

**On *Brachypeplus (Brachypeplus) parallelus* and
B. (B.) euparallelus sp. n. from Africa with notes on synonymy in the
subgenus *Brachypeplus* (Coleoptera: Nitidulidae: Cillaeinae)**

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Taxonomy, new species, new synonymy, lectotype designation, Coleoptera, Nitidulidae, Africa

Abstract. *Brachypeplus (Brachypeplus) parallelus* Murray, 1864 from South Africa is redescribed, and a widely distributed and abundant African species, *B. (B.) euparallelus* sp. n., is described. Notes on the synonymy of *B. (B.) depressus* Erichson, 1843 and *B. (B.) aequalis* (Walker, 1858) are provided. The species names *caffer* Boheman, 1851, syn. n., *deyrollei* Murray, 1864, syn. n., *frater* Kraatz, 1895, syn. n. and *pilosellus* Murray, 1864, syn. n. become junior synonyms of *depressus*, and the names *notatus* Murray, 1864, syn. n., *omalinus* Murray, 1864 syn. n. and *orientalis* Murray, 1864, syn. n. become junior synonyms of *aequalis*.

INTRODUCTION

Brachypeplus (Brachypeplus) parallelus was described by Murray (1864) from Natal, and the name has subsequently been applied indiscriminately, without recourse to the type, to a widespread parallel-sided African species. However, examination of the single type specimen of *B. parallelus* in Murray's collection (BMNH) shows that it is a species very distinct from other members of the genus, and is known only from the type specimen. The species that is generally referred to, in error, as "*B. parallelus*" is therefore in need of formal description, and the name *B. euparallelus* is proposed for this new species, which is rather common and widely distributed in Sub-Saharan Africa. Although he did not publish his conclusions, Endrödy-Younga was apparently aware of this confusion almost 40 years ago, because a specimen of *B. euparallelus* sp. nov. in BMNH bearing the label "*Brachypeplus parallelus* Murray, determined by M. Grouvelle 1905" also bears the label "*Br. sp. not parallelus* det. Dr. Endrödy-Younga 1968".

A number of synonymies are also proposed for other members of the genus, and lectotypes are designated where appropriate; the taxonomic purpose of these designations (ICZN, 1999: Art 74.7.3) is to stabilise the nomenclature, since the inclusivity, extent and distribution of the old syntypic series concerned is unclear.

DEPOSITORIES

- BMNH The Natural History Museum, London [British Museum (Natural History)];
DEI Deutsches Entomologisches Institut, Müncheberg (formerly Eberswalde-Finow);
MCG Museo Civico di Storia Naturale, Genova;
MRAC Musée Royal de l'Afrique Centrale, Tervuren;
NRS Naturhistoriska Riksmuseet, Stockholm;
TMB Természettudományi Múzeum, Budapest;
ZISP Zoological Institute of Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg;
ZMB Zoologisches Museum an der Humboldt-Universität, Berlin;
ZMUC Zoologisk Museum, University of Copenhagen.

RESULTS

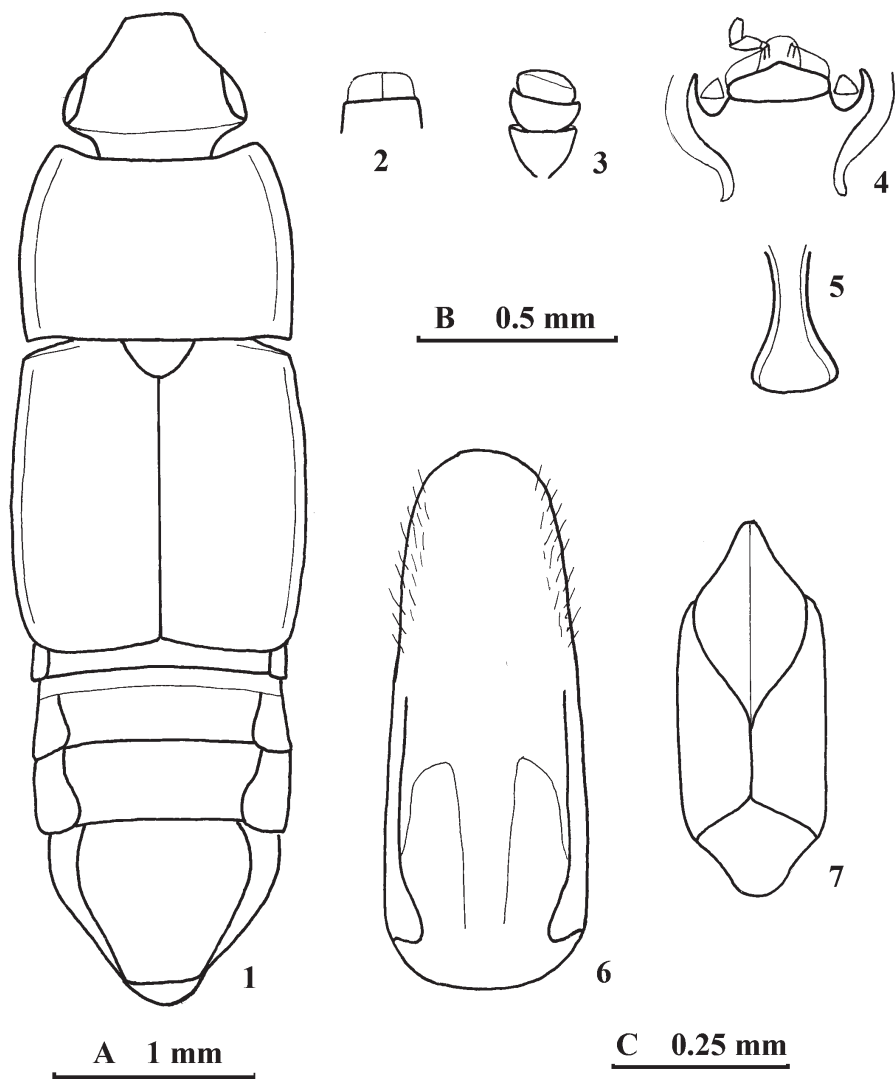
Brachypeplus (Brachypeplus) parallelus Murray, 1864 (Figs 1-7)

Brachypeplus (Brachypeplus) parallelus Murray, 1864: 295.

