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**Studies on the systematics and taxonomy of the genus *Hylaeus* F. (8)
Revision of the Afrotropic subgenus *Hylaeus* (*Deranchylaeus*) Bridwell
(Hymenoptera: Anthophila, Colletidae)**

HOLGER H. DATHE

Senckenberg Deutsches Entomologisches Institut, Eberswalder Str. 90, 15374 Müncheberg, Germany. holger.dathe@senckenberg.de



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HOLGER H. DATHE

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Abstract

The Afrotropic subgenus *Deranchylaeus* of the colletid bee genus *Hylaeus* is revised for the first time on the basis of all the available type material. Here, 28 **new synonymies** were detected: *Prosopis flaviscutum* Alfken and *Hylaeus graaffi* Cockerell = *H. curvicarinatus* (Cameron); *H. microstictus* Cockerell = *H. dregei* (Strand); *H. bequaertianus* Bridwell and *H. ogilviei* Cockerell = *H. gabonicus* (Vachal); *P. immarginata* Alfken and *H. abjunctus* Cockerell = *H. krebsianus* (Strand); *H. absonulus* Cockerell and *H. reditus* Cockerell = *H. lightfooti* Bridwell; *H. subreditus* Cockerell = *H. lineaticeps* (Friese); *H. tinctulus extensicornis* Cockerell = *H. perater* Cockerell; *P. corpana* Warncke and *H. rhodognathus* Cockerell = *H. promontorii* Meade-Waldo; *P. atriceps* Friese, *P. atriceps* var. *major* Strand, *H. sanctus* Cockerell, *H. sub-lucens* Cockerell, *H. varians* Cockerell, *H. tenuis* var. *dominae* Cockerell, *H. punctiferus* Cockerell, *P. totana* Warncke and *H. multifarius* Eardley & Urban = *H. robertianus* (Cameron); *H. simulans* Cockerell = *H. rugipunctus* (Alfken); *H. simplex* (Bingham), *H. simplior* Meade-Waldo, *H. perdensus* Cockerell and *P. postica* Warncke = *H. tenuis* (Alfken); *H. kasindensis* Cockerell = *H. xanthostoma* (Alfken). **Lectotypes** were designated for *Prosopis alfkeni* Friese, *P. atriceps* Friese, *P. curvicarinata* Cameron, *P. flaviscutum* Alfken, *P. gabonica* Vachal, *P. rugipuncta* Alfken, *P. tenuis* Alfken and *P. xanthostoma* Alfken. The following 12 **new species** are described: *H. (Deranchylaeus) amharicus* sp. n. ♀; *bernhardi* sp. n. ♂; *camerunensis* sp. n. ♂♀; *chimani* sp. n. ♂; *eardleyi* sp. n. ♂♀; *gessianus* sp. n. ♂♀; *izikosalis* sp. n. ♀; *nottoni* sp.

n. ♀; *oromialis* sp. n. ♂♀; *pamelae* sp. n. ♀; *paulyi* sp. n. ♂♀ and *venustus* sp. n. ♂. Keys for the identification of males and females of all species are provided.

Key words: Africa, bee, taxonomy, new species, new synonyms, identification key, floral records

1. Introduction

The most recent definition of the subgenus *Hylaeus* (*Deranchylaeus*) was proposed by Snelling (1985: 6–8). This article is part of a comprehensively conceived revision of the Hylaeinae of the Afrotropical Region, of which only the first issue has been published. It comprised a general review of the hylaeine genera and subgenera, together with revisions of the smaller taxonomic groups. This state was largely taken over by Michener (2000, 2007). The large subgenera *H. (Nothylaeus)* and *H. (Deranchylaeus)* were omitted, as Snelling had not developed a critical review of the species at that time. For both subgenera he provided a formal list of hitherto assigned names only.

After 1985, Roy Snelling dealt especially with the revision of *H. (Nothylaeus)*, in which the author was involved, but Snelling had also begun an extensive study of the original material of *H. (Deranchylaeus)*. One sees "traces" of his work in the collections, for example in Berlin, where scheduled lectotypes had been labeled. Despite the kind support of the LACM, Dr. Brian V. Brown and Mr Gordon C. Snelling, no manuscript or records of these studies could be found.

