

Mordellidae from South West Africa, with description of a new species (Coleoptera)

by

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Introduction

Mordellidae collected on light during forays in 1974-75 and 1979 in South West Africa by Dr. H. Roer, Alexander Koenig Museum at Bonn, were examined. In this paper the results are reported; one of the six species dealt with is new to science. Diagnostic details of the genitalia of some of the other species are illustrated for the first time.

The following abbreviations are used:

AC — Author's collection.

ZFMK — Zoologisches Forschungsinstitut und Museum Alexander Koenig, Bonn.

MRT — Musée Royal de l'Afrique Centrale, Tervuren.

Species collected

1. *Mordellistena (Mordellistena) schoutedeni* Pic

(redescription Ermisch 1950: 44-46). — 3 ♂ and 12 ♀, 14-1-1975 at Tondoro/Okavango; 1 ♂, between 28-1 and 1-2-1975 at Grootfontein, Farm Maria-bronn; 1 ♂, 14-3-1979 at Okahandja (1240 m.), all ZFMK (1 ♂ and 1 ♀ AC). — Parameres fig. 10.

2. *Mordellistena (Mordellistena) multistrigosa* Ermisch

1967: 154. — 1 ♂, 14-1-1975 at Tondoro/Okavango, ZFMK. — Parameres fig. 11, Penis fig. 12.

3. *Mordellina (Mordellina) gracilis* Schilsky

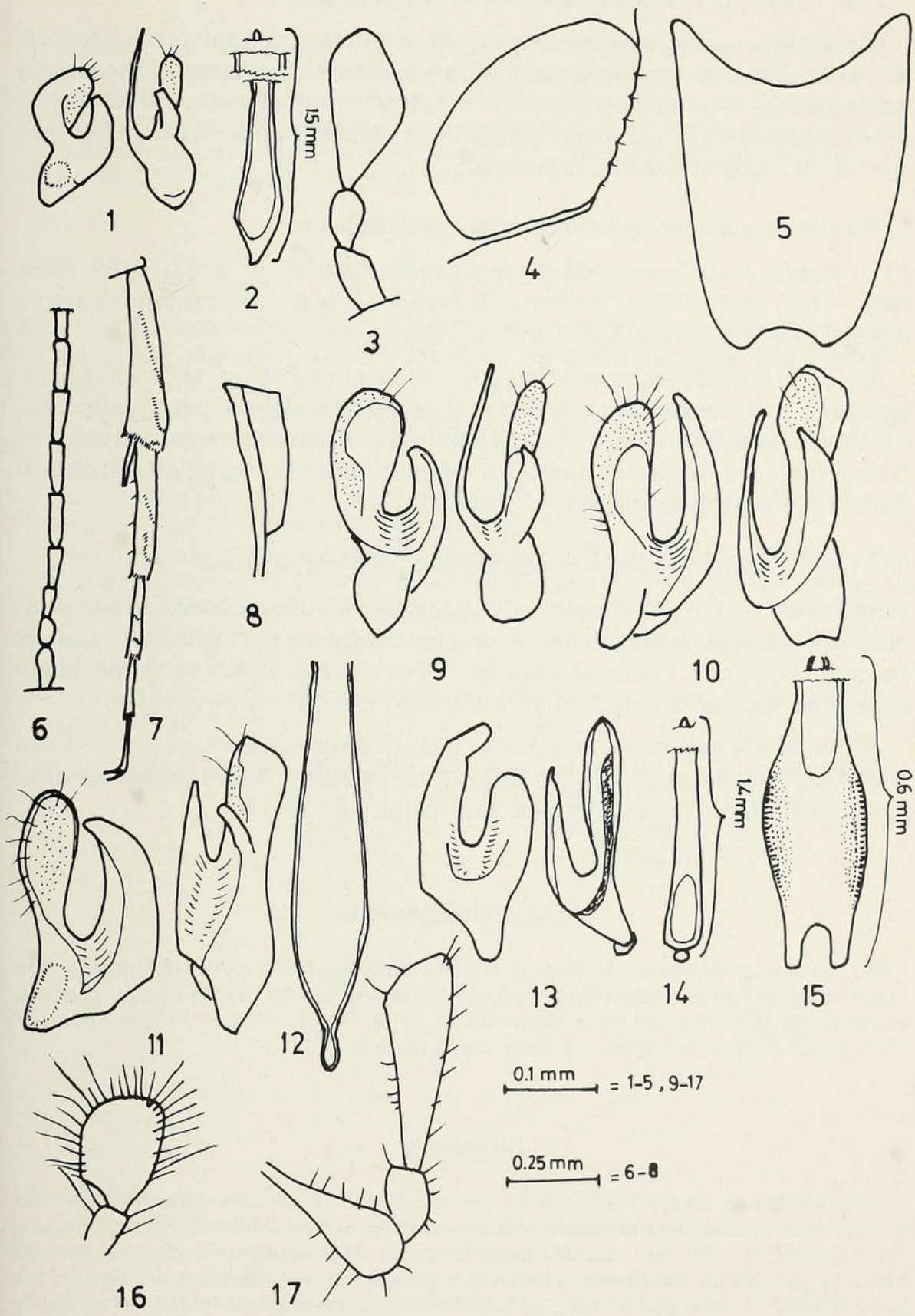
(redescription Franciscolo 1967: 136-138). — 5 ♂ and 3 ♀, 14-1-1975 at Tondoro/Okavango; 1 ♂, between 20 and 23-1-1975 at the same locality; 1 ♀, 26-1-1975 at Andara/Okahanda; 1 ♂, between 13 and 15-12-1974 at Okahanda; 10 ♂ and 25 ♀, 7 and 8-2-1975, at Windhoek; 3 ♂ and 5 ♀, between 8 and 14-3-1979 at Okahandja, all ZFMK (1 ♂ and 1 ♀ AC). — Parameres fig. 9.