Type material. Lectotype, (♂) (BMNH), here designated (unpublished designation in collection by Endrödy-Younga 1968) - "Type", "Murr. 68.100", "*parallelus*".

Description of lectotype. Length 5.0, breadth 1.4, height 0.5 mm. Slightly convex dorsally and subflattened ventrally; dark brown, underside and particularly appendages somewhat lighter; almost dull; dorsum with greyish and moderately conspicuous hairs, somewhat longer than distance between their bases, and forming distinct longitudinal rows on elytra. Head and pronotum with distinct punctures, usually more than twice the diameter of eye facets, interspaces between them less than half a puncture diameter (somewhat less than or subequal to an eye facet in diameter), finely microreticulated, alutaceous or nearly smooth. Elytra with seriate puncturation, shallow punctures, seemingly located at the bottom of indistinct furrows and somewhat smaller than those on head and pronotum (about one-and-a-half times as large as eye facets in diameter), distance between punctures in rows about one puncture diameter, interspaces between punctures finely, densely and rather contrastingly microreticulated to alutaceous. Exposed tergites, metasternum and ventrites with shallow and indistinct punctures subequal to eye facets or slightly larger, interspaces between them about a puncture diameter, finely and very densely microreticulated to alutaceous; although hypopygidium with more distinct, much deeper and much denser punctures. Pro- and mesosterna with very small, shallow and rather sparse punctures with indistinct outline, interspaces between them densely and finely alutaceous.

Head flattened, length somewhat shorter than the distance between eyes with temples not extended beyond eyes and straight anterior edge. Eyes consisting of moderately small facets. Labrum forming a continuous arc with a median suture. Mandibles with forked apices moderately exposed. Antennae three-quarters as long as head width, antennal club about 1.25 times as long as wide, with 1st club segment largest, making up more than 0.28 of total



Figs 1-7. *Brachypeplus (Brachypeplus) parallelus*: 1- dorsal habitus; 2- anterior part of head with labrum, dorsal; 3- antennal club; 4- mentum, labium and antennal grooves, ventral; 5- prosternal process, ventral; 6- tegmen, ventral; 7- penis trunk, dorsal. (Scales: A - to fig. 1; B - to figs 2-5; C - to figs 6-7).

antennal length, scape slightly longer than wide, antennomere 3 about 1.5 times as long as 2, or more than twice as long as antennomere 4. Pronotum with maximum width slightly before middle, flattened on disk and with almost evenly sloping sides, explanate margins about 1.5 times as wide as the thickness of the antennal flagellum, sides arcuate and narrowing equally posteriorly and anteriorly, anterior edge shallowly excised, posterior edge bisinuate and finely bordered, anterior and posterior angles with distinct apices and moderately projecting. Elytra very slightly longer than their combined width, subparallel-sided, moderately steeply sloping at moderately narrowly explanate sides (explanate area about as wide as antennal flagellum). Tergite V about 0.8 as long as tergite VI and about half as long as pygidium. Pygidium somewhat depressed at sides, rounded at apical angles and slightly concave at apex.

Anal sclerite well exposed from under pygidial apex, and widely rounded at apex.

Last segment of labial palpi elongate and narrowing to a truncate apex and about twice as long as thick at base. Mentum subpentagonal, nearly three times as wide as long. Antennal grooves S-shaped and convergent, clearly outlined and distinctly deepened. Prosternum slightly convex medially and with flattened process triangularly widened to a truncate apex (about as wide as antennal club). Distance between mesocoxae almost four times, and that between metacoxae about twice, as broad as that between procoxae. Mesosternum rather swollen in middle. Metasternum with a median depression and suture nearly 1.28 as long as prosternum, its hind edge between coxae arcuately excised. Submeso- and submetacoxal lines not expressed. Ventrites 1 and 2 combined somewhat longer than ventrite 3 and nearly as long as ventrite 4. Hypopygidium slightly shorter than ventrites 1-3 combined, and subtruncate at apex. Epipleura gradually narrowed distally, moderately elevated laterally and about as wide as antennal club at base.

Tibiae simple and about 0.75 of width of antennal club, with rounded outer subapical angle, outer edge of meso- and metafemora with thin, moderately long hairs. Femora of typical shape for the genus, profemur about 1.66, mesofemur about 2.5, metafemur about 3 times as wide as corresponding tibiae. Protarsus about one third of width of antennal club, meso- and metatarsi narrower, claws simple and moderately long.

Aedeagus moderately sclerotised.

Differential diagnosis. This species is similar to *Leiopeplus* Murray, 1864, but is very distinct in its well developed pubescence, the completely different shape of the last two labial palpomeres and the presence of long thin hairs along the outer edges of the meso- and metatibiae.

Among the African and Madagascan members of *Brachypeplus* sensu stricto, *B. (B.) parallelus* is characterised by its comparatively long elytra, which are almost as long as their combined width. Such long elytra otherwise occur only in *B. (B.) aequalis* (Walker, 1858), *B. (B.) bimaculatus* Grouvelle, 1894, and in occasional specimens of *B. (B.) euparallelus* sp. n., although most examples of the latter have the elytra markedly shorter. Additionally, *B. (B.) parallelus* has the pronotum distinctly narrowed in the distal half, while almost all African species of *Brachypeplus* sensu stricto have the pronotum subparallel-sided in the distal half. Long hairs along the outer edges of the meso- and metatibiae are also known in *B. (B.) euparallelus* sp. n., but in that species the hairs are not thin (see below). *B. parallelus*

can also be diagnosed from other species of the subgenus *Brachypeplus* sensu stricto by the following characters:

