

## Notes on some African Histerini (Coleoptera: Histeridae)

Slawomir Mazur

Mazur S. 2008. Notes on some African Histerini (Coleoptera: Histeridae). *Baltic J. Coleopterol.*, 8(1): 41 - 47.

Taxonomical and systematic status of some African Histerini was analyzed. The following new synonymies have been established: *Hister calabaricus*, *H. ovatulus* and *H. torridus* with *H. tropicus*, *Hister chaloti* with *H. aequatorius*, *Hister sibuti* with *H. tropicola* and *Atholus luctuosus* with *A. rubricatus*. Lecto- and paralectotypes for some species are designated.

Key words: *Histeridae*, *Histerini*, Afrotropical region, taxonomy

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

This is a next paper presenting further efforts to explain the taxonomical and systematic status of some species classified among the Histerini. The paper is based on materials loaned from the following institutions: Museum für Naturkunde der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (MNHUB), Muséum National d'Histoire naturelle, Paris (MNHN) and Musée royal de l'Afrique Centrale, Tervuren (MRAC).

### ANALYTICAL PART

#### *Hister aschanti* Schmidt, 1889

*Hister congoensis* Bickhardt, 1911 has been later synonymized by the same author (Bickhardt, 1919: 113) with *H. aschanti* Schmidt. The types of both these species were studied and, additionally, the

lecto- and paralectotype for *H. congoensis* Bickhardt were designated.

Material examined:

*Hister aschanti* Schmidt, 1889

Syntypus: sex?, [Ghana] Aschanti West Africa, coll. J. Schmidt, Aschanti Schmidt, coll. Bickhardt - Schmidt, Type, Syntypus, *Hister aschanti* Schmidt, 1889 labeled by MNHUB 2007 [MNHUB].

Other material studied: a female, Joko, Kamerun, coll. Schmidt - Bickhardt.

*Hister congoensis* Bickhardt, 1911

Lectotype: a female, 1) [white, printed] [DR Congo] Kondue, Congo-Belge, Ed. Luja, 2) [red, handwritten] Type, 3) [green, handwritten] *congoensis* n. sp. Bickh., 4) [white, printed] coll. Schmidt - Bickhardt, 5) [red, printed] Syntypus, *Hister congoensis* Bickhardt, 1911, labeled by

MNHUB 2007, 6) [white, printed] Lectotypus, 7) Des. S. Mazur 2007, 8) [white] *Hister aschanti* Schm. det S. Mazur 2007 [MNHUB].  
Paralectotype: a female, 1) as in the lectotype, 2) [red, handwritten] Type, 3) [white, printed] coll. Schmidt - Bickhardt, 4) [red, printed] Syntypus, *Hister congoensis* Bickhardt, 1911, labeled by MNHUB 2007, 5) [white, printed] Paralectotypus, 6) [white, printed] Des. S. Mazur 2007, 7) [white] *Hister aschanti* Schm. det. S. Mazur 2007.

***Hister calabaricus* Marseul, 1857, *H. ovatulus* Marseul, 1854 and *H. torridus* Marseul, 1854**

All these species have been described by Marseul as separate species (*H. calabaricus*: 1857: 415; *H. ovatulus*: 1854: 228; *H. torridus*: 1854: 230) classified in the “second group” among the species possessing 3 complete dorsal striae. Detailed examination of the type-specimens showed, however, that all three species belonged to same species, being identical with a pretty variable, pan African *Hister tropicus* Paykull, especially in the genital structure of the male (Figs. 1-5)

Thus, *Hister calabaricus* Marseul, 1857 = *H. ovatulus* Marseul, 1854 = *H. torridus* Marseul, 1854 = *H. tropicus* Paykull, 1811., syn. nov.

Material examined:

*Hister calabaricus* Marseul, 1857

Type: a male, 46°. *Hister Calabaricus* M.S. [Nigeria] (Vieux) Calab.[ar], Type, Museum Paris, Coll. de Marseul, 2842-90 [MNHN].

*Hister ovatulus* Marseul, 1854

Type: a male, 44, *Hister ovatulus*, [RSA, Capland] C. b. sp., Type, Museum Paris, Coll. de Marseul, 2842-90 [MNHN].

*Hister torridus* Marseul, 1854

Type: a male, 46, *Hister torridus* m., Sénégal, Museum Paris, Coll. de Marseul, 2842-90 [MNHN].

