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Two New Histerids from Namibia and two New Genera from the *Platysoma* Complex (Coleoptera: Histeridae)

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With 16 figures

Summary

New species of Histeridae from Namibia are described: *Chalcionellus* (*Izpaniolus*) *io* **n. sp.** and *Terametopon namibiensis* **n. sp.**. *Canarinus* **n. gen.** (Exosternini) is established for *Platysoma demaisoni* from the Canarian Islands. The species-group "*appendiculatus/affinis*" of *Apobletes* is transferred to *Asterix* **n. gen.** (Exosternini). *Platysoma striatifrons* is **synoymized** with *Microlister coronatus*.

Zusammenfassung

Neue Histeriden-Arten aus Namibia werden beschrieben: *Chalcionellus* (*Izpaniolus*) *io* **n. sp.** und *Terametopon namibiensis* **n. sp.**. *Canarinus* **n. gen.** (Exosternini) wird für *Platysoma demaisoni* von den Kanarischen Inseln errichtet. Die Artengruppe um „*appendiculatus/affinis*" innerhalb *Apobletes* wird transferiert zu *Asterix* **n. gen.** (Exosternini). *Platysoma striatifrons* wird mit *Microlister coronatus* **synonymisiert**.

1. Introduction

This paper is based on materials from the Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde in Stuttgart (*SMNS*), from the collections of J. Schmidt (Zoologisches Museum der Humboldt-Universität in Berlin, *ZMB*), and of H. Desbordes (Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle Paris, *MNHN*).

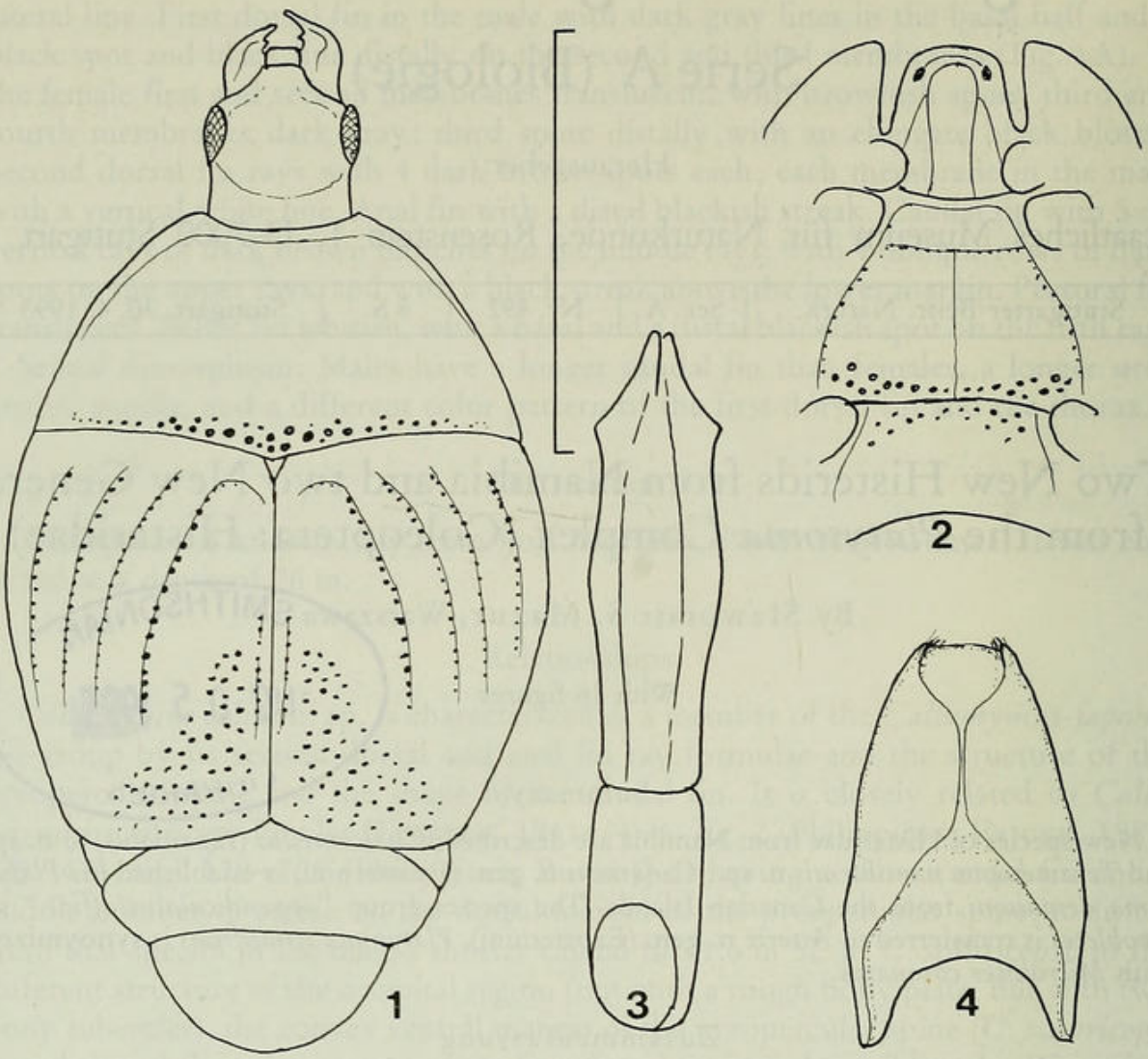
The author is deeply indebted for the privilege of studying the mentioned material to Dr. W. Schawaller (SMNS), Dr. N. Berti (MNHN) and to Dr. M. Uhlig (ZMB).

