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A NEW *TRICHOTAENIA* SPECIES FROM TANZANIA (Coleoptera, Cicindelidae) (*)

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INTRODUCTION

The small but remarkable African genus *Trichotaenia* was reviewed by me several years ago (Cassola 1983). It is characterized by a developed body ornamental pubescence which forms distinct elytral patterns that help to distinguish the various species (Horn 1938). It is presently known to include eleven species at least, all distributed in central-southern African countries only [especially Zambia and Katanga (in Democratic Republic of Congo) but also Angola, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Botswana, Namibia, possibly the South African Republic too] (Cassola 1983; Wiesner 1992; Werner 2000; Cassola, Werner & Schüle, in press). All *Trichotaenia* species, even when normally winged, usually prefer, instead of flying, to rapidly run on the ground through the grasses like the species of other savannah tiger beetle genera such as *Prothymidia* Rivalier, 1963, *Bennigsenium* W. Horn, 1897 (Cassola & Werner 2003) and *Dromica* Dejean, 1826 (Cassola 2002).

In a very recent paper (Cassola, Werner & Schüle, in press) two new species of this genus were described from Zambia. However, my Colleague Arnost Kudrna (Ceské Budejovice, Czech Republic) recently submitted for identification a small number of specimens he personally collected in Zambia and Tanzania. Among these there is a female specimen from Tanzania, which apparently is closely allied to *Trichotaenia rivalieri* Basilewsky, 1958, but differs from it because of several characters (Basilewsky 1958), thus representing a new species which is described here below.

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Trichotaenia k u d r n a i n. sp. (figs 1-2)

Diagnosis. An apparently winged *Trichotaenia* species, black coloured with some cupric reflections on the elytra (especially on the scutellar area). Labrum large, rounded, 5-toothed in front, with some sparse short white recumbent hairs or microtrichia on disc, in addition to the four sensorial setae near the edge (2 in front and 2 at sides); colour mostly black with two testaceous areas laterally.

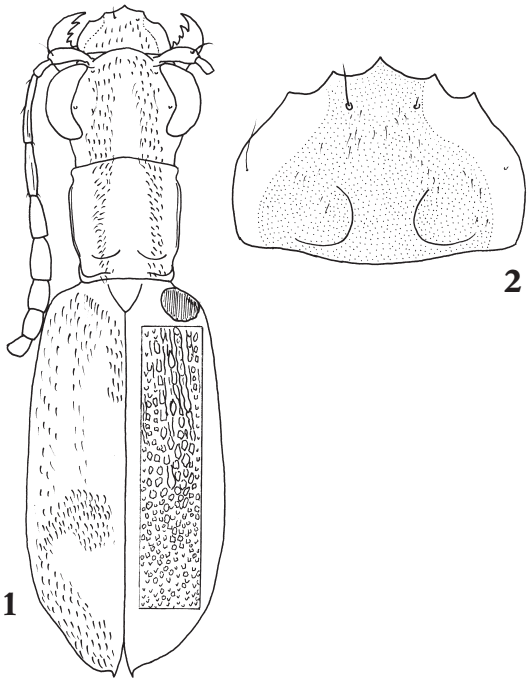
Clypeus also exhibiting some sparse white recumbent small hairs. Colour of head black, sculpture strong, frons and vertex sparsely covered with short white recumbent hairs, apart from the two iuxta-orbital sensorial setae on fixed loci near both eyes. Genae setose, the rather dense, white, fine, recumbent pubescence continuing behind on the lower part of pro- and mesepisterna, the mesepimera, the metepisterna, the sides of sternum and the sides of the abdominal sternites. Antennae black, approximately as long as to the first third of the elytral length (expectedly longer in male); antennomers 5-9 enlarged and foliated. Elytra heavily and longitudinally sculptured in the front half, black with some cupric hue especially in the scutellar area; pubescence made of white recumbent hairs on the sides and the apical part, transversely dense on disc below the middle; some sparse yellowish hairs below the scutellum.

Material examined. Holotype, ♀, from Tanzania, Rukwa: Mpanda, ca. 30 km dir. Uvinsa, 1300 m, 30-31.XII.2006, A. Kudrna leg., in author's collection. No other specimens are known so far.

Description. Head black, strongly striated on frons and vertex, the sculpture being oblique and waved behind on neck. Labrum large, rounded, 5-toothed in front, with some sparse short white recumbent hairs or microtrichia on disc, in addition to the four sensorial setae placed near the edge (2 in front and 2 at sides); colour mostly black with two testaceous areas laterally. Clypeus also exhibiting some sparse white recumbent small hairs. Frons and vertex (especially between the eyes) sparsely covered with short white recumbent hairs, roughly arranged in two sublateral longitudinal rows; two juxta-orbital sensorial setae or setigeous punctures at fixed loci near both eyes. Mandibles shiny piceous-black, shorty testaceous on basal outside margins. Maxillary and labial palpi dark yellowish, their last joints black with greenish reflections. Antennae black with some viol-

aceous hue on antennomeres 1-4, approximately as long as to the first third of the elytral length (expectedly longer in male) (however the single holotype specimen has the right antenna broken after the 4th antennomere and lacks the antennomeres 10-11 of the left antenna); antennomeres 5-9 enlarged and foliated (expectedly so in the male too). Genae setose, the rather dense, white, fine, recumbent pubescence continuing behind on the lower part of pro- and mesepisterna, the mesepimera, the metepisterna, the sides of sternum and the abdominal sternites.