Other material examined: *Hister torridus*, a male, 39453, [Sudan, Sannār] Senaar, Hartm., torridus

de Mars., Hist.-Col. (Coleoptera) Nr 39453, *Hister torridus* de Mars., Sennaar, Hartmann, Zool. Mus. Berlin [MNHUB].

***Hister chaloti* Desbordes, 1917 and *H. aequatorius* Marseul, 1854**

Describing, Desbordes (1917: 185) compared it with *H. sibuti* Desbordes, 1916 and *H. loandae* Marseul, 1854. Later Bickhardt (1919b: 95) expressed a supposition that it might have been synonymous with *H. aequatorius*. This supposition has been wholly confirmed by the detailed examination of the type, including the genital structure (Figs. 6-10).

So, *Hister chaloti* Desbordes, 1917 = *H. aequatorius* Marseul, 1854, syn. nov., and the name “aequatorius” has a priority.

Material examined:

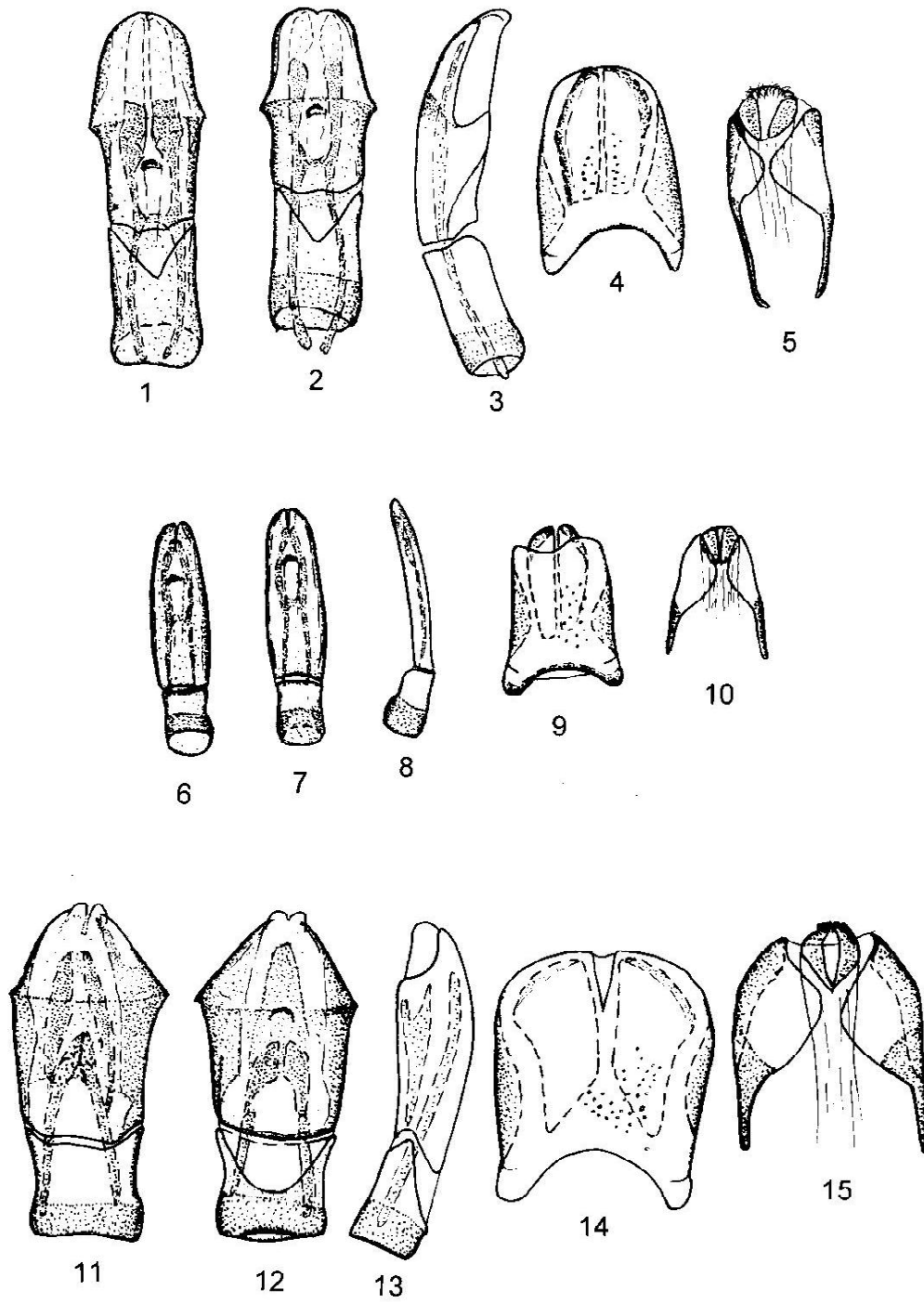
Type: a male, Museum Paris, [Gabon] Congo Fran̄., Liberville, C. Chalot, 1898, Type no. 1, *Hister Chaloti* n. sp., H. Desbordes, 1916 [MNHN].

