

***Athyreus soesilae* sp. nov., a new geotrupid beetle from Suriname
(Coleoptera: Scarabaeoidea: Geotrupidae: Athyreini)**

by Dr Dewanand Makhan*

*Willem Bilderdijkhove 19, 3438 PM Nieuwegein, The Netherlands
(email: dewanandmakhan@yahoo.co.uk)

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Abstract: In this paper, *Athyreus soesilae* sp. nov., a new species of geotrupid beetle (Coleoptera: Scarabaeoidea: Geotrupidae: Athyreini) from Suriname, South America, is described.

Introduction

During a recent collecting-trip within the north of Suriname, I discovered an undescribed species of *Athyreus* Macleay, 1819 (Coleoptera: Geotrupidae). The beetle was collected on cow dung. *Athyreus soesilae* sp. nov. is the second known species of this genus for Suriname, the other being *Athyreus bellator* Westwood, 1848. I believe that the Suriname *Athyreus bellator* Westwood, 1848 was misidentified by Howden and Martínez (1978) and that the specimen of *Athyreus bellator* Westwood, 1848 which was not available to me, is actually a specimen of *Athyreus soesilae* sp. nov. The holotype specimen of the new species is deposited in the University of Suriname, Department of Entomology, Paramaribo, Suriname, South America.

Taxonomic description

Athyreus soesilae Makhan, sp. nov. (Figs. 1-3)

Type: Holotype male. Suriname, District Suriname, 20.V.11.1992, coll. D. Makhan.

Paratypes: 4 females.

Holotype description: Male. Length 11.0 mm, width 6.0 mm. Dorsally brown. Head with coarse punctures and with brown setae. Clypeus brown, tridentate, horn absent, apex truncate. Antennae brown. Pronotum, length 4.5 mm, width 7.0 mm, with brown setae, with coarse punctures, one minute horn at the anterior margin, one small depression at the anterior side, horn absent at the posterior side. Elytra brown, length 5.0 mm, width 6.0 mm, widest at the middle. Elytron with 5 striae, with coarse punctures, with brown setae and surface smooth. Elytral apices wide and rounded. Legs with brown setae, fore tibia with four teeth on the outer margin. Male genitalia (Figs. 2, 3).

Etymology: This species is named after my wife, Soesila Makhan.

Remarks: There are no differences between the male and the females of this species. As mentioned above, I believe that the Suriname *Athyreus bellator* Westwood, 1848 was misidentified by Howden and Martínez (1978) and that the Suriname specimen of *Athyreus bellator* Westwood, 1848, is actually a specimen of *Athyreus soesilae* sp. nov. *Athyreus bellator* Westwood, 1848 has a horn present on the clypeus, while the clypeal horn is absent in *Athyreus soesilae* sp. nov. The male genitalia are also different between the two species.

Acknowledgement

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Reference

Howden, H.F. & Martínez, A.. (1978). A review of the New World genus *Athyreus* Macleay (Scarabaeidae, Geotrupinae, Athyreini). *Contributions of the American Entomological Institute*, 15(4):1-70.

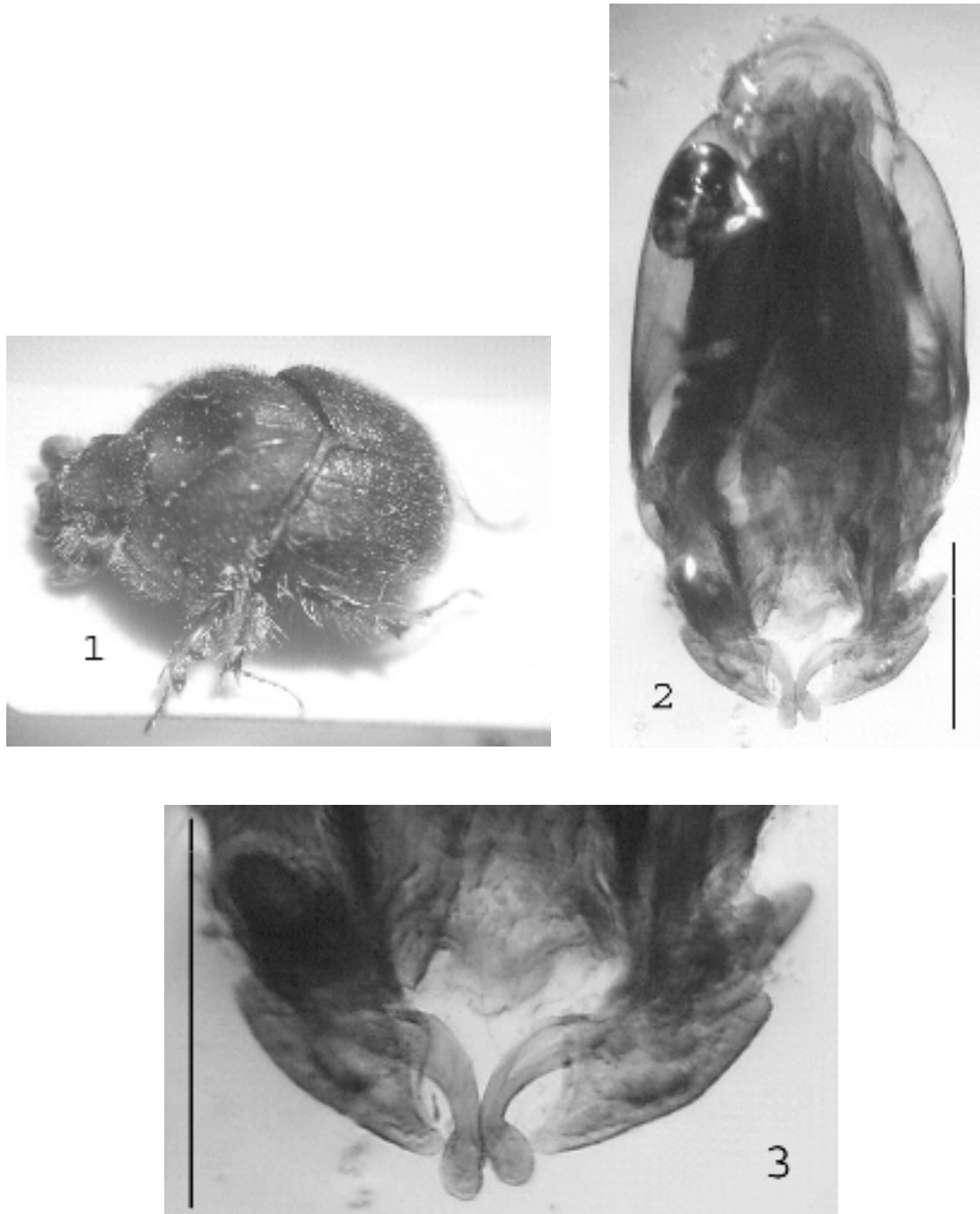


Fig. 1. *Athyreus soesilae* sp. nov. Habitus, dorsal view (total length = 11.0 mm).
Fig. 2. *Athyreus soesilae* sp. nov., male genitalia (scale line = 0.4 mm). Fig. 3. *Athyreus soesilae* sp. nov., male genitalia, closer view (scale line = 0.4 mm).

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