- from *B. (B.) aequalis* and *B. (B.) bimaculatus* in its larger, subflattened and darker body with comparatively widely explanate pronotal and elytral sides, almost dull elytra and exposed tergites, truncate anterior edge of labrum, longer antenna with club not subquadrangular, anterior and bisinuate posterior edges of pronotum not subtruncate, both anterior and posterior angles of pronotum more distinct and more projecting, distinctive puncturation and sculpture of the underside, last labial palpomere narrowed apically, subtriangular apex of subflattened prosternal process with subtruncate posterior edge, narrower tibiae and long thin hairs along outer edge of meso- and metatibiae;

- from *B. (B.) amplus* Kirejtshuk, 2001 in its more slender, subflattened and darker body with comparatively widely explanate pronotal and elytral sides, almost dull elytra and exposed tergites, much finer dorsal puncturation with very fine punctures on elytra, somewhat depressed dorsal surface of head at antennal insertions, longer antenna with narrower, not subquadrangular, anterior and bisinuate posterior edges of pronotum not subtruncate, both anterior and posterior angles of pronotum more distinct and more projecting, scutellum not subtrapezoid, distinctive puncturation and sculpture of the underside, last labial palpomere narrowed apically, subtriangular apex of subflattened prosternal process with subtruncate posterior edge, lack of median suture on metasternum, narrower tibiae and long thin hairs along outer edge of its meso- and metatibiae;

- from *B. (B.) ater* Grouvelle, 1892 in its much more slender and subflattened body, somewhat shining dorsal surface of head and pronotum, markedly narrower antennal club, longer pronotum with trapezoid anterior edge and shallower sinuation of posterior edge at posterior angle, more projecting anterior and less projecting posterior angles of pronotum, not subtrapezoid scutellum, distinctive puncturation and sculpture of the underside, last labial palpomere much narrower, subtriangular apex of subflattened prosternal process with subtruncate posterior edge, narrower tibiae and long hairs along outer edge of its meso- and metatibiae;

- from *B. (B.) depressus* Erichson, 1843 in its larger, much more slender and subflattened body, almost dull elytra and exposed tergites, somewhat narrower antennal club, longer pronotum with trapezium-shaped anterior edge, more projecting anterior and less projecting posterior angle of pronotum, scutellum not subquadrangular, distinctive puncturation and sculpture of the underside, last labial palpomere distinctly longer and much narrower, subtriangular apex of subflattened prosternal process, narrower tibiae and long hairs along outer edge of its meso- and metatibiae;

- from *B. (B.) castanescens* Grouvelle, 1912 in its larger, subflattened and darker body with comparatively widely explanate pronotal and elytral sides, almost dull elytra and exposed tergites, very fine puncturation on elytra, truncate anterior edge of labrum, longer antenna

with elongate oval club, anterior and bisinuate posterior edges of pronotum not subtruncate, both anterior and posterior angles of pronotum more distinct and more projecting, scutellum not subtrapezoid, distinctive puncturation and sculpture of the underside, last labial palpomere narrowed apically, subtriangular apex of subflattened prosternal process with subtruncate posterior edge, narrower tibiae and long hairs along outer edge of meso- and metatibiae;

- from *B. (B.) euparallelus* sp. n. in its larger, wider and subflattened body with comparatively widely explanate pronotal and elytral sides, almost dull elytra and exposed tergites, much finer and denser puncturation on dorsum, wider scape and narrower antennal club, anterior edge of pronotum not subtruncate and posterior edge bisinuate, both anterior and posterior angles of pronotum more distinct and more projecting, scutellum not subtrapezoid, distinctive puncturation and sculpture of the underside, last labial palpomere longer and narrowed apically, subtriangular apex of subflattened prosternal process with subtruncate posterior edge, narrower tibiae and long thin hairs along outer edge of meso- and metatibiae;

Two species are only known to the authors from the original descriptions; *B. (B.) latimargo* Grouvelle, 1915 and *B. (B.) permixtus* Grouvelle, 1908. Both appear similar to *B. (B.) depressus*, and can be distinguished from *B. (B.) parallelus* by the characters listed for *B. (B.) depressus*.

***Brachypeplus (Brachypeplus) euparallelus* sp. n.**

(Figs. 8-18)

Brachypeplus (Brachypeplus) parallelus sensu auctorum, non Murray, 1864: 295.

Type material. Holotype (♂) (ZISP) and 22 paratypes: Cameroon: “Ambam Reg, Mboro River, 600m, 15 Jan.-15 Feb. 2004”. Other paratypes: Cameroon: 1 (TMB) - “North West Prov., Bamenda”, “April, 1979, Cho Ignatius”; 1 (MRAC) - “Douala (Dr. Lencsz), ex coll. Breuning”; 3 (MRAC, ZISP) - “N’Kongsamba (J. Canteloube), ex coll. Breuning”; 7 (MRAC, ZISP) - “Yoko, i.1957, J. Canteloube”; 7 (BMNH) - “Cameroon, Mbalmayo F. Reserve, ‘Tiger Survey’; IITA Farm” (14.vii.1993 Malaise Trap, 17.vii.1993 Malaise Trap, 23.vii.1993 FIT, 27.vii.1993 FIT); 43 (BMNH) - “Cameroon, Mbalmayo F. Reserve, ‘Tiger Survey’, Eboufek” (10.vii.1993 Malaise Trap, 24.vii.1993 FIT, Malaise Trap, 28.vii.1993 FIT); 3 (BMNH) - “Cameroon, Mbalmayo F. Reserve, ‘Tiger Survey’, Ebogo, vii.1993 FIT”; 11 (BMNH) - “near Bilik (24.vii.1993, FIT, Malaise Trap, 28.vii.1993, FIT, Malaise Trap). Ivory Coast (Côte d’Ivoire): 1 (MRAC) - “Abengouru”, “ex coll. Breuning”; Angola: 4 (BMNH) - “Angola”; Tanzania: 8 (TMB, ZISP) - “Tanga Region”, “Kwamsambla For. Res., 13.ii.1987”, “sampling N 114, Mahunka & Sicsi”; 6 (MRAC, ZISP) - “Lusaka, Rte Baudouinv. - Manono, H. Bomans, iv.1953”, “sur oranges”; 3 (ZMUC) - “East Usambara, Amani, 1000m, 28.i.1977, H. Enghoff, O. Lømboldt & O. Martin” (1.ii.1977); 1 (ZMB) - “ex coll. Dr. C. Schroder, Panganisteppe, Mombo-Masinde, Jan. [19]06, D. Ostafrika”; 1 (ZMB) - “A. d. Sammlung/ Dr. Chr. Schröder’s / Massaiseppe.”; 5 (MRAC) - “Moba, 780m, vi.1953, H. Bomans”, “sur oranges”; Burundi: 1 (MRAC) - “Urundi: Terr. Bururi, Riv. Sikuvyaye, 1000m, N. Leleup, 16.vii.51”, “for. schléromph.”; 2 (MRAC) - “Urundi: Usumbura, 800m, 25-27.ii.1953, P.