***Hister cruentus* Erichson, 1834**

There are 4 specimens from the type-series. Thus, a designation of the lecto- and paralectotypes is needed. Additionally, the figures of the male genital structure are given (Figs. 11-15).

Lectotype: a female, 1) [white, printed] 48809, 2) [green, handwritten] [RSA] Caffr.[aria], Krebs, 3) [green, handwritten] *cruentus* Er., 4) [red, printed] Type, 5) [blue, printed] Hist.-Coll. (Coleoptera) Nr 48809, *Hister cruentus* Er.\*, Caffraria, Krebs, Zool. Mus. Berlin, 6) [red, printed] Syntypus, *Hister cruentus* Erichson, 1834, labeled by MNHUB, 2007, 7) [white, printed] Lectotypus, 8) [white, printed] Des. S. Mazur 2007.

Paralectotypes: I, a male, 1) [green, handwritten] [RSA, Capland] Pr. b. sp., Tollin, 2) [red, printed] Type, 3) [blue, printed] Hist.-Coll. (Coleoptera) Nr 48809, *Hister cruentus* Er.\*, Pr. b. sp., Zool. Mus. Berlin, 4) [red, printed] Syntypus, *Hister*



cruentus Erichson, 1834, labeled by MNHUB, 2007, 5) [white, printed] Paralectotypus, 6) [white, printed] Des. S. Mazur 2007.

II, sex undetermined, 1) [red, printed] Type, 2) [blue, printed] Hist.-Coll. (Coleoptera) Nr 48809, *Hister cruentus* Er.\*, Caffraria, Krebs, Zool. Mus. Berlin, 3) [red, printed] Syntypus, *Hister cruentus* Erichson, 1834, labeled by MNHUB 2007, 4) [white, printed] Paralectotypus, 5) [white, printed] Des. S. Mazur 2007.

III, sex undetermined, 1) [red, printed] Type, 2) [blue, printed] Hist.-Coll. (Coleoptera) Nr 48809, *Hister cruentus* Er.\*, Pr. b. sp., Zool. Mus. Berlin, 3) [red, printed] Syntypus, *Hister cruentus* Erichson, 1834, labeled by MNHUB, 4) [white, printed] Paralectotypus, 5) [white, printed] Des. S. Mazur 2007.

### ***Hister katangensis* Burgeon, 1939**

Described originally (Burgeon, 1939: 94) as a subspecies of *Hister ritsemae* Marseul and later raised up to the specific rank by Théron (1967: 285). An examination of the type showed, however, that *H. katangensis* Burgeon differed from *H. ritsemae* not only by external characters (feebly and shallowly punctured pygidial segments) but also by different shape of the male genital structure (Figs. 16-20). (For those of *H. ritsemae* Marseul see Mazur, 2007, figs. 21-23).

Material examined:

Holotype: a male, [DR Congo] Musée du Congo, Elisabethville, 25/30-XI-1930, R. Massart, Type, *H. R. katangensis*, Holotypus, *Hister Ritsemae* Mars. ssp. *katangensis* Burg., Type [MRAC].

### ***Hister sibuti* Desbordes, 1916 and *H. tropicola* Schmidt, 1892**

Described as similar to *Hister tropicola*, although *H. tropicola* was unknown to Desbordes (1916: 496): “Cette espèce parait assez voisine de *H. tropicola* Schmidt, que je ne connais que par sa description”. A comparison of the types of both, *H. sibuti* and *H. tropicola* confirmed

their identity: *Hister sibuti* Desbordes, 1916 = *H. tropicola* Schmidt, 1892, syn. nov.

