

# *Gerhardia capriviensis* spec. nov. from Namibia and Zambia (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Euaesthetinae)\*

V. Puthz

c/o Limnologische Fluss-Station, MPI-Limnologie, Damenweg 1, D-36110 Schlitz, Germany  
E-mail: stenus.puthz@t-online.de

PUTHZ, V., 2006. *Gerhardia capriviensis* spec. nov. from Namibia and Zambia (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae). *Annals of the Transvaal Museum* **43**: 75–76.

The description of *Gerhardia capriviensis* spec. nov., from Namibia and Zambia, represents the first record of the genus from Namibia.

Keywords: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, *Gerhardia*, Taxonomy, Namibia, Zambia.

## INTRODUCTION

The genus *Gerhardia* Kistner, 1960, sister genus of *Stenaesthetus* Sharp, 1874, is peculiar in having two rows of setae on the dorsal side of the body. Seven species are known from Africa south of the Sahara, three of them from Africa south of the Zambezi: *G. arrowi* (Bernhauer, 1927), *G. gerardi* (Bernhauer, 1929) and *G. natalensis* (Puthz, 1979); a fourth species is described here.

## *Gerhardia capriviensis* spec. nov., Figs 1–7

**DIAGNOSIS.** This new species may be distinguished from *G. natalensis* (Puthz) by the following male sexual characters: in the holotype of *G. natalensis* there are two rows of dorsal setae on sternite 9 (5/4) and three additional dorsal setae on the posterior lateral half (absent in the new species), the apical portion of the median lobe is broader and the parameres have 3+4 setae, the four apical setae forming a homogeneous group; (Puthz, 1979: fig. 21). From *G. arrowi* (Bernhauer) it is distinguished by the deeper emargination of sternite 8, the presence of two rows of four dorsal setae each on sternite 9 (in *G. arrowi* there are 7–8 setae in each row), by the thin internal flagellum-complex of the aedeagus, and by the distinctly smaller multiply coiled spiral tube in the female, from *G. gerardi* (Bernhauer) by the narrow and acutely angled apical portion of the median lobe (in *G. gerardi* this has a lanceolate outline), and broader parameres with a wide distance between the two groups of setae.

**DESCRIPTION** (Figs 1–7). Body length 2.0–2.3 mm (forebody 1.2–1.3 mm) ( $n = 28$ ). Reddish-brown, dull, forebody moderately coarsely and very densely punctate, abdomen very finely and very densely punctate and pubescent, resulting in a sericeous aspect, the whole body finely reticulate.

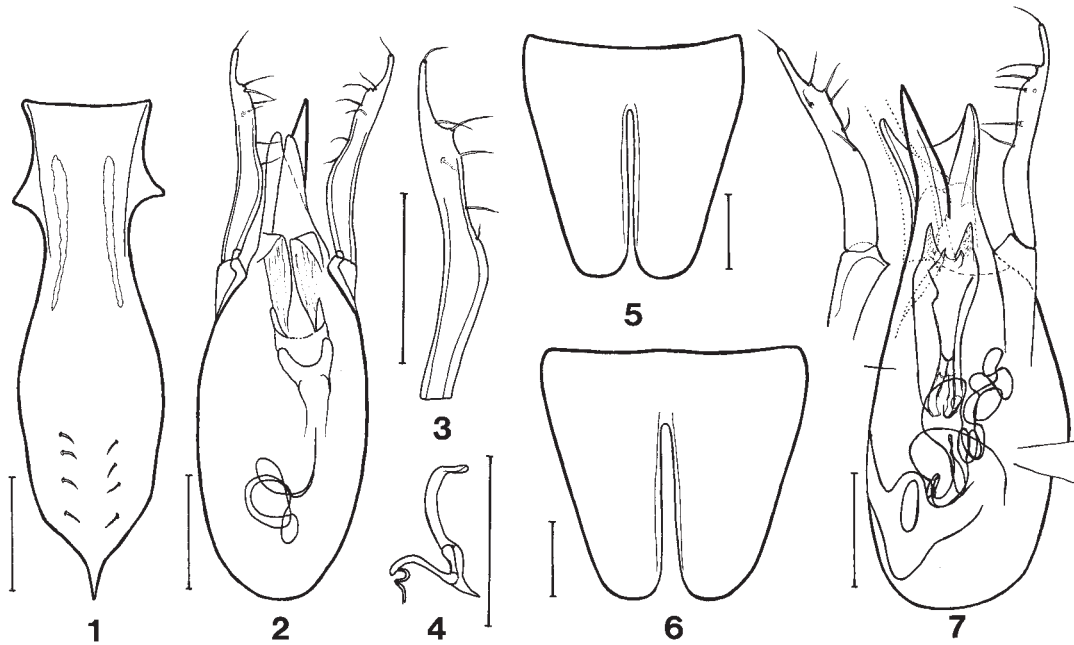
Antennae yellow, club slightly infusate. Maxillary palpi yellow. Legs light brown. Proportional measurements of the holotype (1 unit = 0.0085 mm): Width of head: 51; length of eyes: 19; length of temples: 2.5; distance between lateral ridges: 34; width of pronotum: 49; length of pronotum: 52; greatest width of elytra: 63; greatest length of elytra: 59; sutural length: 47.