The subgenus *Hylaeus* (*Deranchylaeus*) was established in 1919 by Bridwell when he structured the species inventory then known under the generic name *Hylaeus* Fabricius. It was a quite remarkable achievement, his groups have been largely preserved until today. Since then they have only been defined more precisely. According to Michener (2000, 2007), *H. (Metylaeus)* Bridwell and *H. (Nothylaeus)* Bridwell are still regarded as subgenera of *Hylaeus*, as well as *H. (Deranchylaeus)*. Bridwell assigned 22 names to *H. (Deranchylaeus)*. Snelling (1985) put two of them into *H. (Metylaeus)*, one to *H. (Cornylaeus)* Snelling and one of these species, *H. arnoldi* (Friese), he regarded as uncertain in its subgeneric assignment to *H. (Alfkenylaeus)* or *H. (Deranchylaeus)*. An other species is apparently incorrectly recorded from South Africa; Snelling (1985: 5) synonymized *H. albinasatus* (Strand, 1912) with *H. (Prosopis) signatus* (Panzer, 1798), a palearctic species which is highly unlikely to occur in South Africa. So finally 17 names will remain in the subgenus, three of which are junior synonyms.

One gets the impression that already Bridwell has set up his subgenus *H. (Deranchylaeus)* as a collective group for everything that did not fit into *H. (Nothylaeus)* and other well-defined taxa. Also Cockerell (1942: 2) noticed that. Snelling (1985: 18) does basically the same with *H. arnoldi* (Friese), a species that appears in his determination key at *H. (Alfkenylaeus)*, where its placement is dubious, and so he appended it to *H. (Deranchylaeus)*, where its placement is likewise inopportune. An only morphologically founded classification is obviously not satisfactory, and this species is excluded here.

Treatments with synoptic claim as Friese (1911) and Cockerell (1920, 1936e, 1942) have provided only fragmentary overviews. Because since the description of the first species of this group by Vachal (1900), *Prosopis gabonica*, no comparison of holotypes has been undertaken. One can state that the species of this *Hylaeus* subgenus were virtually unexplored and not available for practical purposes. For the present study, the accessible type material of 62 names was viewed. Thus, a significant gap in the knowledge of the African Anthophila can be closed, but, with certainty, there will be a number of further discoveries. For this reason, this work has placed particular emphasis on accurate documentation in order to improve the reliable determination of the species. This revision shall help to pave the way to new insights into systematic, zoogeographical and ecological relationships of these bees.

2. Methods and terminology

As part of this project, the relevant South African museums were visited in 2012. Practically all the material available there was studied and evaluated, supplemented by additional specimens from the Biozentrum Linz, the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels, and the Natural History Museum London. In totally this study is based on approximately 1,600 specimens of *H. (Deranchylaeus)*. Thanks to the support from numerous other museums, all types were re-examined, with the only exception of *Prosopis luctuosa* Benoist, 1944, which could not be found in the Natural History Museum of Paris.

Extremely valuable and enjoyable for me was the contact with the natural history museums, especially with the South African institutions in Pretoria, Grahamstown and Cape Town, but also with colleagues in Berlin, Brussels, Linz, London, Los Angeles, New York, Oxford and Paris. They generously provided their unique specimens, so that this work could be based on a broad spectrum of material. Special thanks go to the collection managers, who were energetic in conducting difficult searches and solving numerous other problems, in particular to Dawn Larsen (Cape Town), David G. Notton (London), Viola Richter (Berlin), Agnièle Touret-Alby (Paris) and Eli Wyman (New York). I feel very much indebted also to the following colleagues (in alphabetical order of collection acronyms): Sarah K. Gess, Friedrich W. Gess†, John Midgley (AMG, Grahamstown), Jerome G. Rozen, (AMNH, New York), Brian V. Brown, Gordon C. Snelling (LACM, Los Angeles), Claire Villemant (MNHN, Paris), Frank Koch (MNHU, Berlin), Michael Kuhlmann (NHML, London), Fritz Gusenleitner (OLBL, Linz), James E. Hogan (OUMNH, Oxford), Alain Pauly (RBINS, Brussels), Simon van Noort (SAMC, Cape Town) and Martin Krüger (TMSA, Pretoria).

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