Basilewsky”; Rwanda: 1 (MRAC) - “Astrida, x.1952, R. Laurent”; 6 (MRAC, ZISP) - “Tschuruyaga, for. Rugege, 2400m, P. Basilewsky, 22.i.1953”; 1 (MRAC) - “Forêt de la Rugege, 2150m., iv.1951, N. Leleup”, “Récolté dans arbre creux”; 2 (MRAC) - “Rubona, 18.x.1962, G. Pierrard”, “Récolté dans fruit de grenadier”; Uganda: 1 (MRAC) - “Mpanga, 65 km O. d’Entebbe, viii.1959, P.L.G. Benoit”; 2 (ZISP) - “Kampala, Tank Hills, 1300m, o.h., 20.6.1970, Hans Gønget”; 1 (BMNH) W. Pr., Kibale Forest, sweep K30, 5.vi.1984, M. Nummelin leg.; Kenya: 1 (TMB) - “Kakamega Forest Reserve, submontane rainforest, 1800m”, “singled & swept from the vegetation, 30.i.1992, N 519, O. Merkl & G.Varkonyl”; Equatorial Guinea: 22 (ZISP, MCG) - “Is. Fernando Poo, Basile, 400-600m, viii.1901, L. Fea”; Democratic Republic of Congo: 2 (MRAC) - “Kivu: Rwankwi, iv.1946, J.V. Leroy”; 2 (MRAC, ZISP) - “Kivu: Uvira, bord lac Tanganyika, ix.1958, N. Leleup”; 1 (MRAC) - “Kivu: Uvira, Lac Tanganyika, dans *Pista* [sic, *Pistia*], i.1957 (G. Marlier / N. Leleup)”, “dans *Pistia stratiates*”; 2 (MRAC, ZISP) - “Kivu: Mwenga, 1250m, 24.iv.1958, N. Leleup”, “Biot. N 15, marais bois, avec *Pandanus*”; 1 (MRAC) - “Kivu: Masisi, Lacs Ndalaga et Lukubi, 1780m, N. Leleup, iii.1954”; 1 (MRAC) - “Kivu: Kitutu, terr. Mwenga, rive dr. de l’Elila, 650m, iv.1958, N. Leleup”, “Biot. N 7, forêt mar., cageuse primaire, humus”; 11 (MRAC, ZISP) - “Kivu: Terr. Fizi, Bas Itombwe, 8900m (forêt scleroph.), v.1951, N. Leleup”, “Récolté dans l’Humus” (iv.1951, vi.1951); 1 (MRAC) - “Kivu: riv. Natulonge, terr. Fizi, i.1957, N. Leleup”; 1 (MRAC) - “Kivu : Terr. Fizi, Kabare M’Boko, 800m, 11.i.1952, N. Leleup, (for. scleromph.)”, “Récolté dans l’humus”; 2 (MRAC) - “Mulongo (Niunzu), 20-30.v.1930, Dr. Gérard”; 2 (MRAC) - “Kivu: Mingazi, 700m, 1951, H. Bomans” (Kavamu à Kabunga km 82 (Mingazi), viii-x.1951); 4 (MRAC, ZISP) - “N. Lac Kivu: Rwankwi, v.1948, J.V. Leroy” (11.xi.1948, 25.xii.1950); 1 (MRAC) - “Kivu : T. Kabare, 2080m, Kontref S.E. Kahuzi, viii.51, N. Leleup, Forêt Hageuia”, “Récolté dans l’humus”; 2 (MRAC, ZISP) - “Kivu: Terr. Kabare, Nyakasiba, 1900m (Vest. For. ombroph.), vi.1951, N. Leleup”; 2 (MRAC) - “Kivu: Terr. Kabare, Nyakasiba, 1800m (Vestige Forêt), vi.1951, N. Leleup”; 2 (MRAC) - “Kivu: Nyabikoro (Rutshuru), xi.1956, K. Baeten”; 1 (MRAC) - “Kivu: T. Kalehe, verst S.O. Kahuzi, 2850m (for. bambous), vii.1951, N. Leleup”, “Récolté dans l’humus”; 1 (MRAC) - “Kapanga, ii.1933, G.F. Overlaet”; 5 (MRAC) - “Lulua: Kapanga, G.F. Overlaet” (vii.1932, ix.1932, iii.1933); 1 (MRAC) - “Bas-Congo: Kinkenge, iv.1951, M. Bequaert”; 1 (MRAC) - “Bas-Congo: Mayidi, 1952, R.P. Van Eyen”; 1 (MRAC) - “Bitale, Kivu, 1957, R. Pierlot, RP. 4/3”, “Coll. R.Mayné, Comm. Et. Bois Congo, R. 2581”; 1 (MRAC) - “Bitale, Kivu, 1954, R. Pierlot, RP. 95a”, “Coll. R.Mayné, Comm. Et. Bois Congo, R. 2558”; 1 (MRAC) - “Maniema: Kasongo, ix.1959, P.L.G. Benoit”; 1 (MRAC) - “Sankuru: Gandajika, ii.1956, J. Decelle”; 23 (MRAC, ZISP) - “Eala, 21.i.1921, Dr. H. Schouteden” (25.i.1921, 31.i.1921, iii.1935, x.1936, xi.1936, L. Burgeon, J. Ghesquière); 2 (MRAC, ZISP) - “Uele: Bayenga, terr. Wamba, 810m, 10.viii.1956, R. Castelain”; 2 (MRAC) - “Uele: Pawa, vi.1953, P. Gérard”; 1 (MRAC) - “Haut-Uele: Paulis, v.1947, P.L.G. Benois”; 21 (MRAC) - “Haut-Uele: Moto, x-xi.1923, L. Burgeon” (1920); 1 (MRAC) - “Ituri: La Moto : Madyu, L. Burgeon”; 2 (MRAC) - “Haut Uele, Walsa, xi.1919, L. Burgeon”; 2 (MRAC) - “Mongwalu, 1939, Mme Scheitz” (Kilo, 1938); 1 (MRAC) - “Equateur: Bamania, vii.1958, Rév.P. Hulstaert”; 1 (MRAC) - “Kibali-Ituri: t. Epulu, Mambasa-Mungbere, 900m, N. Leleup, ii.1954”; 30 (MRAC) - “Rutshuru, i.1938, J. Ghesquière” (i.1937, ii.1938, iii.1937, iv.1937,

