Left paramere.

mediate femurs reddish-yellow and metafemurs brown, distally reddish. Trochanters, tibiae and tarsi ferruginous. Prosternal process laterally compressed, with a distinct ridge at middle. Last sternite simple, with just a few short corrugations at sides. Anterior and intermediate tarsi with tarsomeres strongly expanded. Fore claws very different in shape: anterior (inner) claw much broadened and provided with an obtuse tooth (fig. 3); posterior (outer) claw $\frac{3}{4}$ as long as the anterior, not widened but provided with a small tooth as well, at the middle. Intermediate claws very different: the posterior claw thickened, shorter and strongly curved.

Aedeagus: penis as in figs 1 and 2; parameres fairly symmetrical, provided with long hairs along the inferior margin; left paramere as in fig. 4. The aedeagus of the figured specimen is poorly chitinized, so the actual shape of mature genitalia may be a little different.

Remarks

The peculiar size, colour pattern and lack of pronotal beading make *colymbitoides* easily recognizable even without comparison with the holotype.

The allotype specimen was collected at the beginning of November, as was the holotype (*teste* BALKE, l.c.). The type locality Kakyelo was not located on the map, but I suppose it is the locality currently written Kakielo, in the province of Lubumbashi. Mwinilunga is only about 600 Km far away from the type locality, at the same latitude and, as far as I can imagine, in similar environmental situation. Therefore the distribution of the species is all along the border region between Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

BALKE (1995) studied the *Rhantus rugulosus*-clade and proposed a sister-group relationship between *R. colymbitoides* and *R. rohani*. As a result of the present study, Balke's hypothesis is confirmed by the similar shape of the anterior claws and the strongly expanded pro- and mesotarsomeres in the two species.

A final warning: *R. colymbitoides* may be present but overlooked in collections, stored with *Hydaticus* duplicates, because the most apparent dorsal characters, but for the indented colymbetine eyes and the expanded but not palette-shaped fore tarsomeres in male, are closer to *Hydaticus* than to *Rhantus* species.

References

- BALKE M., 1995 - Revision of the Afrotropical-Oriental *Rhantus rugulosus*-clade (Coleoptera: Dytiscidae). *Entomologica scandinavica*, 26: 229-239.
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