

A new species of *Afrophthalma* MEDVEDEV, 1978 from Zambia
(Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Clytrinae)

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ABSTRACT. *Afrophthalma medvedevi* n. sp. from Zambia is described and illustrated. It is closely related to *A. bezdeki* MEDVEDEV & KANTNER, 2004 from Malawi. Both species differ from all congeners in a complicated structure of the aedeagus. *A. basilevskyi* MEDVEDEV, 1993 is considered to be an objective synonym of *A. basilevskyi* MEDVEDEV, 1993. A key of related *Afrophthalma* species with a completely black pronotum is given.

Key words: entomology, taxonomy, new species, synonymy, Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae, Clytrinae, *Afrophthalma*, Zambia, Afrotropical Region.

The genus *Afrophthalma* was established by MEDVEDEV (1978) for twenty one species previously included in *Smaragdina* CHEVROLAT, 1837, with *Smaragdina apicalis* JACOBY, 1891 as the type species. It differs from *Smaragdina* in having straight hind angles of the pronotum and a peculiar structure of the frons. Until now, the genus *Afrophthalma* has contained 36 species distributed mostly in the Afrotropical Region. An additional species, described here as *A. medvedevi* n. sp., has been recently discovered by the first author in Zambia. Both species, *A. medvedevi* n. sp. and *A. bezdeki*, form a group within the genus characterized by a different structure of the aedeagus, by more obtuse hind angles of the pronotum and by a shallow incision of the anterior margin of the clypeus.

The following codes identify the collections housing the material examined:

MRAC - Belgium, Tervuren, Musee Royal de l'Afrique Centrale (Mark DE MEYER);
NHMB - Switzerland, Basel, Naturhistorisches Museum (Eva SPRECHER-UEBERSAX,
Michel BRANCUCCI);
ZMHB - Germany, Berlin, Museum für Naturkunde der Humboldt-Universität
(Johannes FRISCH).

Complementary data are found in square brackets, [p] - printed, [w] - white label. A double slash (//) separates data on different labels.

Afrophthalma medvedevi n. sp.

ETYMOLOGY

Named in the honour of Prof. Lev N. MEDVEDEV (Moscow, Russia), a leading specialist in Chrysomelidae.

DIAGNOSIS

Afrophthalma medvedevi n. sp. is closely related to *A. bezdeki* MEDVEDEV & KANTNER, 2004 from Malawi but differs from the latter in its completely fulvous elytra, distinctly longer the mesotarsomere 1 (length ratio of mesotarsomeres 1-4 is 1.5 : 0.7 : 0.7 : 1.0) and a different structure of the aedeagus. The length ratio of mesotarsomeres 1-4 of *A. bezdeki* is 1.3 : 0.7 : 0.7 : 1.0 (Fig. 3), each elytron with a small elongate-triangular spot behind middle along suture, and the structure of the aedeagus as in Fig. 2.

