

***Hister gomyi* sp. n., a new Hister-species (Coleoptera: Histeridae) from DR Congo**

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Hister gomyi from DR Congo (Lulua: Kapanga) is described and illustrated. Additionally, its systematic position and ecological specialization is discussed.

Key words: taxonomy, new species, Histeridae, *Hister gomyi*: DR Congo

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INTRODUCTION

The genus *Hister* Linnaeus is the biggest genus among the African histerans, comprising 62 species (32.4% of the whole), known to occur in the Ethiopian Region (Mazur, 2011: 87-97). Recent papers of the author showed, however, that some *Hister*-species should have been synonymized or transferred to other genera. Thus, the number of species known to occur in Africa is not established as yet and still undescribed species are being found.

This paper is based on the material borrowed from the rich collection of Yves Gomy as well as on the own author's collection.

ABBREVIATIONS USED

CHYG – collection of Y. Gomy, Nevers, France
MSNG – collection of the Museo Civico di Storia Naturale “Giacomo Doria”, Genova, Italy

PE – length from the anterior pronotal margin to the elytral apex

(01. – 1.0) – distance between punctures measured by their diameter.

***Hister gomyi* sp. n. (Figs. 1-5)**

Body (Fig. 2) oval, moderately convex, black and shiny. Forehead (Fig. 1) flat, impunctate. Frontal stria complete, incised at sides, inwardly arcuate at middle. Labrum as long as wide, rounded anteriorly. Mandibles convex, not margined. Scapus and funiculus pitch-brown, tomentose, with two transverse sutures.

Pronotum narrowed anterad, emarginate at anterior margin. Marginal pronotal stria complete at sides, interrupted behind the head. Lateral pronotal striae incised. The outer one a little abbreviated basally, the inner one complete behind the head, reaching to the posterior angles. There are also some short fragments of punctiform

striae between the lateral ones at apex. Hypomeron flat or feebly concave, very sparsely punctulate, not ciliate.

Elytral epipleural fossete flat or weakly concave, nearly smooth. Both marginal striae thin but complete. Oblique humeral stria present on basal 1/3. Outer subhumeral stria abbreviated and deeply incised, present on basal half. Inner subhumeral stria deeply incised, present on apical 2/3 (Fig. 3). Dorsal striae incised, crenulate, 1 – 4 complete, the 5th one more or less abbreviated basally, sutural stria a little longer, outwardly arcuate.

Pygidial segments a little convex. Propygidium with two indistinct foveae at sides, sparsely covered with some punctures laterally and basally, not densely distributed (1 – 4). Pygidium nearly smooth, with some punctures at sides and with ground punctulation on the disc. Pygidial disc alutaceous.

Prosternal lobe triangular (Fig. 5), doubly margined, both the striae incised and interrupted anteriorly. There is also a short fragment of 3rd stria basally. Disc distinctly but moderately densely punctured (1 – 3). Prosternal keel very finely and rarely punctulate.

Mesosternum truncate, very shallowly emarginate anteriorly. Marginal stria complete and incised, reaching the meso-metasternal suture. There are also two additional striae in anterolateral angles. Meso-metasternal suture finely marked. Median line of metasternum distinct and incised medially. Transverse line at metasternal apex distinct, a little incised. Lateral metasternal stria cariniform, crenate, extending obliquely and posteriorly, united arcuately with oblique stria which extends inwards from metasternal-metepisternal suture. Lateral disc of metasternum densely (0.2 – 0.5) covered with round punctures. Intercoxal disc of 1st abdominal segment obliquely margined laterally.

Legs as colored as body. Foretibia (Fig. 4) a little dilated, with 4 (+1) spiny denticles at outer margin.

Profemoral stria complete and incised. Mid- and hind tibia with two rows of numerous spinules at outer margin.

Length: total – 12.5 – 13.0 mm; PE: 8.3 – 8.5 mm. Width: 7.5 – 8.0 mm.

Material examined. Holotype, a female, [Democratic Republic of Congo]: Coll. Mus. Congo. Lulua: Kapanga, X-1933, G.F. Overlaet (specimen determined as *Hister ertli* Bickh. by J. Théron, 1954 and *Hister spec? nov. ertli!* by P. Kanaar, 2008) [CHYG].