Material examined:

*Hister tropicola* Schmidt, 1892

Syntype, a female, “Guinea”, *tropicola* Schm., Type, col. J. Schmidt, coll. Schmidt - Bickhardt, Syntypus, *Hister tropicola* Schmidt, 1882, labeled by MNHUB 2007.

*Hister sibuti* Desbordes, 1916

Types: 2 females, [Central African Republic] Fort Sibut, Oubangi-Chari, *H. sibuti* Desbordes [MNHN].

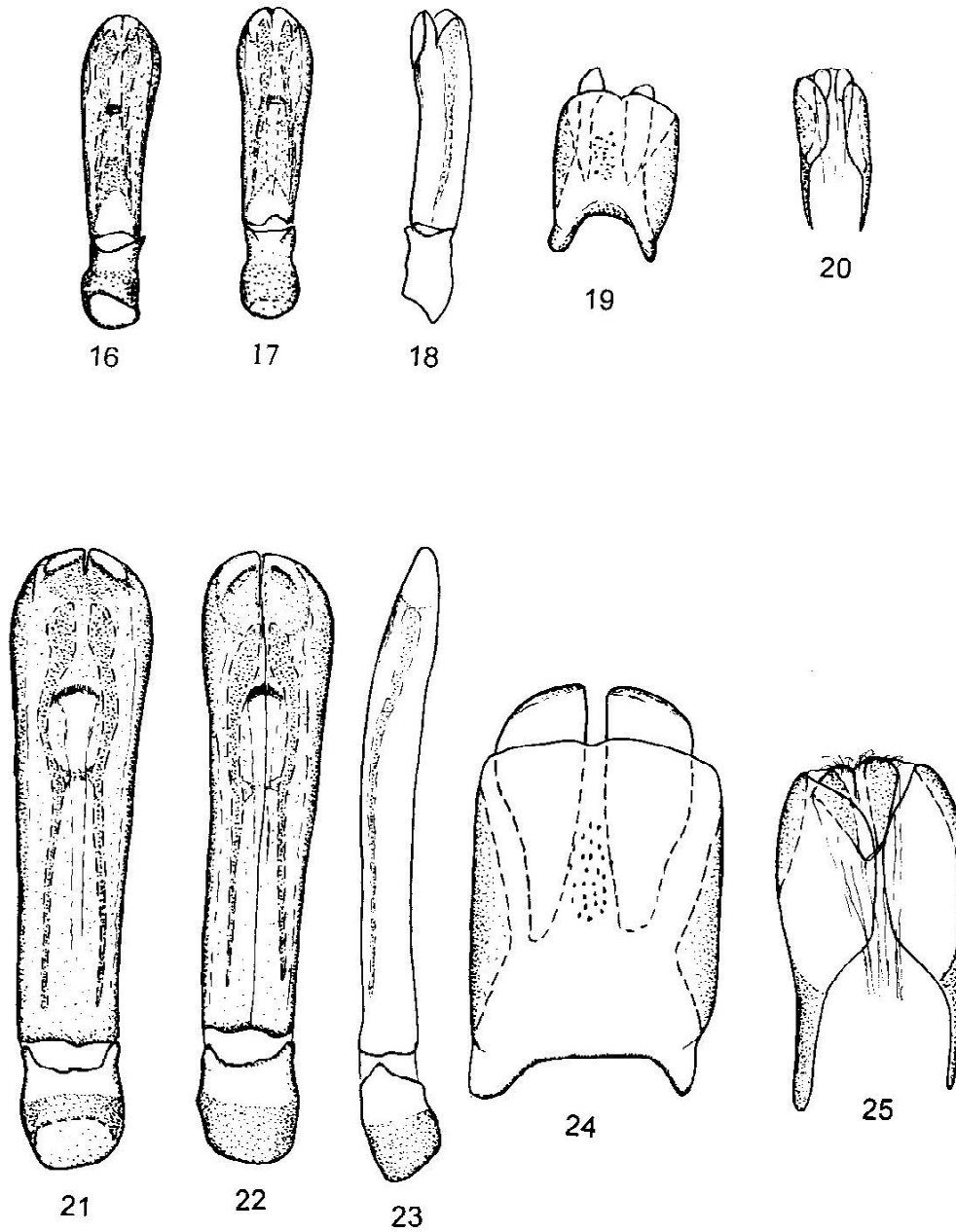
### ***Campylorhabdus poggei* (Harold, 1878)**