2. Descriptions of new species from Namibia

2.1. *Chalcionellus* (*Izpaniolus*) *io* **n. sp.** (figs. 1–4)

Holotype (♂): Namibia, Bagani, 30. IX.–4. X. 1990 leg. Schüle (SMNS).
Paratype: Same locality and date as holotype, 1 ♀ (SMNS).

Description: Body (fig. 1) oval, moderately convex. Colour black with strong greenish-brassy shine. Head flat, very finely punctulate, nearly smooth. Frontal stria



Figs. 1–4. *Chalcionellus* (*Izpaniolus*) *io* n. sp. – 1. Dorsal view, – 2. ventral view, – 3. edeagus ventrally, – 4. sternite VIII of male. – Scale: 1 mm (1–2), 0.5 mm (3–4).

thin and indistinct, interrupted anteriorly, with a tendency to prolongate onto epistoma. Epistoma flat or feebly convex, its anterior margin nearly straight. Labrum transverse, slightly sinuate, with two setae laterally. Mandibles very finely punctulate. Scapus coloured as body, funiculus reddish-brown, the club darker with dense tomentum and protruding setae.

Pronotum rounded laterally, its anterior margin nearly straight. Marginal stria rather deep, complete, distant from lateral edge, running in an even arch to the anterior margin without following the anterolateral angle. Postocular foveae absent. Pronotal disc finely and sparsely punctulate (3–4), the punctation denser and coarser laterally (2–3), not reaching marginal stria. Pronotal base with irregular row of coarse punctures.

Elytra about 1.5x as long as pronotum, broadest at humeri. Dorsal striation distinct, the striae rather deep, coarsely but not too densely punctured. The 1st stria reaching a little beyond the middle, the 2nd – 4th ones gradually shorter, the 4th arched basally but not united with the sutural one. Sutural stria abbreviated at both ends. Humeral stria thin, oblique. There is also a short spot of inner subhumeral stria at apex. Elytral marginal and epipleural striae present, united apically. Apical stria