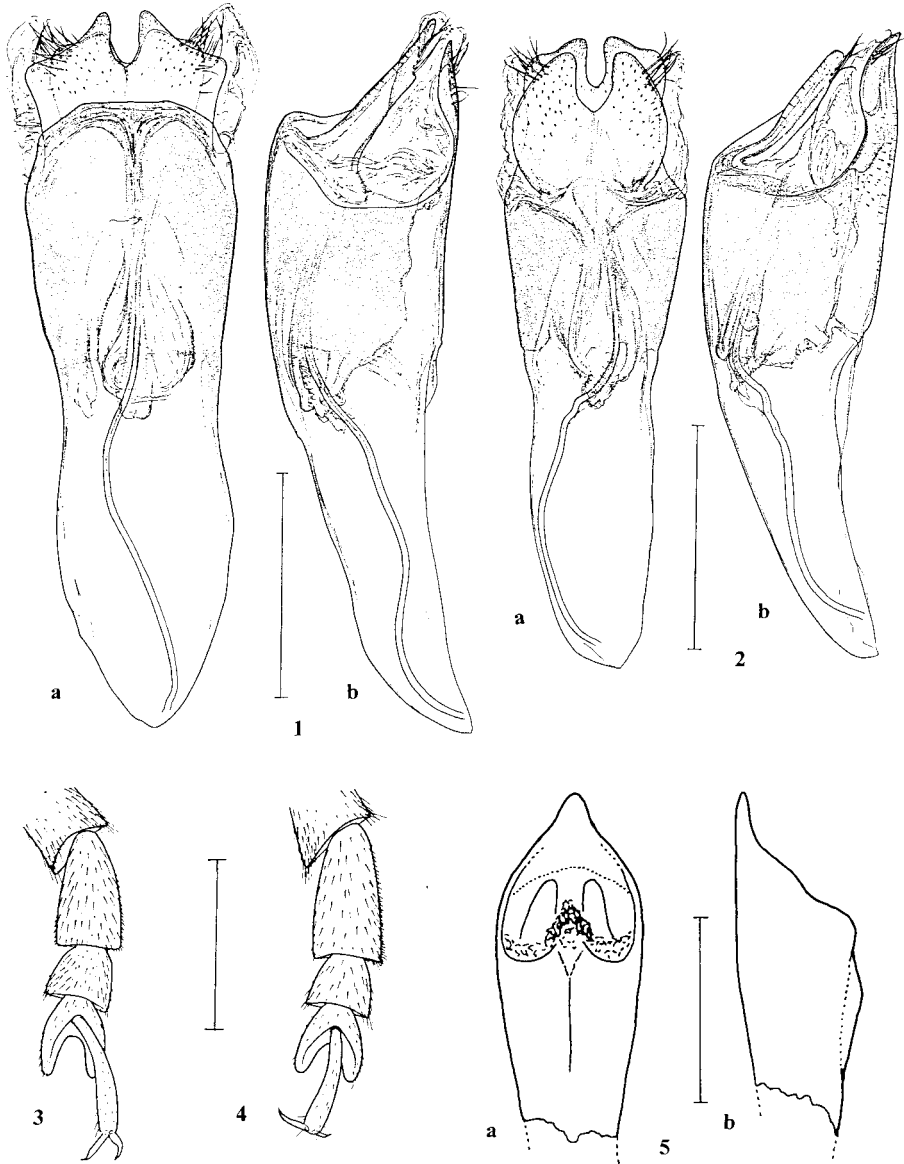
DESCRIPTION

Coloration. Black, antennal segments 1-3, anterior and lateral margin of labrum narrowly and elytra completely fulvous (Fig. 6). Antennal segment 1 is slightly darkened dorsally.

Male. Body narrow, elongate, cylindrical. Anterior margin of clypeus with a shallow incision, its surface distinctly and sparsely punctated. Frons broad, twice as wide as the diameter of eye, deeply and densely punctate, with a groove in middle; vertex finely and sparsely punctated. Antennae serrated from segment 4 which is much smaller than the following ones. Prothorax 1.6 times as wide as long, strongly convex, narrowed anteriorly, with rounded lateral margins and obtuse hind angles, surface lustrous, without any impressions, finely and sparsely punctate. Scutellum triangular with rounded apex, lustrous and impunctate. Elytra 1.6 times as long as wide, lustrous, feebly punctate. Protarsi slightly elongate, with segment 1 more than twice as long as wide, length ratio of mesotarsomeres 1-4 is 1.5 : 0.7 : 0.7 : 1.0 (Fig. 4).

Macropterous.

Body length 5.0 mm.



1-5. *Afrophthalma medvedevi*: 1-2 – aedeagus (a – dorsal view, b – lateral view): 1 – *Afrophthalma medvedevi*, 2 – *A. bezdeki*, 3-4 – mesotarsomeres: 3 – *A. bezdeki*, 4 – *A. medvedevi*, 5 – aedeagus of *A. basilevskiy* (a – dorsal view, b – lateral view). Scale 0.5 mm. Figs. 1 – 4 orig. Z. KEJVAL, fig. 5 orig. J. BEZDĚK

The shape of the aedeagus as in Fig. 1.
Female unknown.

