



Arrowcryptus, a new genus of Xenoscelinae of Erotylidae from Africa

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Abstract

Arrowcryptus n. gen. is described for *Thallis jucunda* Arrow, 1936 and *Arrowcryptus skelleyi*, n. sp. The genus is unique among erotylids by having a dilated ovipositor with a sclerotised, hook-like gonostyle with basal setae. *Arrowcryptus* is placed in the subfamily Xenoscelinae based on the dicondylic meso-metaventral articulation, basal pronotal pits absent, partial externally-closed procoxal cavities, tarsomeres not strongly lobed below, and submesocoxal lines absent. Absence of stridulatory files, presence of prosternal, mesoventral, and abdominal glandular ducts, presence of submeta-coxal lines, will distinguish *Arrowcryptus* from all members of Xenoscelinae.

Key words: Coleoptera, taxonomy, Erotylidae

Introduction

The systematics of Erotylidae is elusive because of the large number of undescribed genera and species, conflicting relationships among the subfamilies, and relationships of the family to other Cucujoidea (Leschen 2003). At present the family consists of the subfamilies Xenoscelinae, Pharaxonothinae, Loberinae, Langurinae (3 tribes), Cryptophilinae (3 tribes), and Erotylinae (4 tribes), and some groups like Xenoscelinae and Pharaxonothinae, may be paraphyletic convenience groups and are poorly supported in cladistic analyses (Leschen 2003, Leschen and Buckley 2007).

While examining type specimens for revisionary work of Dacnini (Erotylinae), one of us (PW) recognized that the Kenyan species *Thallis jucunda* Arrow, 1936 is not congeneric with the type species of *Thallis* Erichson, *Thallis janthina* Erichson. *Thallis jucunda* keys to Xenoscelinae using the phylogenetic key in Leschen (2003) and to the couplet containing the European *Macrophagus* Motschulsky and the New Zealand *Loberonotha* Sen Gupta and Crowson. Unlike these genera, *T. janthina* does not have files on the vertex of the head, along with other distinctive characters not present in other members of basal Erotylidae. Here we describe a new genus for *Thallis jucunda* and another species *Arrowcryptus skelleyi*, n. sp. This taxon was included in the analysis in Leschen and Buckley (2007) as “n. gen.”

Material examined is deposited in:

CASC	California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, USA
MRAC	Musee Royal de l'Afrique Centrale, Tervuren, Belgium
NHML	Natural History Museum, London, UK
FSCA	Florida State Collection of Arthropods, Gainesville, FL