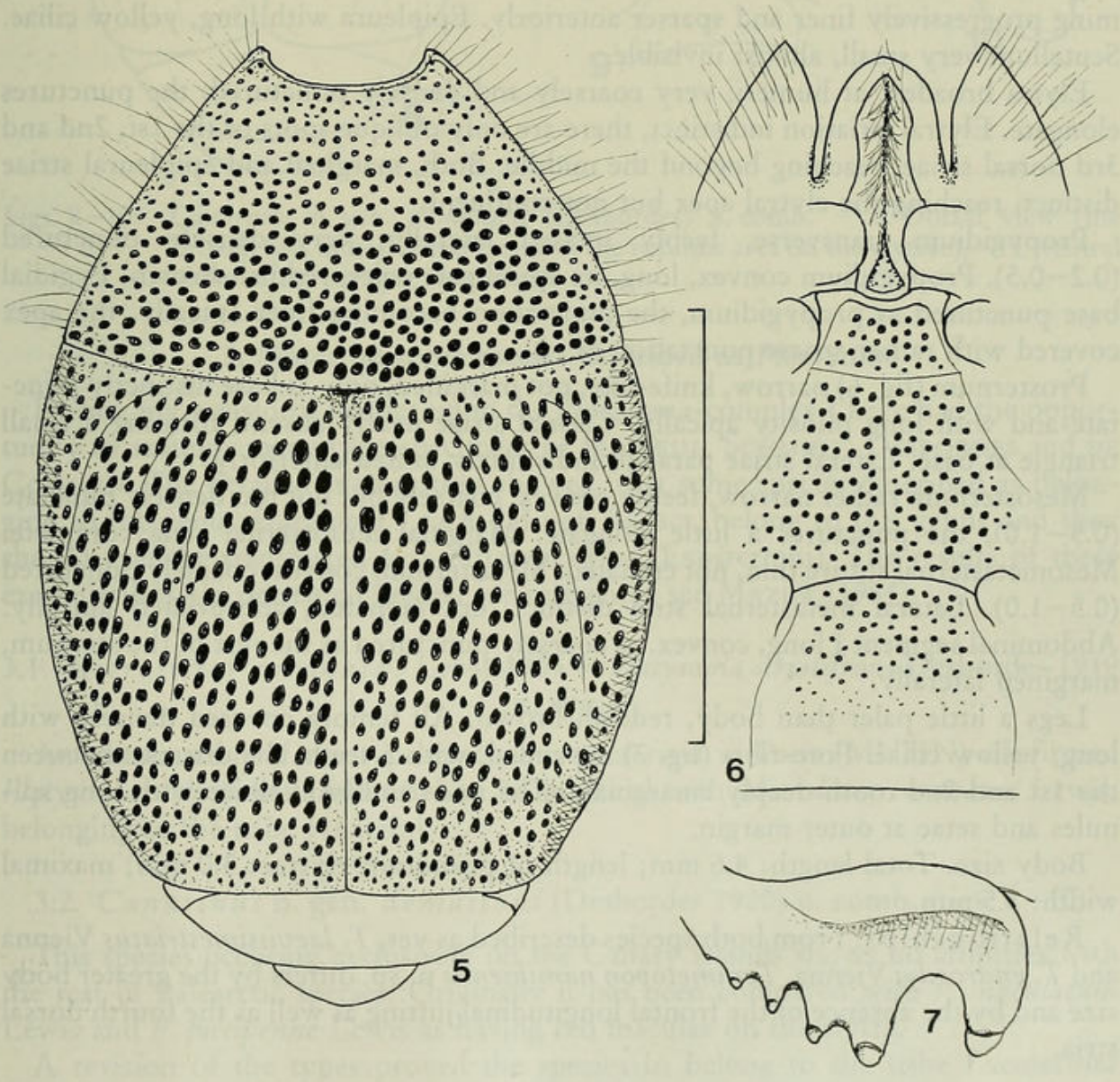
absent. Elytral punctation distinct, not too dense (1–3), entering almost to the middle along suture, leaving the intervals free.

Propygidium short, covered with moderately dense punctation (0.5–2.0), coarser at apex. Pygidium relatively long, its punctation fine and sparse apically and medially, denser at base.

Prosternum (fig. 2) rather wide and flat, finely punctulate. Preapical foveae relatively small but deep, connected by a distinct preapical sulcus. Carinal striae distinct, divergent anteriorly and posteriorly, connected anteriorly by a rounded loop. Lateral striae ending behind the preapical foveae.

