



Taxonomy and distribution of the Afrotropical genus *Anchophthalmops* Koch, 1956 with a key to species (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae: Pedinini)

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Abstract

The taxonomic and distributional data concerning the representatives of the genus *Anchophthalmops* were revised. Lectotypes for *Anchophthalmops foveipennis* and *A. ventralis* were designated to fix the taxonomic status of these species. *A. neumanni* and *A. zablockii* were described as new species. Maximum entropy modeling was used to test the probability of occurrence of *A. menouxi* on Madagascar. An identification key is provided to all known species of *Anchophthalmops*.

Key words: new species, lectotype, darkling beetles, Platynotina, ecoregions, maximum entropy modeling

Introduction

The genus *Anchophthalmops* was erected by Koch (1956) to include *Selinus ventralis* Gebien, 1910 and two newly described species: *Anchophthalmops brevipleurum* (type species) and *A. maximus*. The primary taxonomic concept of this genus was based on the structure of male abdominal ventrites (presence of a tubercle on proximal segments), dimorphic maxillary palpi and narrow parameres of aedeagal tegmen (Koch 1956).

Iwan and Banaszekiewicz (2005) modified the above mentioned set of diagnostic characters to: (1) 7th to 11th antennomeres transverse (Fig. 4), (2) median part of mentum wide (Fig. 3), (3) anterior angles of pronotum moderately protruding anteriorly and (4) male abdominal ventrites with tubercles (Figs 35, 38–39). This taxonomic hypothesis was used during recent studies of the genus *Anchophthalmops* (e.g., Banaszekiewicz 2007, Iwan 2010).

Unfortunately, the research performed in the above mentioned publications was based only relatively few specimens of *Anchophthalmops*. This has led to many taxonomic ambiguities within the genus: (1) unclear diagnostic characters for *A. gridellii* (Ferrer, 1995) and *A. menouxi* (Mulsant et Rey, 1853); (2) unfixed status of the primary types of *A. foveipennis* (Fairmaire, 1887) and *A. ventralis*; and (3) unverified distributional data of *A. menouxi*.

The aim of this paper was to revise taxonomic and distributional data of *Anchophthalmops* representatives.

Material and methods

Measurements, taken using a filar micrometer, were as follows: width of anterior elytral margin—from humeral angle to scutellum; body length—from anterior margin of labrum to elytral apex; body width—maximum elytral width.

This study was based on material from the following collections:

BMNH	Natural History Museum, London, Great Britain
HNHM	Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest, Hungary
ISNB	Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique, Bruxelles, Belgium
MGFT	Natural History Museum of Basel, Basel, Switzerland