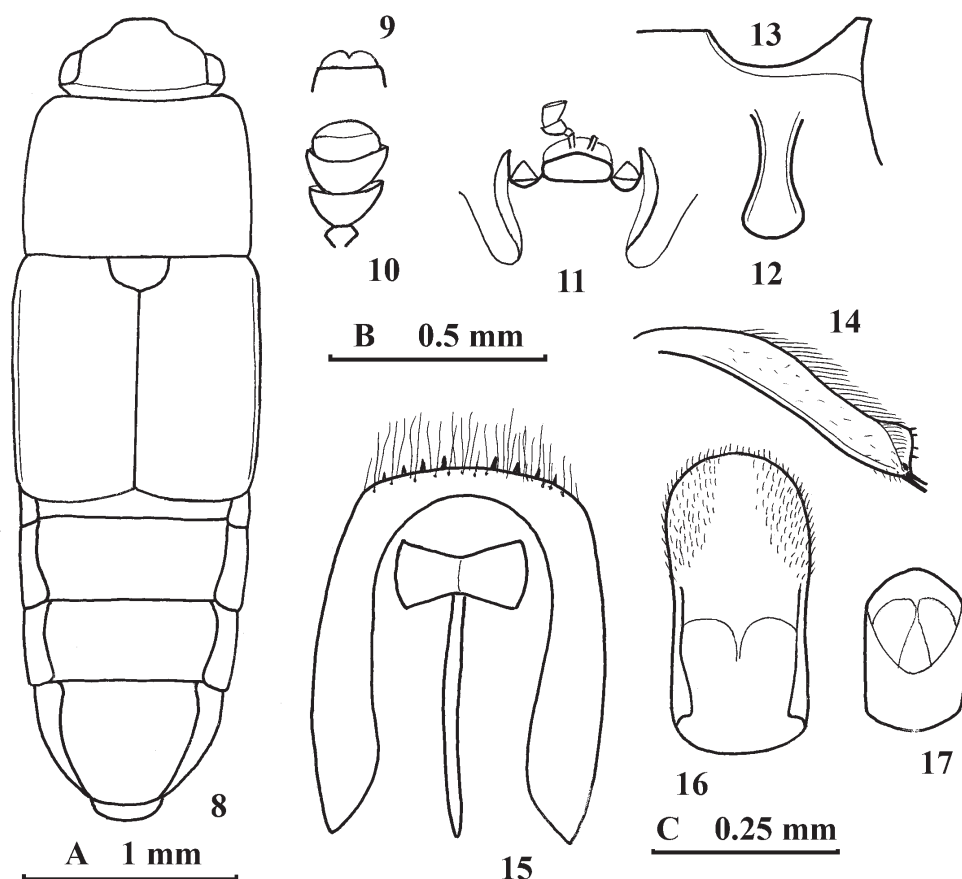
7.v.1937, 28.v.36, 29.v.36, 7.v.1937, L. Lippens, Miss. Prophylactique); 1 (MRAC) - "Kasongo, ix.1959, P.L.G. Benoit"; 1 (MRAC) - "Distr. Elisabethville, Gal. for. de la Kisanga, 26.ix.51, N. Leleup", "Récolté dans l'humus"; 2 (MRAC) - "Elisabethville (lumière) xi.1951-ii.1952, Ch. Seydel" (xi.50-vi.51); 9 (MRAC, ZISP) - "Elisabethville (à la lumière) 1953-1955, Ch. Seydel"; 1 (MRAC) - "Elisabethville (à la lumière) 1957-1958, Ch. Seydel"; 1 (MRAC) - "Elisabethville, ii.1912, Miss. Agric."; 1 (MRAC) - "Tshuapa: Terr. Ikela, xi.1955, R. Deguide"; 5 (MRAC, ZISP) - "Tshuapa: Ikela, 1956, R.P. Lootens"; 5 (MRAC, ZISP) - "Tshuapa: Bokuma, iv.1952, R.P. Lootens" (v.1952); 2 (MRAC) - "Tshuapa: Mabali, terr. Bikoro, Lac Tumba, N.Leleup, xi.1955", "dans terre argileuse rive du lac"; 1 (MRAC) - "P.N.A., 10-15.iv.1953, P. Vanschuytbroeck & J. Kekenbosch, 2869-74", "Massif Ruwenzori, Moyenne Lume, 1760m, Kiribata (Migeri)"; 1 (MRAC) - "P.N.A., 26-28.viii.1953, P. Vanschuytbroeck & V. Hendrix, 4999-5005", "Secteur Tschiaberimu, Riv. Mbulikerere, affl. dr. Talia N, 2720m"; 1 (MRAC) - "P.N.A., 29.iv.1954, P. Vanschuytbroeck & H. Synave, 8769", "Massif Ruwenzori, Mont Ngulingo, près Nyamgaleke, 2500m"; 1 (MRAC) - "P.N.A., 3.vi.1954, P. Vanschuytbroeck & H. Synave 9013-17", "Massif Ruwenzori, Mont Ngulingo, près Nyamgaleke, 2500m"; 1 (MRAC) - "P.N.A., 7-15.vii.1955, P. Vanschuytbroeck, 13.320-27", "Mont Hoyo, entrée grotte Saga-Saga, 1160m"; 1 (MRAC) - "P.N.A., 26.iv.1958, P. Vanschuytbroeck, VS-365", "Massif Ruwenzori, Riv. Lusilubo, affl. Semliki, 1880m"; 1 (MRAC) - "P.N.A., 31.x-21.xi.1955, P. Vanschuytbroeck, 14.617-22", "Secteur Nord, riv. Djumi, affl. Semliki, 800m"; 1 (MRAC) - "P.N.A./ 22-24.xii.1962/RP. M.-J. Célis 2103", "Secteur Nord, Riv. Butahu, affl., Semliki, 1200m/ près Mutwanga"; 2 (MRAC, ZISP) - "P.N.A., 10.ii.1958, P. Vanschuytbroeck, VS-297", "Massif Ruwenzori, Kalonge, 2060m, riv. Katauleko, affl. Butahu"; 2 (MRAC, ZISP) - "P.N.A., 11.i.1958, P. Vanschuytbroeck, VS-276", "Massif Ruwenzori, riv. Bongeya, affl. Talya, 1760m"; 2 (MRAC, ZISP) - "P.N.A., vi.1953, J.M. Vrydagh, 4047", "Massif Ruwenzori, Kyandolire, 1700m, Camp des Gardes"; 1 (MRAC) - "Kiniati-Zobe, fin xii.1915, R. Mayné"; 1 (MRAC) - "Lundu, 19.x.1920, Dr H. Schouteden"; 1 (MRAC) "P.N.A./ 28.xii.1962, RP. M.-J. Célis, 2105\14", "Massif Ruwenzori, Mahungu, 3310m, ericet.- sphagnet."; 1 (MRAC) - "P.N.A., 30.xii.1962, RP. M.-J. Célis, 2112", "Massif Ruwenzori, Kiondo, 4200m, prairie alpine"; 1 (MRAC) - "P.N.A., 9.i.1963, RP. M.-J. Célis, 2121", "Massif Ruwenzori, Lamya-Ruenoli, riv. Talubere, 2800m, bambous"; 1 (MRAC) - "N. Kivu : Terr. Lubero, Mulo, 1950m, 16.ii.1954, R.R.P.P. Celis-Bergmans", "Termisage nids *Myrmecaria eumenoides* Gerst."; 1 (MRAC) - "Kivu : Terr. Lubero, 2300m, 5.xii.1951, N. Leleup, (for. mont. avec barrib.)", "Récolté dans l'humus"; 4 (MRAC) - "Tengo Katanta, Manyema, 1918, Dr. Gérard"; 1 (MRAC) - "Mayumbe: Maduda, 25.i.1925, A. Collart"; 1 (MRAC) - "Kibali Ituri: Kilo, iv.1930, G. du Soleil"; 1 (MRAC) - "Mahagi-Niarembe, 1935, Ch. Scops"; 1 (MRAC) - "Kunugu, iv.1921, Dr H. Schouteden"; 1 (MRAC) - "Lolo Damvu, (Mayumbe) 12.iv.26, A. Collart"; 3 (MRAC) - "Forêt de Kasuo, S.W. de Lubero, xii.1966, R.P. Celis"; 2 (MRAC) - "Kivu : Butembo, ix-x.1965, Rév. P. Célis"; 1 (MRAC) - "Tshuapa: Etata, vii-viii.1969, J. Hauwaerts"; 1 (MRAC) - "Uelé, Buta, 450m, iv.1935, G.F. de Witte: 1328"; 1 (MRAC) - "P.N.A., Expl. Sect. Nord, Mutsora, 1200m, vii.1953, J.M. Vrydagh, 4077a"; 1 (MRAC) - "Kivu: Butembo, alt. 1720m, iv-v.1965, M. J. Celis & collab.", "dans Termitière au bord d'un marais"; 1 (MRAC) - "P.N.A., Expl. Sect. Nord, Mutsora, 1200m, vii.1953 (sur *Albizzia* [sic]), J.M. Vrydagh 4855a";