Mesosternum emarginate anteriorly, finely punctulate. Marginal stria complete, accompanied by a row of punctures. Mesometasternal suture distinctly crenate. Metasternum finely punctulate at disc, with a narrow band of coarse punctures apically and laterally. Marginal stria distinct, impressed and punctate. Median line thin. Abdominal segment I with some large punctures at base, margined laterally.

Legs paler than body, reddish-brown. Fore-tibiae a little expanded, with 4 (+1) teeth at outer margin. The mid- and hind-tibiae only with several spinules.



Figs. 5–7. *Terametopon namibiensis* n. sp. – 5. Dorsal view, – 6. ventral view, – 7. fore-tibia. – Scale: 2 mm.

Edeagus (fig. 3) and sternite VIII of the male (fig. 4) as figured.

Body size. Total length: 2.5–2.6 mm; length of pronotum/elytrae: 2.0–2.1 mm; maximal width: 1.8 mm.

Relationships: From its nearest relative, *Ch. krikkeni* Kanaar from East Africa, *Chalcionellus io* n. sp. differs by the absence of red maculae on the elytra and by the structure of the ♂ genitalia.

2.2. *Terametopon namibiensis* n. sp. (figs. 5–7)

Holotype (♀): Namibia, Kromhoek Farm, 7. X. 1990 leg. SCHÜLE (SMNS).

Description: Body (fig. 5) shortly oval, moderately convex, darkish-brown. Head flat, narrowly, transversely incised, covered with dense punctation. Frontal stria absent. Antennae paler as body, the scapus covered with long, yellow hairs. Antennal club tomentose apically.

Pronotum strongly narrowed and deeply emarginate anteriorly, its anterior angles very sharp. Marginal stria thin but complete behind the head, marked in anterior angles only. Pronotal disc rather densely punctured (0.2–1.0), the punctures becoming progressively finer and sparser anteriorly. Epipleura with long, yellow ciliae. Scutellum very small, almost invisible.

Elytra broadest at humeri, very coarsely and densely punctured, the punctures elongate. Elytral striation indistinct, there are only oblique spots of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd dorsal striae, reaching beyond the middle. Both, marginal and epipleural striae distinct, reaching the elytral apex but not confluent.

Propygidium transverse, feebly incised laterally, very densely punctured (0.2–0.5). Propygidium convex, long, its apical part paler, reddish-brown. Pygidial base punctured as propygidium, the punctation becoming finer apically, the apex covered with rather sparse punctation (3–5).

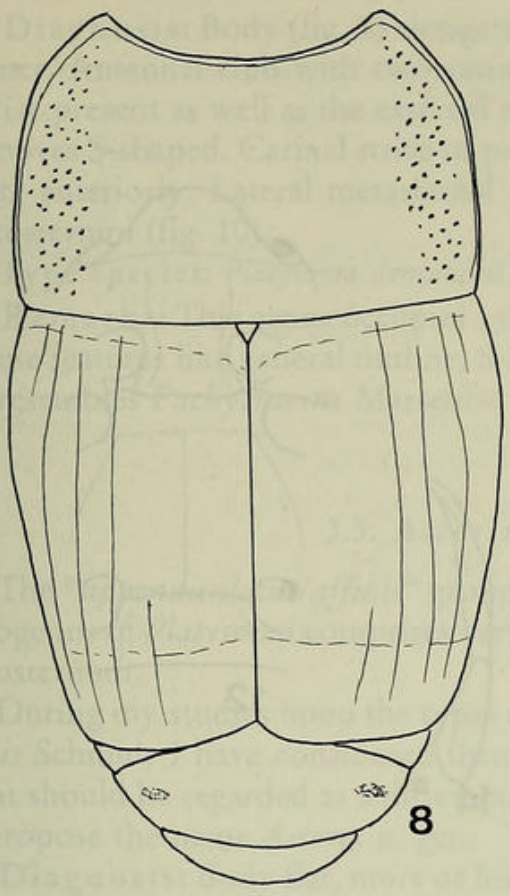
Prosternum (fig. 6) narrow, knife-like, not margined, only at base distinctly punctate and with long pilosity apically. Carinal striae nearly absent, forming a small triangle at base. Lateral striae parallel, indistinctly united anteriorly.

