

## **A revision of the South African endemic humicolous beetle genus *Nucleotops* Perkins and Balfour-Browne (Coleoptera: Hydraenidae)**

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### **Abstract**

The South African endemic humicolous genus *Nucleotops* Perkins and Balfour-Browne is revised. *Nucleotops* comprises three species from the Cape Province. Two new species are described: *N. endroedyi* (Cape Province, 5 km NE Pearly Beach) and *N. interceps* (Cape Province, Stellenbosch, Krom River). The vast majority of the 1,462 specimens studied were collected by sifting humus, marsh shore debris or moist litter. High resolution digital images of the holotypes are presented (online version in color), the male genitalia are illustrated, and the geographical distributions are mapped.

**Key words:** Coleoptera, Hydraenidae, *Nucleotops* Perkins and Balfour-Browne, new species, South Africa, humicolous insects, humicolous microhabitats, holotype digital images

### **Introduction**

*Nucleotops* is a member of the Prosthetopinae; this subfamily is currently represented by seven genera found in eastern and southern Africa, Madagascar and the Mascarenes (Perkins, 1997). Members of *Nucleotops* are characterized by the prosthetopine antennal and antennal pocket structure, the strongly carinate dorsal sculpture, the absence of ventral hydrofuge pubescence or plastron vestiture, the short maxillary palpi and tarsi, the fringed mentum, and the modified frons (Perkins and Balfour-Browne, 1994).

### **Distribution and microhabitats**

The three known species of *Nucleotops* are endemic to the Cape Province (Figs. 8–10). Two of the species, *N. nimbiceps*, with a north-south distribution pattern, and *N. interceps*,