



Stenomastigus Leleup (Staphylinidae, Scydmaeninae): status of subgenus *Acanthostigus* Leleup and revision of species with elongated male prothrochanters

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Abstract

Based on examination of type species, the subgenera of South African genus *Stenomastigus* Leleup are merged and the name *Acanthostigus* Leleup is placed as a junior synonym of *Stenomastigus*. A group of species characterized by a prominent distal projection of the male prothrochanters is revised and two new species are described: *S. berlinafricanus* sp. n. and *S. kosianus* sp. n. New diagnoses of *S. allaeri* Leleup, *S. basilewskyi* Leleup and *S. kochi* Leleup are given. Habitus, aedeagi, modified fore legs and other diagnostic characters of all treated species are illustrated.

Key words: Coleoptera, Mastigini, new species, Afrotropical, South Africa

Introduction

Mastigini is a relatively small tribe of ant-like stone beetles, comprising 34 species grouped in three genera: *Mastigus* Latreille, 1802, *Palaeostigus* Newton, 1998 (in Newton & Franz 1998) and *Stenomastigus* Leleup, 1968. They show an interesting disjunct distribution: *Mastigus* and *Stenomastigus* are endemic to South Africa, while *Palaeostigus* inhabits South Africa and the Mediterranean part of the Palaearctic region (Newton & Franz 1998). The South African taxa were revised by Leleup (1968), who described *Stenomastigus* with two subgenera: *Stenomastigus* s. str. and *Acanthostigus* Leleup, 1968. *Stenomastigus* includes 14 species (13 described by Leleup and one by Franz (1984)) and is one of most morphologically striking genera of Mastigitae, readily recognizable on the basis of extremely long legs and antennae, a microsculpture of the dorsum composed of fine microgranules giving a matt appearance, a mesoventral process with a subtriangular apex, and an extremely elongate aedeagus. The parameres are strongly asymmetrical: one is very long, while the other one is rudimentary or completely obliterated. The basal capsule of the median lobe is much smaller than the 'parameral part' of the aedeagus, which is formed by very broad and fused bases of the parameres. The aedeagus is so long that in dry-mounted specimens of some species the long paramere extends from the tip of abdomen. *Palaeostigus* can be distinguished from *Stenomastigus* by the mesoventral process with a truncated apex and with a nearly straight posterior margin. *Mastigus* includes several enigmatic species showing a high diversity of external characters and aedeageal shapes, which seem too varied for a well-defined genus. The mesoventral process of the type species of *Mastigus*, *M. spinicornis* (Fabricius, 1787) is similar to that of *Stenomastigus* (Jałoszyński, unpublished data), but its robust body resembles some large species of *Palaeostigus*. The aedeagi of *Mastigus* show a gradual transition from stout shapes typical of *Palaeostigus* (in *M. glabratus* Klug, 1824 and *M. andrae* (Lhoste, 1937)) to very slender and strongly asymmetrical shapes resembling those of *Stenomastigus* (i.e. in *M. hottentotus* Leleup, 1968). The composition and status of *Mastigus* requires more comprehensive study.

Leleup's subgeneric division of *Stenomastigus* was based on secondary sexual characters of males and females. During my work on the world Scydmaeninae I encountered problems assigning some specimens of undetermined *Stenomastigus* (both males and females) to a subgenus due to unambiguous character states. This observation prompted the present study in which the diagnostic characters of *Acanthostigus* are re-evaluated, two new species with strongly modified prothrochanters are described, and previously known species with similar male secondary sexual characters are reviewed. Leleup (1968) provided accurate and comprehensive descriptions but the aedeagi