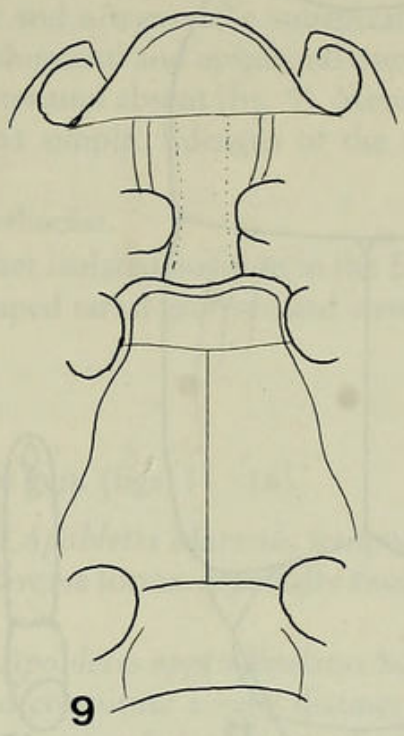
Mesosternum rather narrow, feebly convex, coarsely but not too densely punctate (0.5–1.0), the punctures a little elongate. Marginal mesosternal stria complete. Mesometasternal suture thin, not crenated. Metasternum convex, coarsely punctured (0.5–1.0). Lateral metasternal stria distinct, not crenated, abbreviated apically. Abdominal segment I long, convex, as coarsely punctured as the rest of the sternum, margined laterally.

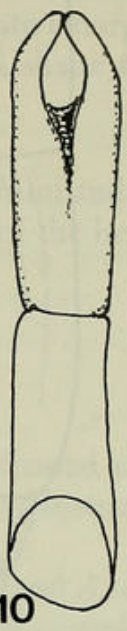
Legs a little paler than body, reddish-brown. All femora covered densely with long, yellow ciliae. Fore-tibia (fig. 7) expanded, with 5 teeth, the distance between the 1st and 2nd tooth deeply emarginate. The mid- and hind-tibiae with long spinules and setae at outer margin.

Body size. Total length: 4.6 mm; length of pronotum/elytrae: 3.0 mm; maximal width: 3.5 mm.

Relationships: From both species described as yet, *T. laevissimestriatus* Vienna and *T. endroedyi* Vienna, *Terametopon namibiensis* n. sp. differs by the greater body size and by the absence of the frontal longitudinal jutting as well as the fourth dorsal stria.







Figs. 8–10. *Canarinus* n. gen. *demaisoni* (Desbordes) n. comb. – 8. Dorsal view (the broken line indicates the extent of the rufuous area on the elytrae), – 9. ventral view, – 10. edeagus ventrally.

3. Notes on some species described as *Platysoma*

During my revisional studies upon the *Platysoma*-complex I have had the opportunity to examine many type-specimens of MARSEUL, SCHMIDT, DESBORDES and DE COOMAN. The detailed examination showed, that some species described as belonging to the genus *Platysoma* Leach did not, in fact, belong to this genus and they should even be transferred to a different tribe (Exosternini). The results of these examinations are presented below, for references see MAZUR (1984).

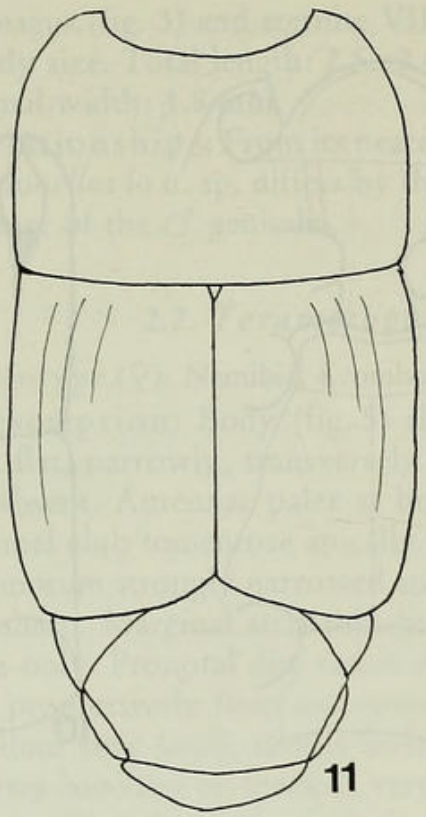
3.1. *Microlister coronatus* Lewis 1905 = *Platysoma striatifrons* Desbordes 1919 **n. syn.**

