

***Hister erbelingi* sp. n., a new Hister-species (Coleoptera: Histeridae) from Kenya**

Slawomir Mazur

Mazur S. 2008. *Hister erbelingi* sp. n., a new Hister-species (Coleoptera: Histeridae) from Kenya. *Baltic J. Coleopterol.*, 8(2): 97 - 100.

Hister erbelingi from Kenya is described and illustrated. Additionally, its systematic position is discussed.

Key words: taxonomy, new species, Histeridae, Hister, Kenya

Slawomir Mazur, Department of Forest Protection and Ecology, WULS, Nowoursynowska 159, bld. 34, 02-776 Warszawa, Poland; e-mail: Slawomir.Mazur@wl.sggw.pl

INTRODUCTION

The Ethiopian Region seems to be one of the most important centre of evolution and dispersion of Histerini having the greatest number and diversity of the species occurring here. In the last author's catalogue (Mazur, 1997: 107-119) 90 species of the genus *Hister* were recorded as occurring here. 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.

The paper is based on the materials borrowed from the rich collection of Dr. Ludwig Erbeling.

ABBREVIATIONS USED

CHLE - L. Erbeling's collection
CHSM - S. Mazur's collection

PE - length from the anterior pronotal margin to the elytral apex
(0.1 - 1.0) - distance between punctures measured by their diameters

***Hister erbelingi* sp. n. (Figs. 1 - 10)**

Body (Fig. 1) oval, convex, black and shiny. Forehead (Fig. 2) flat, with two shallow and indistinct foveae laterally. Frontal stria complete, subcariniform, straight or feebly outwardly arcuate at middle. Labrum wide, a little incised at base. Mandibles concave, their external margin strongly elevated. Scapus and funiculus pitch-brown, antennal club tomentose, with two transverse sutures.

Pronotum rounded laterally. Marginal pronotal stria complete at sides (Fig. 3), widely interrupted behind the head. Lateral pronotal striae strongly incised, sinuous at sides. The outer one a little abbreviated basally, the inner one complete

behind the head, reaching to the posterior angles. Epipleura a little concave, with some large punctures, ciliate.

Elytral epipleural fossete flat or feebly concave. Both marginal striae complete, a little carinate. An additional stria also present at apical half between marginal striae. Oblique humeral stria very thin and indistinct, present on basal 1/3. Inner subhumeral stria incised and crenate, present on apical 2/3. Dorsal striae deeply incised, crenulate, 1 - 3 complete, the 4th one less distinctly marked, more or less abbreviated basally. Sutural stria shortened basally and apically, present at middle.

Pygidial segments a little convex. Propygidium very densely covered with round punctures (0.1 - 1.0). Interspaces among the coarse punctures intermingled with ground punctulation. Pygidial punctation similar to the propygidial one.

Prosternal lobe rounded, doubly margined, the outer marginal stria less marked and widely interrupted anteriorly. Disc finely punctulate, more coarsely at sides. Prosternal keel finely and rarely punctulate.

Mesosternum (Fig. 5) truncate anteriorly, extremely finely and rarely punctulate. Marginal stria complete and incised, not reaching the meso-metasternal suture. There are also two short, additional striae in anterolateral angles. Meso-metasternal suture finely marked. Metasternum as punctulate as mesosternum. Median line distinct and incised. Transverse line at metasternal apex very thin and indistinct. Lateral metasternal stria subcariniform, abbreviated apically, reaching to 2/3 of metasternal length. Lateral disc of metasternum covered with large and round punctures, intermingled with the small ones.

Intercoxal disc of 1st abdominal segment distinctly margined laterally.

Male genitalia as shown in Figs. 6 - 10.

Legs as colored as body. Foretibia (Fig. 4) with 3 spiny dents at outer margin (the apical one bifid). Mid- and hindtibia with two rows of numerous spinules at outer margin.

Length: total 6.0 - 8.0 mm. PE: 4.8 - 5.5 mm. Width: 4.2 - 5.0 mm.

Material examined: Holotype, Male, [Kenya] Kenia, Masai Mara, Wildreservat, 4-8.04.1990, leg. U. Schmidt (CHLE).