**Male.** Sternite 4 with a moderately broad, shallow projection posteromedially, sternite 7 with a moderately narrow and very shallow emargination apicomediaally, sternite 8 as in Figs 5 and 6, sternite 9 as in Fig. 1. Aedeagus (Figs 2, 7) with apical portion of median lobe narrow and acutely angled, internal flagellum complex ('lasso' of Puthz, 1995) thin and irregular; parameres robust (Figs 2, 3) with 2+4+1 strong setae.

**Female.** Sternite 8 rounded. Multiply coiled spiral tube ('Fadenknäuel', Puthz, 1995) half as large as valvifer. Spermatheca as in Fig. 4.

**TYPE MATERIAL.** Holotype ♂ and 3♂, 5♀ paratypes: NAMIBIA: Kavango: Gelukkies, 18.03S–21.08E, Kavango-Ufer, 1.iii.1992 (M. Uhlig). Paratypes: 2♀: Buffalo Camp, 18.09S–21.42E, Kavango-Ufer-vegetation, gesiebt [sifting vegetation of bank of Kavango], 28.ii.1992 (M. Uhlig); 2♂, 2♀: Popa Falls, 18.07S–21.35E, Kavango-Ufer, Ufervegetation gesiebt, 27.ii.1992 (M. Uhlig); 2♂, 1♀: *ibidem*, island banks of Okavango, sievings: reed & *Papyrus*, 17.iv.1993 (M. Uhlig); 1♂: *ibidem*, 28.ii.–8.iii.1994 (M. Uhlig); 2♂, 2♀: Mahango Game Reserve, 18.17S–21.43E, Seeufer [lake border], 28.ii.1992 (M. Uhlig); 3♂: Caprivi: Musumu National Park, Nakatwa, 18.10S–23.26E, Kwando-Ufer, *Phragmites*, schlammig [muddy banks of Kwando with *Phragmites*], 8–13.iii.1992 (M. Uhlig). ZAMBIA: 1♂: Victoria Falls, rive gauche du Zambèze, galerie forestière [Palm-Grove], vii.1960, N. Leleup (file number e 1833 Kistner det. *gerardi*); 1♂: 5 km SE Livingstone, 17.54.41S–25.51.49E, banks of

\*92nd contribution to the knowledge of Euaesthetinae.



Figs 1–7

*Gerhardia capriviensis* (paratypes). 1: dorsal aspect of sternite 9; 2, 7: ventral aspect of aedeagus (2, Gelukkie; 7, Victoria Falls); 3: left paramere (Gelukkie); 4: spermatheca; 5, 6: eighth sternite of male (5, Popa Falls; 6, Victoria Falls). Scale bars = 0.1 mm.

Zambèze, 15.iii.1993 (M. Uhlig). Holotype in State Museum, Windhoek (SMWN), paratypes in Musée Royal de l'Afrique Centrale, Tervuren (MRAC), Transvaal Museum, Pretoria (TMSA), Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin (MNHU) and in Private Collection Puthz (cP).

ETYMOLOGY. Named after the Caprivi Strip, from where I studied the first specimens of the new species.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

For the loan of material thanks are due to Dr Manfred Uhlig (Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin, Germany) and Dr J. Decelle of the Musée Royal de l'Afrique Centrale, Tervuren (Belgium).

#### REFERENCES

BERNHAEUER, M., 1927. Fünfzehnter Beitrag zur Staphyli-

nidenfauna Afrikas. *Wiener entomologische Zeitung* **44**: 47–57.

BERNHAEUER, M., [1929] 1928. Zur Staphylinidenfauna des belgischen Kongostaates. (Einundzwanzigster Beitrag zur afrikanischen Fauna.). *Verhandlungen der zoologisch-botanischen Gesellschaft Wien* **78**: 106–131.

KISTNER, D. H., 1960. XXXIX. Coleoptera Staphylinidae Euaesthetinae, Mission zoologique de l'I.R.S.A.C. en Afrique orientale. (P. Basilewsky et N. Leleup, 1957). *Annales du Musée Royal du Congo Belge. Série in 8°, Zoologie* **88**: 31–39.

PUTHZ, V., [1979] 1978. Alte und neue Euaesthetinen, vorwiegend aus der FAUVEL-Sammlung (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae). 21. Beitrag zur Kenntnis der Euaesthetinen. *Entomologische Blätter für Biologie und Systematik der Käfer* **74**: 161–179.

PUTHZ, V., 1995. Sexualität mit dem Lasso? – oder: Revalidierung der Gattung *Gerhardia* Kistner, 1960 (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae). 74. Beitrag zur Kenntnis der Euaesthetinen. *Entomologische Blätter für Biologie und Systematik der Käfer* **91**: 119–125.