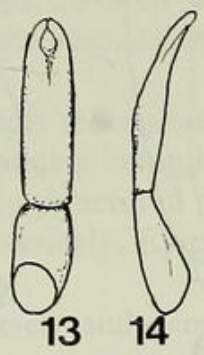
An examination of the type-specimens preserved in Paris (MNHN) confirmed *Platysoma striatifrons* Desbordes to be identical with *Microlister coronatus* Lewis, belonging to the tribe Histerini.

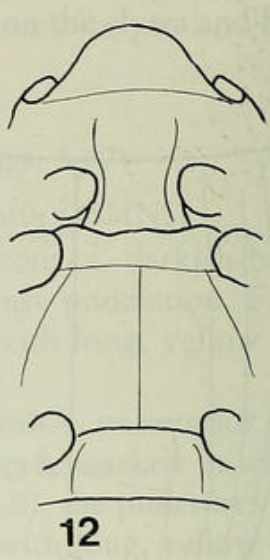
3.2. *Canarinus* **n. gen.** *demaisoni* (Desbordes 1920) **n. comb.** (figs. 8–10)

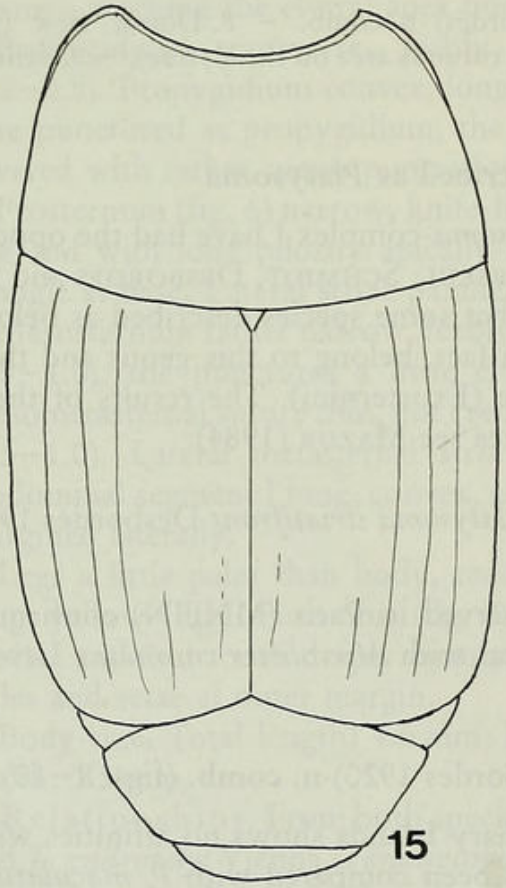
This species occuring exclusively on the Canary Islands shows no affinities with the rest of Palearctic species. Originally it has been compared with *P. maculatum* Lewis and *P. pictipenne* Lewis as having red maculae on the elytra.

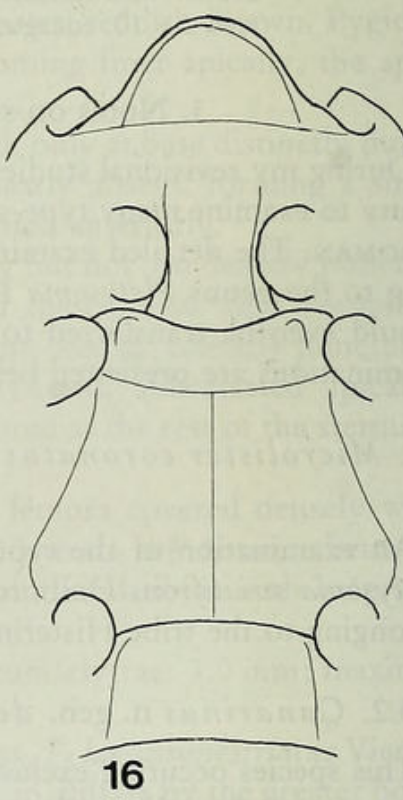
A revision of the types proved the species to belong to the tribe Exosternini because of the structure of the antennal club and head and a new genus had to be constituted for it.