Paratype: Female, as labeled as the holotype (CHSM).

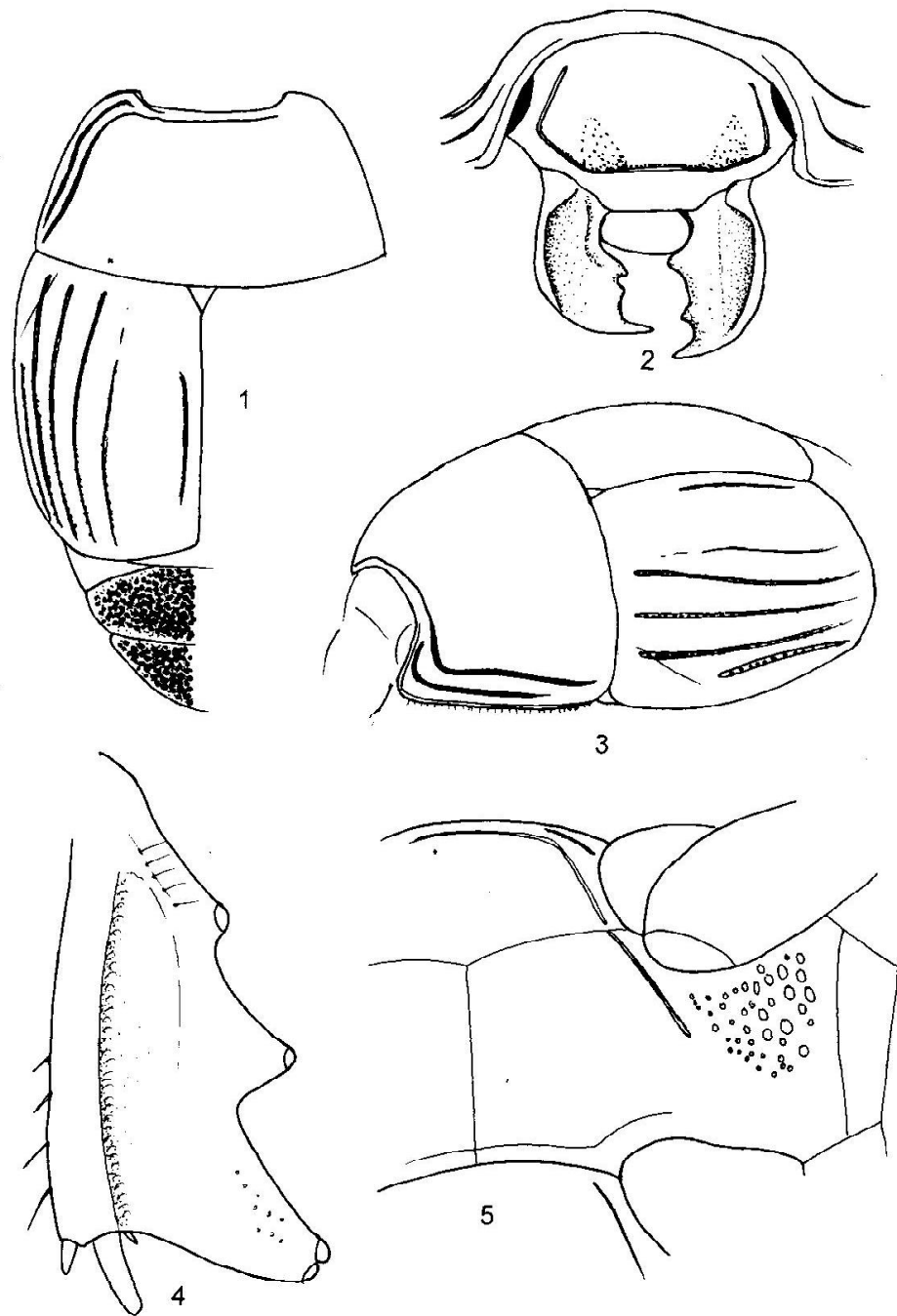
Differential diagnosis. Very similar to *Hister rectisternus* Marseul from Senegal from which it differs by longer 4th dorsal stria, presence of ground pygidial punctulation and shortened lateral metasternal stria.

