



New and Interesting Records of Jewel Beetles (Coleoptera: Buprestidae) from Kenya

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Abstract: During the period 2016-2019, jewel beetles (Coleoptera: Buprestidae) associated with *Vachellia xanthophloea* (Fabaceae) were studied in Kenya. Samples of dead and infested wood were collected from different localities in the country. In laboratory conditions, the samples were placed in plastic boxes and kept at room temperatures (23±2°C). Two new buprestid species for Kenya, *Chalcogenia toroensis* Obenberger, 1931 and *Agrilus (Agriphyllus) claudulus* Obenberger, 1935, were reared from infested stems and branches of *V. xanthophloea*. In addition, five previously reported species were found in new localities. The new records have increased the number of known buprestid taxa in the country up to 540.

Key words: Buprestidae, new records, *Vachellia xanthophloea*, Kenya

Introduction

Buprestidae (Coleoptera) is one of the wood-boring families in Kenya. Until now, only few studies have been conducted on coleopteran xylophages in the country. According to SAKALIAN et al. (2018), the number of the recorded jewel beetles in Kenya is 531 species and subspecies, which belong to 55 genera. Later, PREPSL (2019) described seven new species, two of them belonging to the genus *Xantheremia* Volkovitsh, 1979, new for the fauna of Kenya. Based on these new data, the total number of known Kenyan buprestids increases up to 56 genera and 538 species and subspecies.

This note reports two new records and new localities of other five buprestid taxa reared from wood samples of *Vachellia xanthophloea* (Benth.) Banfi & Galasso (Fabaceae) in Kenya.

Materials and Methods

The studies were conducted during the period 2016–2019. Dead and infested stems and branches of *Vachellia xanthophloea* were examined and collected from different localities in Kenya. The samples (cuttings with an approximate length 30 cm and a diameter 10-15 cm) were placed in well-ventilated 20-liter plastic boxes as described by KAHUTHIA-GATHU et al. (2018). They were transported to the Kenyatta University Biotechnology laboratories, where the beetles were reared at ambient room temperature of 23±2°C, 60±10% relative humidity and 12 L : 12 D photoperiod. The emerged beetles were preserved in 70% ethanol.

The list includes the recent nomenclature, localities in Kenya and general distribution of the recorded taxa. The new records for Kenya are marked with an asterisk.

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Results

Subfamily Buprestinae Leach, 1815

Tribe Anthaxiini Gory & Laporte, 1839

Chalcogenia argodi Kerremans, 1909

Isiolo County, Lewa Conservancy, 0.195332°S, 37.458917°E, March 2019, 6 ex.; Machakos County, Stoni Athi, 1.554708°S, 36.997696°E, March 2019, 3 ex.; Nakuru County, Naivasha (Oliden), 0.827104°S, 36.264450°E, January 2017, 1 ex., leg. R. Kahuthia, det. S. Bílý (Coll. R. Kahuthia). Distribution: Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Tanzania.

Chalcogenia martini Abeille de Perrin, 1907

Machakos County, Stoni Athi, 1.554708°S, 36.997696°E, September 2018, 1 ex., leg. R. Kahuthia, det. V. Sakalian (Coll. R. Kahuthia). Distribution: Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia.

Chalcogenia ugandana Burgeon, 1941

Isiolo County, Lewa Conservancy, 0.192778°S, 37.459400°E, March 2019, 2 ex., leg. R. Kahuthia, det. V. Sakalian, confirmed by S. Bílý (Coll. R. Kahuthia). Distribution: Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda.

**Chalcogenia toroensis* Obenberger, 1931

Isiolo County, Lewa Conservancy, 0.203188°S, 37.45334°E, October 2019, 1 ex., leg. R. Kahuthia, det. S. Bílý (Coll. R. Kahuthia). Distribution: Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda.

Tribe Chrysobothrini Gory & Laporte 1838

Chysobothris (*Chysobothris*) cf. *dorsata* (Fabricius, 1787)

Nairobi County, Kenyatta University, 1680 m a.s.l., 1.185186°S, 36.928057°E, May 2016, 1 ex., leg. R. Kahuthia, det. V. Sakalian (Coll. R. Kahuthia). Distribution: AFR: Angola, Botswana, Cameroon, Cape Verde Islands, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea, Kenya, Mozambique, Senegal, Seychelles Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, MAD: Madagascar, Mascarene Islands, Mauritius, PAL: Egypt, Israel, Italy, Morocco, Portugal, Spain.

Subfamily Agrilinae Laporte, 1835

Tribe Agrilini Laporte, 1835

**Agrilus* (*Agriphyllus*) *claudulus* Obenberger, 1935

Isiolo County, Lewa Conservancy, 0.192778°S, 37.459400°E, March 2019, 2 ex., leg. R. Kahuthia, det. G. Curletti, (1 ex. in Coll. G. Curletti, and 1 ex. in Coll. R. Kahuthia). Distribution: East Africa, without precise locality.

Agrilus (*Duttus*) *exoletus exoletus*, Obenberger, 1935

Machakos County, Mitaboni, 1500 m a.s.l., 1.409444°S, 37.27944°E, May 2016, 4 ex.; Machakos County, Stoni Athi, 1.562203°S, 36.997562°E, October 2018 – March 2019, 6 ex.; Kiambu County, Thika, 1.020907°S, 37.066063°E, October 2016, 9 ex.; Nairobi County, Kenyatta University, 1680 m a.s.l., 1.185186°S, 36.928057°E, May – October 2016, 15 ex.; Isiolo County, Lewa Conservancy, 0.192778°S, 37.459400°E, March 2019, 6 ex., leg. R. Kahuthia, det. G. Curletti, (Coll. R. Kahuthia). Distribution: Ethiopia, Kenya.

Discussion

The new records increased the total number of known Kenyan buprestid fauna up to 540 species and subspecies. The established high diversity mirrors the favourable conditions for distribution of jewel beetles in this country. In conclusion, in the future we could expect descriptions of new taxa as well as new faunal records of buprestids in Kenya.

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