Thorax: pronotum approximately as long as wide, a bit wider in front, black, with a strong irregular sculpture on disc, whitish recumbent hairs arranged in two longitudinal rows at sides of middle, in continuation with those of head. Notopleural sutures well marked; dorsal part of proepisterna glabrous, ventral part covered with fine, white, rather long, recumbent hairs, placed in continuation of those of genae. Mesepimera, metepisterna, sides of sternum and abdominal sternites also covered with fine, white, rather long, recumbent hairs.



Figs 1-2 – *Trichotaenia kudrnai* n. sp.: holotype ♀; habitus (1), labrum (2).

Elytra black with well-marked shoulders; heavy longitudinal sculpture in the front half, made of puntures and polygonal areoles delimited by subvertical walls, the sculpture becoming less longitudinal and more irregular behind the middle of the elytral length. The holotype specimen also shows an exit hole of an anobiid parasite on its right shoulder. Elytral pubescence made of sparse white recumbent hairs at the sides, especially dense near the apex and transversely on disc behind the middle; some sparse yellowish hairs below the scutellum parallel to the suture. Colour shiny black, except for the areas covered by hairs which are more or less metallic cupric. Sutural tooth small but acutely protruding (female, expectedly sharper and longer in male).

Underside black with some greenish reflections. Abdominal sternites pubescent except in the middle and on the last segment, the pubescence being made by long recumbent whitish hairs. Trochanters pitchy black, legs metallic black with a few rows of spiniform setae on femora and tibiae and some greenish reflections on tarsi.

Male unknown.

Length: 12.1 mm (without labrum).

Etymology. This new *Trichotaenia* species is cordially dedicated to its collector, the Czech colleague Arnost Kudrna (Ceské Budejovice, Czech Republic).

Remarks. The partially haired labrum immediately place *Trichotaenia kudrnai* n. sp. in group 2 [together with the congeners *suturata* (W. Horn, 1915) (= *suturalis* Putzeys, 1880), *pseudosuturalis* (W. Horn, 1914), *pseudotereticollis* (W. Horn, 1929), *duplosetosa* (W. Horn, 1929) and *rivalieri* (Basilewsky, 1958)] while the other *Trichotaenia* species have instead a glabrous labrum [group 1: *tereticollis* (Boheman, 1860); *allardi* Cassola, 1983; *africana* Cassola, 1983; *mireki* Werner, 2003 and the two new species presently in press, described by Cassola, Werner & Schüle). The new species is obviously particularly close to *T. rivalieri*, described from Chiengi and known from Abercorn (=Mbala) too in Northern Zambia, from which it can be easily distinguished because of the different pubescence pattern, the shorter pronotum with more apparent notopleural sutures, and the even stronger elytral sculpture.

Conclusions

With the new species described above, the genus *Trichotaenia* presently appears to include so far twelve species, six of which (*suturata*, *pseudosuturalis*, *pseudotereticollis*, *duplosetosa*, *rivalieri* and *kudrnai* n. sp.) have the labrum more or less setose (group 2), while the other six (*tereticollis*, *allardi*, *africana*, *mireki* and the two new species presently in press, described by Cassola, Werner & Schüle: group 1) have a glabrous labrum instead.

Given the above description of *T. kudrnai* n. sp. tenet 8 of the key to the *Trichotaenia* species provided by Cassola, Werner & Schüle (in press) has to be modified as follows:

8. Pronotal pubescence arranged in two longitudinal rows at sides of middle 9
- Pronotal pubescence not arranged as above 10
9. Elytral pubescence with a small tuft of hairs around the middle . . . . . *pseudotereticollis* W. Horn, 1929
- Elytral pubescence with a transversal band behind the middle . . . . *kudrnai* n. sp.
10. Elytral pubescence with a transversal band around the middle . . . . . *rivalieri* Basilewsky, 1958

SUMMARY

Trichotaenia kudrnai n. sp., is described from Mpanda, Rukwa, Tanzania. By having a partially hairy labrum, it is obviously a member of group 2 (species of group 1 have a glabrous labrum instead), and in particular it is apparently closely allied to *T. rivalieri* Basilewsky, 1958, however differing from it because of several important morphological characters, such as the different patterns of elytral and pronotal pubescence, the shorter pronotum with more apparent notopleural sutures and the even stronger elytral sculpture.

RIASSUNTO

Una nuova Trichotaenia *della Tanzania (Coleoptera, Cicindelidae).*

Trichotaenia kudrnai n. sp., viene descritta della Tanzania (Mpanda, Rukwa). Essa fa parte in tutta evidenza del gruppo 2 di specie (a labbro più o meno pubescente, mentre le specie del gruppo 1 hanno invece un labbro glabro) e in particolare appare vicina a *T. rivalieri* Basilewsky, 1958, da cui tuttavia si distingue per alcuni importanti caratteri morfologici, quali i diversi *patterns* della pubescenza elitrale e del pronoto, il pronoto più corto con suture notopleurali maggiormente evidenti e la scultura elitrale particolarmente forte.

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