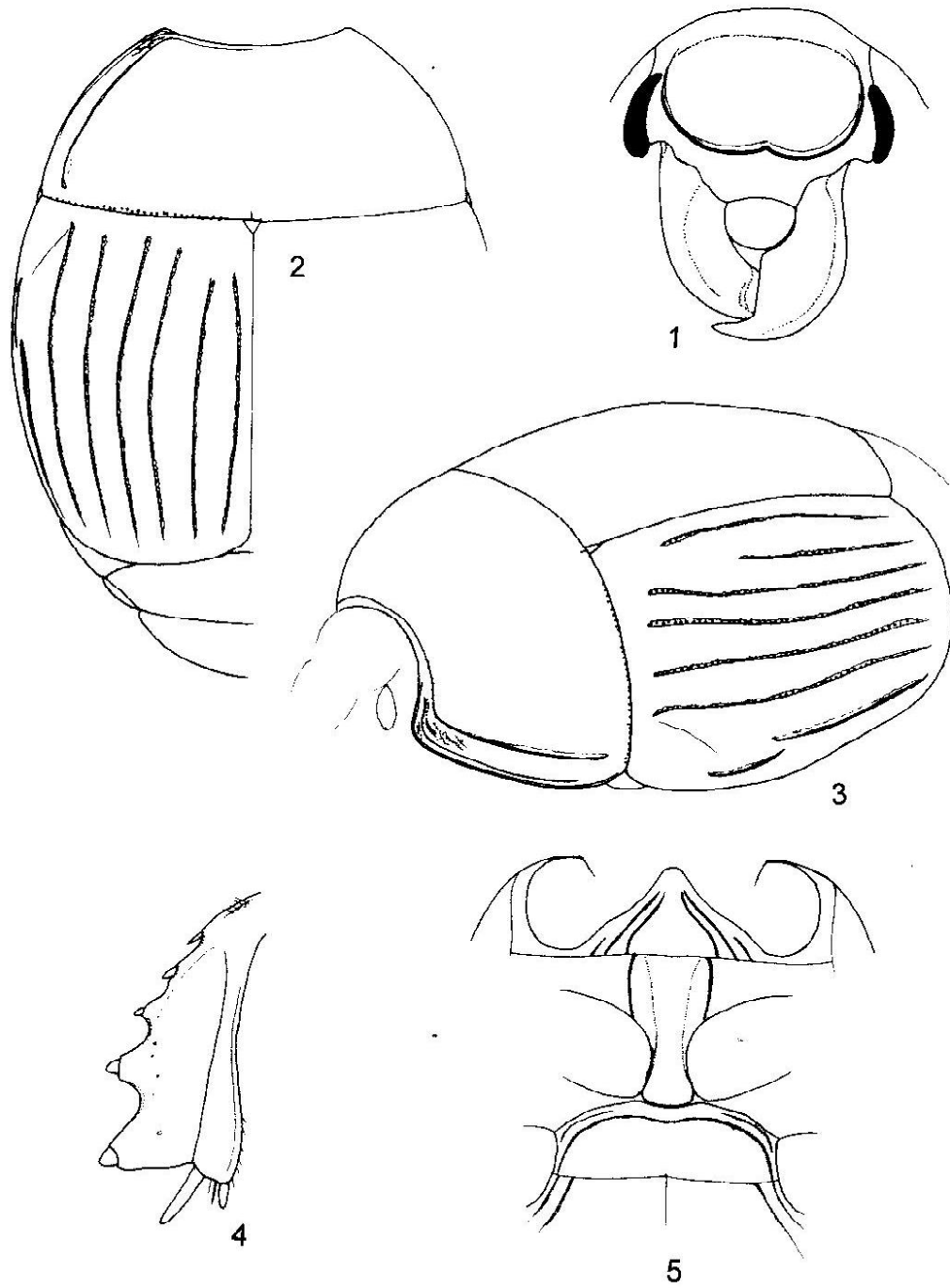
Paratype, a female, [DR Congo]: Congo belge, Kapanga, coll. Ch. De Wyngaert [MSNG].

Differential diagnosis. Superficially it shares *Hister calidus* Erichson, 1834, but the triangular prosternal lobe at once separates it from the rest of the *Hister*-species, resembling rather that of *Pactolinus*-species.

Derivatio nominis. This species is dedicated to my friend, an eminent French histeridologist, Yves Gomy, in appreciation of his long standing cooperation.

DISCUSSION

Hister gomyi occupies an isolated position among the African *Hister*-species and cannot be assigned to any species-group selected by the author (Mazur, 2009: 19). Some features like not ciliate hypomeron, quadridentate foretibia, convex mandibles, suggest this species might belong to the “*nomas* – *leopoldi*” group. Unfortunately, both the type specimens are females, so it is hard to confirm if a sexual dimorphism occurs in this species. Anyway, such morphological characters allow saying that *H. gomyi*, similarly to *H. nomas* Erichson, 1834, seems to be a predator of horn flies living in the manure (Summerlin & Fincher, 1988: 125-126).



Figs. 1-5. *Hister gomyi*. 1 – head, 2 – upper side, 3 – body, laterally, 4 – foretibia, 5 – pro- and mesosternum.

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