Description of holotype. Length 3.8, breadth 1.2, height 0.5 mm. Moderately convex dorsally and slightly ventrally; dark chestnut brown, underside and particularly appendages somewhat lighter; rather shining; dorsum with greyish and moderately conspicuous hairs, somewhat longer than distance between their bases and forming distinct longitudinal rows on elytra.

Head, pronotum and metasternum with distinct punctures (some appearing double), usually more than twice the diameter of eye facets, interspaces about one puncture diameter, completely smooth. Elytra with seriate puncturation, longitudinal (slightly oblique) rows of punctures as large as those on head and pronotum, intermitted with rows of much smaller, denser punctures. Rows of punctures at suture intermediate between larger and smaller ones. Distance between larger punctures in rows a fifth to a third of one puncture diameter, interspaces between punctures completely smooth. Exposed tergites and ventrites with distinct, somewhat irregular punctures, about 1.5 times the diameter of an eye facet or slightly larger, interspaces between them about one puncture diameter, finely alutaceous to smooth; although hypopygidium has much deeper and somewhat denser punctures. Prosternum with large, irregular punctures, about as large as those on head, pronotum and metasternum, but shallower and somewhat sparser, interspaces between them alutaceous to smooth. Mesosternum with transverse undulate microreticulation and without puncturation.