TYPE MATERIAL

Holotype (male), labelled: "ZAMBIA 7.xii.2002 100 km SW of SERENJE Central prov. leg. F. & L. Kantner [w, p]" (in NHMB). The holotype is provided with the following red label: "HOLOTYPUS *Afrophthalma medvedevi* n. sp. F.Kantner & J.Bezděk det. 2005".

KEY TO *AFROPHTHALMA* SPECIES WITH A COMPLETELY BLACK PRONOTUM

1. Frons impunctate 2.
- Frons distinctly punctate 3.
2. Frons transversely impressed, with 1 groove. Body large and broad, 7.5-10 mm. Tanzania *A. polita* (WEISE, 1906)
- Frons not impressed, with 3 grooves. Body small and rather narrow. Body length 4.4-4.8 mm. RSA (Transvaal). Described according to two females *A. minuta* MEDVEDEV, 1993
3. Structure of aedeagus simple (Fig. 5). Frons with fine punctures. Clypeus with a small deep triangular incision. Mesotarsomere 1 short. Body length 4.8 mm (holotype). Aedeagus as in Fig. 5. Congo *A. basilevskyi* MEDVEDEV, 1993
- Structure of aedeagus complicated (Figs 1-2). Frons coarsely punctured. Clypeus shallowly incised. Mesotarsomere 1 prolonged 4.
4. Elytra fulvous, with a small elongate-triangular spot behind middle along suture. Mesotarsomere 1 shorter (Fig. 3). Body length 5.0-6.1 mm. Aedeagus as in Fig. 2. Malawi *A. bezdeki* MEDVEDEV & KANTNER, 2004
- Elytra completely fulvous. Mesotarsomere 1 longer (Fig. 4). Body length 5.0 mm. Aedeagus as in Fig. 1. Zambia *A. medvedevi* n. sp.

ADDITIONAL TYPE MATERIAL EXAMINED

Afrophthalma basilevskyi MEDVEDEV, 1993

Holotype (male), labelled: "Holotypus [red label, p] // MUS. ROY. AFR. CENTR., Lualaba : Zilo [p] 160 [written vertically, h] X-II-1961 [h] V-1960 [p, hand crossed] Dr. V. Allard [w, p] // *Afrophthalma basilevskyi* m. [h] L.N.Medvedev det. 19 [p] 84 [w, h]" (in MRAC).

Afrophthalma polita (WEISE, 1906)

Syntype (female), labelled: "Kigonse-ra Erdl. [blue label, h] // Kigonsera 1904 [w, h] // Gynandr. polita m. [w, h] // Cotypus [red label, p] // SYNTYPUS

Gynandrophthalma polita Weise, 1906 labelled by MNHUB 2004 [red label, p]” (in ZMHB).

***Afrophthalma bezdeki* MEDVEDEV & KANTNER, 2004**

Holotype (male), labelled: “Malawi centr., Kasungu env., 27-29.xii.2001, leg. J. Bezděk [w, p] // HOLOTYPUS *Afrophthalma bezdeki* n. sp. L. Medvedev & F. Kantner det. 2004 [red label, p]” (in NHMB).

TAXONOMICAL NOTES

MEDVEDEV (1993a) published the name *Afrophthalma basilevskyi* in an identification key to several *Afrophthalma* species. Several months later (MEDVEDEV 1993b), he presented a full and improved description of the same species with the name *Afrophthalma basilewskyi*. Thus, *A. basilewskyi* is proposed here as an objective synonym of *A. basilevskyi*. Body length of the holotype is 4.80 mm. This measure was erroneously given as 7.00 mm in MEDVEDEV (1993a) and corrected in MEDVEDEV (1993b).



6. *Afrophthalma medvedevi*: habitus

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