Figs. 11–16. *Asterix* n. gen. *appendiculatus* (Schmidt) n. comb. (11–14) and *Asterix* n. gen. *affinis* (Schmidt) n. comb. (15–16). – 11,15. Dorsal view, – 12,16. ventral view, – 13. edeagus ventrally, – 14. edeagus laterally.

Diagnosis: Body (fig. 8) elongate, a little depressed. Head flat, frontal stria indistinct. Antennal club with two sutures and a transverse subapical annulus. Dorsal striae present as well as the external subhumeral and epipleural ones. Anterior tarsal grooves S-shaped. Carinal striae of prosternum absent (fig. 9). Mesosternum emarginate anteriorly. Lateral metasternal stria simple. Edeagus of the typical shape for Exosternini (fig. 10).

Type species: *Platysoma demaisoni* Desbordes.

Remarks: This genus occupies a rather isolated position in the Exosternini and in some features like general outline, S-shaped tarsal grooves and structure of the head it resembles *Pachycraerus* Marseul.

3.3. *Asterix* n. gen. (figs. 11–16)

The "*appendiculatus/affinis*" group of *Apobletes* Marseul, temporarily treated as a subgenus of *Platysoma* comprises very diverse forms, especially those with a bistriate prosternum.

During my studies upon the types of *Apobletes appendiculatus* Schmidt and *A. affinis* Schmidt I have considered them to constitute a very distinct species-complex that should be regarded as a different, new genus belonging to the tribe Exosternini. I propose the name *Asterix* n. gen.

Diagnosis: Body flat, more or less elongate, depressed (figs. 11, 15). Head flat or feebly concave, frontal stria present. Antennal club with a transverse subapical annulus. Pronotum margined (fig. 15) or the marginal stria absent (fig. 11). Dorsal striation present, sometimes the striae abbreviated. Prosternum very broad, bistriate (figs. 12, 16). Mesosternum broadly emarginate or with bisinuate anterior margin, not margined. Structure of the edeagus typical for Exosternini (figs. 13, 14).

Type species: *Apobletes appendiculatus* Schmidt.

List of species:

1. *Asterix affinis* (Schmidt), Ann. Mus. Stor. Nat. Genova, (2)13(33), p. 233 (1893) (**n. comb.**)	New Guinea
2. *Asterix appendiculatus* (Schmidt), Ann. Mus. Stor. Nat. Genova, (2)13(33), p. 233 (1893) (**n. comb.**)	New Guinea, Key Is., New Hebrides
3. *Asterix aruensis* (Marseul), l'Abeille, 1, p. 291 (1864) (**n. comb.**)	New Guinea, Aru Is.
4. *Asterix foersterii* (Lewis), Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., (7)10, p. 225 (1902) (**n. comb.**)	Sumatra
5. *Asterix mortycola* (Marseul), l'Abeille, 1, p. 290 (1864) (**n. comb.**)	Moluccas
6. *Asterix papuensis* (Marseul), l'Abeille, 1, p. 290 (1864) (**n. comb.**)	New Guinea
7. *Asterix parallelus* (Lewis), Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., (7)6, p. 268 (1900) (**n. comb.**) *sumatranus* (Mazur), Pol. Pismo Ent., 54(3–4), p. 235 (1984) (**n. syn.**)	Sumatra

Remarks: This genus belongs to the tribe Exosternini and is closely related to *Hypobletus* Schmidt but *Asterix* n. gen. differs from it by the presence of frontal stria and by the absence of lateral pronotal and marginal mesosternal stria.

4. Literature

MAZUR, S. S. (1984): A world catalogue of Histeridae. – Polskie Pismo Ent., **54**: 1–379; Warszawa.

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