Head subflattened to slightly convex with straight anterior edge, length slightly more than three-quarters of the distance between eyes. Eyes with extremely small facets. Temples not extended beyond eyes. Labrum with a short excision, becoming a median suture. Mandibles with forked apices moderately exposed. Antennal length about five-sixths of head width, club about 1.5 times as long as wide and with subequal 1st and 2nd segments composing more than two-sevenths of total antennal length, scape about 1.5 times as long as wide, antennomere 3 slightly longer than antennomere 2, and about twice as long as antennomere 4. Pronotum with subparallel sides in distal three-quarters, rather convex at disk and with almost evenly sloping sides, which are extremely narrowly explanate, anterior edge very shallowly emarginate to nearly straight, posterior edge also almost straight and very finely bordered, anterior angles widely rounded and posterior angles with distinct apices and slightly projecting. Elytra about 1.5 times as long as pronotum and very slightly shorter than combined width, subparallel-sided, moderately steeply sloping at moderately narrowly explanate sides (explanate area about as wide as antennal flagellum). Tergite V about six-sevenths of length as tergite VI and about two-thirds as long as pygidium. Pygidium somewhat depressed at sides, rounded at apical lateral angles and subtruncate at apex. Anal sclerite well exposed from under pygidial apex and widely rounded at apex, its posterior edge with 6 short, stout teeth in addition to long hairs.

Last segment of labial palpi slightly elongate and slightly widened to oblique apex, somewhat longer than wide. Antennal grooves somewhat C-shaped and convergent, clearly outlined and distinctly deepened, inner edge looking like a comparatively thick ridge. Prosternum medially roof-shaped and with medially convex process triangularly widened to arcuate apex (about three-fifths as wide as antennal club). Distance between mesocoxae almost 4 times, and that between metacoxae about twice, as broad as that between procoxae. Mesosternum slightly convex along the middle. Median area of suture between meso-



Figs 8-17. *Brachypeplus (Brachypeplus) euparallelus* sp. n.: 8- dorsal habitus; 9- anterior part of head with labrum, dorsal; 10- antennal club; 11- mentum, labium and antennal grooves, ventral; 12- prosternal process, ventral; 13- submesocoxal line, ventral; 14- male metatibia, dorsal; 15- anal sclerite, ventral plate and spiculum gastrale; 16- tegmen, ventral; 17- penis trunk, dorsal. (Scales: A - to fig. 8; B - to figs 9-14; C - to figs 15-17).

and metasterna and space behind it rather depressed. Metasternum flattened and without median suture, about as long as pro- and mesosterna combined, its hind edge between coxae arcuately excised. Submesocoxal line rectilinearly deviating from posterior edge of cavity. Submetacoxal line closely follows posterior edge of cavity. Ventrites 1 and 2 combined somewhat longer than ventrite 3 and nearly as long as ventrite 4. Hypopygidium slightly shorter than combined length of ventrites 2-3, and widely rounded at apex, and with a pair of dense paramedial brushes of very long hair. Epipleura gradually narrowed distally, moderately elevated laterally, and about two-thirds as wide as antennal club at base.

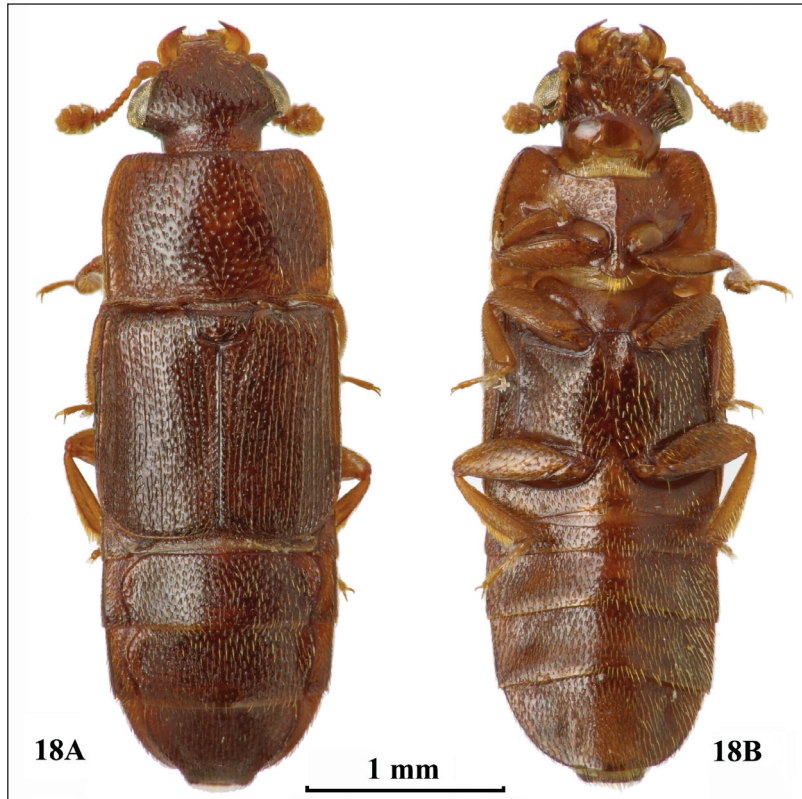


Fig. 18. Dorsal (18a) and ventral (18b) habitus of *Brachypeplus (Brachypeplus) euparallelus* sp. n., Paratype, ('Cameroun, N'Kongsamba (J. Canteloube), ex coll. Breuning', 'BMNH{E} 2005-41, ex. coll. MRAC, pres. M. De Meyer'). Photos by Harry Taylor (Natural History Museum).

Tibiae simple and about three-quarters of width of antennal club, with rounded outer subapical angle, outer edge of mesofemur with short, fine hairs, outer edge of metafemur slightly concave in distal half with rather long hairs at concavity. Femora with typical shape for the genus, profemur about one and two-thirds, mesofemur about 2, metafemur about 2.5 times as wide as corresponding tibiae. Tarsi very narrowly lobed, pro- and metatarsi markedly longer than mesotarsus, claws simple and rather long.