4. *Mordellina (Mordellina) roeri* n. sp.

Description. — Dimensions: ♂ length of body 3.1 mm (without pygidium); head 0.5×0.6 mm; pronotum 0.52×0.73 mm; length of elytra 2.1 mm, width at shoulders 0.7 mm; length of pygidium 0.85 mm; length of fifth sternite 0.3 mm. General shape elongate, parallel-sided. Integument brownish, elytra darker; reddish yellow are: frons, buccal parts, first six segments of antenna, scutellum, all legs, prosternum and sides of elytra distally. Pubescence lightly sericeous golden. Head with width/length ratio 1.2, highly arched in all directions, punctures obsolete, hind margin regularly convex. Eyes (fig. 4) hairy, facets coarse, temporal margin very narrow. Terminal segment of maxillary palp (fig. 3) securiform, broadest in middle, inner corner rounded. Antennal segment 4 longer than 3, segments 5–8 (further segments missing) length/width ratio 3; first five segments reddish yellow, gradually darkening from the sixth segment (fig. 6). Pronotum with width/length ratio 1.4, broadest before middle from base, anterior lobe rounded, basal lobe broad and prominent, lateral border in dorsal view convex, in lateral view concave; basal angles obtuse with a broadly rounded edge; punctures shallowly impressed. Scutellum triangular with a broadly rounded apex. Elytra with length/width ratio 3, sides parallel attenuated from their distal third, apices separately rounded, punctures slightly asperate; pubescence dense. Metepisterna and elytral epipleura as in fig. 8. Pubescence of underside sparse; the last three sternites bordered reddish brown distally. Pygidium 2.66 times as long as fifth sternite, and 0.4 times as long as elytra: pygidium in dorsal view slender, in lateral view straight. Fifth sternite (fig. 5) distally with a broad concave incision and rounded protrusions on both sides. Fore tibia laterally slightly convex, not dilated. Hind tibia (fig. 7) with 2 oblique lateral ridges (apart from apical one), first and second tarsal segments with 2 oblique lateral ridges each. Spur yellow and long one third of the length of the first tarsal segment. Ratio of tarsal segments: anterior 12:10:8:5:10, middle missing, posterior 16:10:7:7. Parameres fig. 1, penis fig. 2.

Material examined. — 1 ♂, South West Africa, Gobabeb/Kuiseb 23.3 S, 150 E, 406 m., collected on light between 20–2 and 6–3–1979, leg. H. Roer. Holotype, ZFMK.

