



New records of Heteroceridae (Coleoptera) from Ethiopia

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Abstract: New faunistic records of Heteroceridae from Ethiopia from the rivers Gumara and Rib are provided. Two species shown for the first time in the country: *Heterocerus atroincertus* Charpentier, 1965 and *Heterocerus tibesticola* Charpentier, 1964 increase the number of mud-beetles of Ethiopian fauna to seven species.

Key words: beetles, Heterocerus, Afrotropical region, faunistic, new records

INTRODUCTION

The beetle family Heteroceridae is world-wide distributed (except Antarctica) (King & Lago 2012, Taşar & Mascagni 2014) and represented by 341 described species (including extinct ones) from 5 recent, and 1 extinct genus (Sazhnev 2018). Adults and larvae of Heteroceridae construct tunnels in wet sand and soil at the edges of streams, rivers, lakes and ponds, and in brackish mud flats (Mascagni 1995, Taşar 2014, Vanin et al. 2016). Five species of Heteroceridae were recorded from Ethiopia: *Heterocerus abyssinicus* Mamitza, 1930, *H. elongatus* Grouvelle, 1896, *H. hardei* Mascagni, 1988, *H. incertus* Grouvelle, 1896, and *H. medius* Charpentier, 1965 (Mamitza 1930, Charpentier 1965, Mascagni 1988, Mascagni & Monte 2003, 2009).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The material has been collected by Alexander A. Prokin during investigations of the Joint Ethiopian-Russian Biological Expedition in October, 2018. Specimens of Heteroceridae were collected using trampling and flushing along rivers banks. All specimens were collected at a distance less than one meter from water edge (Figs 4–5) on sandy-gravel substrate together with Carabidae: Dyschiriini and Hydrophilidae (Coleoptera).

All collected beetles are stored in the Collection of aquatic invertebrates of the Papanin Institute for Biology of Inland Waters of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Yaroslavl Oblast, Borok, Russia, IBIW RAS). For preliminary identification of *Heterocerus* species we used key of Charpentier (1965).

Photographs of the beetles and the localities were taken using Olympus GT-5 digital camera. Images were generated and enhanced by using PHOTOSHOP®

RESULTS

Family Heteroceridae MacLeay, 1825

Genus *Heterocerus* Fabricius, 1792

***Heterocerus atroincertus* Charpentier, 1965**

(Fig. 1)

Material examined. 1♂, Ethiopia: Amhara Region, Gumara River, 11°47'14.6"N 37°40'45.8"E (Fig. 4), 10 Oct 2018, coll. A. A. Prokin, IBIW RAS).

Distribution. Botswana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe (Mascagni & Monte 2009, Mascagni 2012).



Fig. 1. *Heterocerus atroincertus* Charpentier, 1965, male (Gumara River).

***Heterocerus tibesticola* Charpentier, 1964**

(Figs 2–3)

Material examined. 2♂♂, 4♀♀, Ethiopia: Amhara Region, Rib River (Fig. 5), 12°02'54.6"N, 37°58'53.3"E, 8 Oct 2018, coll. A. A. Prokin, IBIW RAS; 5♂♂, 2♀♀, Amhara Region, Gumara River (Fig.5) , 11°47'14.6"N, 37°40'45.8"E, 10 Oct 2018, coll. A. A. Prokin, IBIW RAS.

Distribution. Chad, Yemen (Charpentier, 1964, 1965).

COMMENTS

The fauna of the variegated mud-loving beetles of Ethiopia is still poorly known and now includes 7 species with these two new records. Based on data of Mascagni and Monte (2009), about 20 species of Heteroceridae are recorded for North Africa (Palearctic part) and about 50 for Afrotropical region. The following numbers of species are known from the countries bordering Ethiopia: Kenya – 10 species, Sudan – 6, Somalia – 5, Eritrea – 3; data for South Sudan and Djibouti do not exist. In territory of Ethiopia at least 9 more heterocerid species should be expected.



Figs 2–3. *Heterocerus tibesticola* Charpentier, 1964: 2 – normal male (Gumara River), 3 – male with hypertrophic mandibles (Rib River).



Figs 4–5. Habitats of *Heterocerus* spp. in Ethiopia (Amhara region). 4 – Gumara River (*Heterocerus atroincertus* and *Heterocerus tibesticola*); 5 – Rib River (*Heterocerus tibesticola*).

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STRESZCZENIE

[Nowe stwierdzenia Heteroceridae (Coleoptera) z Etiopii]

W pracy podano nowe stwierdzenia faunistyczne dotyczące Heteroceridae z Etiopii w regionie Amhara, znad rzeki Gumara i rzeki Rib. Dwa nowo wykazane gatunki: *Heterocerus atroincertus* Charpentier, 1965 and *Heterocerus tibesticola* Charpentier, 1964 zwiększają liczbę gatunków chrząszczy różnorozkowatych w faunie etiopskiej do siedmiu, jakkolwiek dotychczasowe dane z sąsiednich krajów sugerują możliwość znalezienie w Etiopii co najmniej dziewięciu dalszych gatunków.

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