Aedeagus moderately sclerotised.

Female. Apex of pygidium and apex of hypopygidium widely rounded. Ovipositor of typical shape for the genus.

Variation. Length 3.4-6.2 mm. Considerable variation is observed in the puncturation, particularly of the elytra. Most specimens examined have the body dark chestnut brown,

although some specimens have head or all dorsal sclerites blackish; slightly teneral specimens are brownish to yellow. In some cases the pronotum is more narrowed anteriorly than in the holotype.

Differential diagnosis. The new species is very distinct among the Afro-Madagascan species due to its subparallel-sided body with convex dorsum, shining integument with comparatively sparse and coarse puncturation, much shorter antennomere 3, shape of antennal club with much larger antennomere 9, shape of last labial palpomere, antennal grooves and swollen middle of mesosternum, expression of submeso- and submetacoxal lines, narrower epipleura and posterior edge of male anal sclerite with some small tubercles.

Distribution. Cameroon, Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire), Burundi, Rwanda, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Equatorial Guinea (Island of Bioko, formerly Fernando Po), Democratic Republic of Congo and Angola. The species is widespread across tropical central Africa, and the outlying record from Ivory Coast indicates that it penetrates into West Africa. It is not presently known from South Africa, the type locality of *parallelus*.

Bionomy. This species has been recorded in a wide range of ecological situations, from swamps and lake-margins through various forest types (montane rainforest, marsh forest, forest with *Pandanus*, *Bamboo* etc.) up to alpine grassland 4200 m above sea level. The type series includes specimens collected in every month of the year. The beetles have been collected from fruit (oranges, pomegranates), in rotten trees, leaf litter, clayey soil at a lake edge, in the mouth of a cave, on *Albizia* sp. (Leguminosae) and floating *Pistia stratiotes* (Araceae), in nests of termites and an ant (contemporary identification *Myrmicaria eumenoides* Gerst.), by sweeping, Malaise trapping, flight intercept trapping, and at light.

Name derivation. From the Greek prefix *Eu-* (well, true) and the Greek *Parallelos* (parallel).

NOTES ON SYNONYMY

1. *Brachypeplus (Brachypeplus) aequalis* (Walker, 1858)

Type material. *Nitidulopsis aequalis* Walker, 1858: 206 [BMNH - lectotype, (♂), here designated - "Ceylon", "*Nitidulopsis aequalis* Walker, Ann. Nat. Hist. (type)" (written by Adam White), "*aequalis*", manuscript lectotype designation by Endrödy-Younga)];

Brachypeplus (Brachypeplus) notatus Murray, 1864: 300, **syn. n.** [BMNH - lectotype, (♂), here designated - "Ceylon", "*notatus*", "Murr." (manuscript lectotype designation by Endrödy-Younga)];

Brachypeplus (Brachypeplus) omalinus Murray, 1864: 299, **syn. n.** [BMNH - lectotype, (♂), here designated (manuscript lectotype designation by Endrödy-Younga) and 2 paralectotypes - "*omalinus*", "68.106", "Murr."; 5 paralectotypes - "ex Mus. Murray", "Ceylon", "omalinus", "Fry Coll. 1905-100"]];

Brachypeplus (Brachypeplus) orientalis Murray, 1864: 298, **syn. n.** [BMNH - lectotype, (♂),

here designated and 1 paralectotype, (♀) - “SAR” (in circle), “*orientalis*”, “in Durian fruit” (in circle), “68.106”; 2 paralectotypes, (♀♀) - “*orientalis*”, “68.106”; 1 paralectotype, (♀) - “SAR 154” (in circle), “*orientalis*”, “68.106”; 3 paralectotypes, (♀♀) - “Wallace”, “ex Mus. Murray”, “Borneo”, “*orientalis*”, “68.106”];

Remarks. The type series for all the names discussed above are deposited in BMNH and the specimens included should be regarded as conspecific. *Brachypeplus aequalis* is characterised by considerable variation in body size (2.8-5.4 mm) and many structures, and by a very extensive range stretching from Seychelles across most of the Indo-Malayan region (including the Papuan Province). It is represented by over 1.000 specimens from this area in museum collections.

2. *B. (B.) depressus* Erichson, 1843

Type material. *Brachypeplus depressus* Erichson, 1843: 247 [ZMB - lectotype, (♀), here designated - “8334”, “*depressus* Er., Uitenh. Krebs”, (manuscript lectotype designation by Endrödy-Younga)];

Brachypeplus caffer Boheman, 1851: 561, **syn. n.** [NRS - lectotype, (♀), here designated (manuscript lectotype designation by Endrödy-Younga) & 1 paralectotype, (♀) - “Caffraria”, “J.Wahlb.”];

Brachypeplus agyzimbanus Fairmaire, 1880: 181 [type series should be deposited in Museum National d’Histoire Naturelle, Paris];

Brachypeplus costalis Fairmaire, 1880: 181 [type series should be deposited in Museum National d’Histoire Naturelle, Paris];

Brachypeplus (Brachypeplus) deyrollei Murray, 1864, **syn. n.** [type series should be deposited in Museum National d’Histoire Naturelle, Paris];

Brachypeplus frater Kraatz, 1895, **syn. n.** [DEI - lectotype, (♂), here designated - “Togo, Lam, Kraatz”];

Brachypeplus (Brachypeplus) pilosellus Murray, 1864, **syn. n.** [BMNH - holotype, (♀) - “Sra Leone”, “68.106”, “*pilosellus*” (manuscript designation as a lectotype by Endrödy-Younga)].

Remarks. *B. (B.) depressus* is the commonest species in Africa and is represented by over 1.000 specimens in museum collections. It is characterised by a rather wide range of variability, although the aedeagal structure remains very characteristic.

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