Derivatio nominis. This species is dedicated to Dr Ludwig Erbeling in appreciation of his long-standing cooperation.

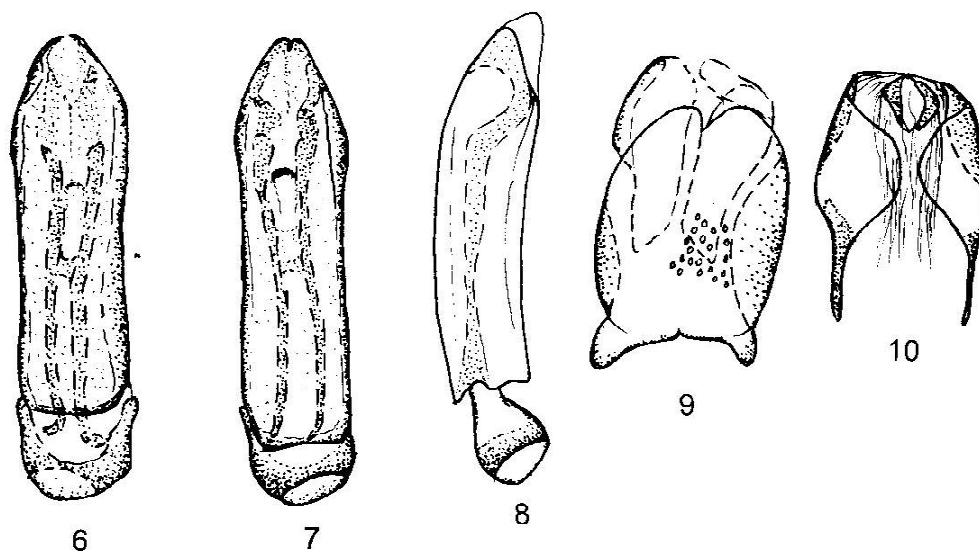
DISCUSSION

The genus *Hister* Linnaeus is a very complex group. Among its members are species representing widely divergent lineages ("quadrimaculatus-japonicus", "coenosus", etc.). While a comprehensive analysis of the group on a worldwide level has not yet been attempted, it will undoubtedly be both para- on polyphyletic (Caterino, 1999: 1).

Hister erbelingi belongs to the African group which may be characterized by a presence of both, hypomeral ciliation and outer subhumeral stria. The shortened lateral metasternal stria separates it, however, from the remaining African species. This feature is very unique among Histerini, being sporadically met in the species of the genera *Pactolinus* Motschulsky, *Geminorhabdus* Mazur and in East-Palaearctic *Hister congener* Schmidt.



Figs. 1-5. *Hister erbelingi* sp. n. 1 - body, dorsal view, 2 - head, 3 - body, lateral view, 4 - foretibia, 5 - lateral part of meso- and metasternum.



Figs. 6-10. *Hister erbelingi* sp. n., genital structure of the male. 6-8 - edeagus, 9 - 8th tergite, 10 - 9th and 10th tergite, 6 - dorsally, 7 - ventrally, 8 - laterally.

It is hard to decide whether such a status of the lateral metasternal stria is related with the phylogeny. Anyway, in some other species of Platysomatini, a strong reduction of the sternal striae may indicated the most advanced degree of the evolutionary process (Mazur, 1999: 18). As is believed, a ciliation of the body margin is apparently an adaptation to psammophily and is a common feature among sand dwelling beetles.

Mazur S. 1997. A world catalogue of the Histeridae. Genus, Suppl. 1997, 373 pp.

Mazur S. 1999. Preliminary studies upon the Platysoma complex (Col. Histeridae). Annals of Warsaw Agricultural University - SGGW, Forestry and Wood Technology. 49: 3-29.

Received: 20.09.2008.

Accepted: 01.12.2008.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author sincerely thanks Dr. Ludwig Erbeling, Plettenberg, Germany, for having loaned his materials of Histeridae.

REFERENCES

Caterino M.S. 1999. Taxonomy and phylogeny of the *Hister servus* group (Coleoptera: Histeridae): a Neotropical radiation. Systematic Entomology. 24: 351-376.