*Campylorhabdus poggei* (Harold) exhibits a great deal of external variation that is it has been described twice, by Harold (1878: 100) as *Tinotarsus poggei* and by Schmidt (1889: 367) as *Campylorhabdus singularis*. Later Lewis (1907: 313) transferred *T. poggei* to the genus *Campylorhabdus* Schmidt and, finally, the author (Mazur, 1997: 12) synonymized *C. singularis* with *C. poggei*. Both these species have been described from the type-series, so a designation of the lecto- and paralectotypes is needed. To a better recognition, the male genital structure is figured (Figs. 21-25).

Material examined:

*Campylorhabdus poggei* (Harold, 1878)

Lectotype: a female, 1) [green, handwritten] Poggei Harold\*, [Angola] Regn. Lunda, 2) [green, handwritten] Pogge, 3) [white, printed] 60052, 4) [blue, printed] Hist.-Coll. (Coleoptera) Nr 60052, *Tinotarsus Poggei* Harold\*, Regn. Lunda, Pogge, Zool. Mus. Berlin, 5) [red, printed] Syntypus, *Tinotarsus poggei* Harold, 1878, labeled by MNHUB 2008, 6) [white, printed] Lectotypus, 7) [white, printed] Des. S. Mazur 2008, 8) [white, printed] *Campylorhabdus poggei* (Harold, 1878), Det. S. Mazur 2008.



Figs. 16-25. Genital structure of the male. 16-20. *Hister katangensis*, 21-25. *Campylorhabdus poggei*, 16-18, 21-23 - eedeagus, 16, 21 - ventrally, 17, 22 - dorsally, 18, 23 - laterally, 19, 24 - 8th segment, 20, 25 - 9th and 10th tergites.

Other material examined: a male, [DR Congo] Afr. centr., Kongogeb., 67875 [MNHUB]

*Campylorhabdus singularis* (Schmidt, 1889)  
Lectotype: sex undetermined, 1) [white, printed] [Tanzania] Zanzibar, Hildebrand, 2) [red, printed] Type, 3) [white with blue margin, printed] *singularis* Schmidt, 4) [white, printed] coll. J. Schmidt, 5) [white, printed] coll. Schmidt - Bickhardt, 6) [red, printed] Syntypus, *Campylorhabdus singularis* Schmidt, 1889, labeled by MNHUB, 7) [white, printed] Lectotypus, 8) [white, printed] Des. S. Mazur 2008, 9) [white, printed] *Campylorhabdus poggei* (Harold, 1878) Det. S. Mazur 2008.

Paralectotype: a male, 1) [white, handwritten] *Campylorhabdus singularis* Schm. type, Zanzibar, 2) [white, printed] 67874, 3) [red, printed] Type, 4) [red, printed] Syntypus, *Campylorhabdus singularis* Schmidt, 1889, labeled by MNHUB 2008, 5) [white, printed] Paralectotype, 6) [white, printed] Des. S. Mazur 2008, 7) [white, printed] *Campylorhabdus poggei* (Harold, 1878) Det. S. Mazur 2008.

Other material examined: [Tanzania] Namupa, D.O.A., 1 ex. [MNHUB].

***Atholus rubricatus* (Lewis, 1897) and *A. luctuosus* (Thérond, 1952)**

*Atholus luctuosus* has been described (Thérond, 1952: 20) as a variety of *A. chariensis* (Desbordes) (= *A. rubricatus*). According to the rules of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (§ 45.6) all the infraspecific names described before 1961 should be newly considered to explain their specific status. An examination of the type of *A. luctuosus* wholly confirmed its identity with *A. rubricatus*.

Thus, *A. luctuosus* (Thérond, 1952) = *A. rubricatus* (Lewis, 1897), syn. nov.

Material examined:

Holotype: sex undetermined, Coll. Mus. Congo, [DR Congo] Lulua: Kapanga, II-1933, G.F.

Overlaet, *Peranus chariensis* var. *luctuosus* J. Thérond, det. 1951 [MRAC].