Figs. 1–8, *Mordellina (Mordellina) roeri* n. sp., holotype; 9, *Mordellina (Mordellina) gracilis* Schilsky, Windhoek 7–2–1975, leg. H. Roer, AC; 10, *Mordellistena (Mordellistena) schoutedeni* Pic, Grootfontein, Farm Mariabronn, between 28–1 and 1–2–1975, leg. H. Roer, AC; 11 and 12, *Mordellistena (Mordellistena) multistrigosa* Ermisch, Tondoro/Okavango, 14–1–1975, leg. H. Roer, ZFMK; 13–17, *Neomordellistena (Neomordellistena) parvula* Ermisch, Okahandja, 14–3–1979, leg. H. Roer, ZFMK. — 1, 9, 10, 11, 13, parameres innerside, right paramere on left hand, left paramere on right hand; 2, 12, 14 penis; 3, 17 left maxillary palp (17 underside); 4, right eye dextralateral; 5, fifth sternite; 6, antenna; 7, left hindleg; 8, metepisterna and elytral epipleura; 15, phallobase; 16, underside of left labial palp.



I dedicate this species to the collector Dr. H. Roer.

Discussion. — The new species has the features of the subgenus *Mordellina* s. str. The outstanding feature of this species is the shape of the antennal segments 5–8 (further segments missing) being narrow and parallel, 3 times longer than broad; these proportions differing from all the other species of the subgenus *Mordellina* s. str.

5. *Mordellina (Pseudomordellistena) variabilis* Pic

1931: 47, syn. *fuscobrunnea* Ermisch (Ermisch 1950: 52–55, 1952: 50–52, 1958: 386). — 1 ♀, 14–1–1975 at Tondoro/Okavango, ZFMK. Also examined: 4 syntypes, Congo da Lemba I–IV–1913 leg. R. Mayné.

Pic (1931) did not design a holotype and therefore I select as lectotype the specimen with labels: in red: "Type"; "Musée du Congo, Congo da Lemba, IV–1913, R. Mayné"; "R. Det. 1851 p"; handwritten: "Hachures peu distinctes"; "*Mordellistena*"; "*variabilis* n. sp."; "*Pseudomordellistena variabilis* Pic (*fuscobrunnea* Erm.), det Ermisch 1955" MRT.

6. *Neomordellistena (Neomordellistena) parvula* Ermisch

1952: 96–98. — 1 ♂, 14–3–1979 at Okahandja (1240 m.), ZFMK. Also examined: ♀ holotype with labels: in orange "Holotypus"; "Coll. Mus. Congo, Boma II 1937, Dr. E. Darteville"; in red "Type"; "R. det. SS 6045"; "*Neomordellistena parvula* mihi Erm., det Ermisch 1951", MRT.

As males are extremely rare in the genus *Neomordellistena* (Franciscolo 1967: 151) and the genitalia are difficult to extract, I figure the parameres, penis, phallobase, labial and maxillary palpi, figs. 13–17.

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Summary

Mordellidae of South West Africa are recorded. *Mordellina (Mordellina) roeri* n. sp. is described. The parameres and other features of *Mordellistena (Mordellistena) schoutedeni* Pic, *M. (M.) multistrigosa* Ermisch, *Mordellina (Mordellina) gracilis* Schilsky and *Neomordellistena (Neomordellistena) parvula* Ermisch are figured for the first time. A lectotype is selected for *Mordellina (Pseudomordellistena) variabilis* Pic.

Zusammenfassung

Über eine Ausbeute von Mordelliden aus Südwestafrika wird berichtet. *Mordellina* (*Mordellina*) *roeri* n. sp. wird beschrieben. Die Parameren und andere Teile von *Mordellistena* (*Mordellistena*) *schoutedeni* Pic, *M. (M.) multistrigosa* Ermisch, *Mordellina* (*Mordellina*) *gracilis* Schilsky und *Neomordellistena* (*Neomordellistena*) *parvula* Ermisch werden erstmals abgebildet. Für *Mordellina* (*Pseudomordellistena*) *variabilis* Pic wird ein Lectotypus ausgewählt.

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