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author is deeply indebted to Dr. Bernd Jaeger (MNHUB), Dr. Azadeh Taghavian (MNHN) and Dr. Marc de Meyer (MRAC) for the privilege of studying the types of H. Bickhardt, L. Burgeon, H. Desbordes, E. Harold, S.A. Marseul, J. Schmidt and J. Thérond.

## REFERENCES

- Bickhardt H. 1919. Zur Synonymie einiger afrikanischer Histerini (39. Beitrag zur Kenntnis der Histeriden). *Entomologische Blätter* 15: 110-118.
- Bickhardt H. 1919b. Die Histerini des äthiopischen Faunengebiets (Coleoptera, Histeridae) (41. Beitrag zur Kenntnis der Histeriden). *Abhandlungen und Bericht LV des Vereins für Naturkunde zu Cassel*. 81-83 (1916-1919): 1-158.
- Burgeon L. 1939. Catalogue raisonnés de la faune entomologique du Congo Belge. Les Histeridae du Congo Belge. *Annales du Musée Royal du Congo Belge ser. III(II), zool.*, 5: 49-120.
- Desbordes H. 1916. Description d'un Hister nouveau d'Afrique. *Annales de la Société Entomologique de France*. 84 (1915-1916): 496.
- Desbordes H. 1917. Contribution à la connaissance des Histerides. 3<sup>e</sup> Mémoire. Synopsis de divers groupes d'Histeridae. *Annales de la Société Entomologique de France*. 86 (1917-1918): 165-192.
- Harold E. 1878. Diagnosen neuer Coleopteren aus dem inneren Afrika. *Mittheilungen des Münchener Entomologischen Vereins*. 2: 99-111.

- Lewis G. 1907. On new species of Histeridae and notices of others. *The Annals and Magazine of Natural History*(7)19: 311-322. *Received: 15.01.2008. Accepted: 30.05.2008.*
- Marseul S.A. 1854. Essai monographique sur la famille des histérides (Suite). *Annales de la Société Entomologique de France* (3)2: 161-311, 525-592.
- Marseul S.A. 1857. Essai monographique sur la famille des histérides (Suite). *Annales de la Société Entomologique de France* (3)5: 109-167, 397-516.
- Mazur S. 1997. A world catalogue of the Histeridae. *Genus, Suppl.* 1997, 373 pp.
- Mazur S. 2007. Notes on some African Histerini (Coleoptera: Histeridae) with description of a new genus *Quassarus* gen. n. *Studies and Reports of District Museum Prague-East Taxonomical Series* 3(1-2): 129-140.
- Schmidt J. 1889. Neue Histeriden (Coleoptera). *Entomologische Nachrichten* (Berlin) 15: 361-373.
- Thérond J. 1952. Histeridae (Coleoptera Polyphaga). *Exploration du Parc National de l'Upemba. Mission G.F. de Witte en collaboration avec W. Adam, A. Janssens, L. van Meel et R. Verheyen* 8(2): 13-22.
- Thérond J. 1967. The scientific results of the Hungarian Soil Expedition to the Brazzaville-Congo. 26. Espèces de la famille Histeridae (Coleoptera). *Opuscula Zoologica* (Budapest) 7: 271-291.



**Daugavpils University  
Institute of Systematic Biology**

**5th International Conference  
“Research and conservation of biological  
diversity in Baltic Region”**

**22.-24.04.2009.  
Daugavpils, Latvia**

Organised by **Daugavpils University Institute of Systematic Biology**

Scientific topics **Systematics, Morphology & Phylogeny;  
Fauna, Flora & Biogeography;  
Forest Biodiversity & Ecology;  
Agriculture & Biodiversity;  
Lake & River Biodiversity & Ecology;  
Urban Biodiversity & Ecology;  
Landscape Ecology;  
Population Ecology;  
etc.**

Participation fees: **50 EUR (for doctoral students 30 EUR)**

Language: **English**

We cordially invite all biologists to the 5th International Conference “Research and conservation of biological diversity in Baltic Region”, 22.-24.04.2009., Daugavpils University, LATVIA.

Following the tradition of former Conferences, oral and poster presentations will be accepted on any topic related to research of the biological diversity - not only with respect to the Baltic Region but also the whole World.

For more information please visit the Conference website:

**[www.biology.lv/conference2009/](http://www.biology.lv/conference2009/)**