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## Taxonomic considerations on the genus *Ophthalmoglipa* Franciscolo, 1952 (Coleoptera: Mordellidae) with description of two new species

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### Abstract

In the present paper *Ophthalmoglipa* Franciscolo 1952 is critically analysed. The status of *Ophthalmoglipa aurocaudata* (Fairmaire 1897) *sensu* Franciscolo (1952) as the type species is discussed and redefined. *Ophthalmoglipa leblanci* n. sp. from São Tomé and *Ophthalmoglipa horaki* n. sp. from Principe Island are herein described.

**Key words:** lectotype, holotype, Gabon, Africa, Mordellini, Tenebrionoidea, distribution, systematic

### Introduction

*Ophthalmoglipa* consists of five species, distributed for the major part in Southeast Asia (Horak 1998) and represented in the African continent only by *Ophthalmoglipa aurocaudata* (Fairmaire 1897). This species is widely distributed throughout occidental Africa (Ermisch 1950, Franciscolo 1952, 1997) and it is relatively common and locally abundant. In 1952 Franciscolo erected the genus based on 13 specimens from São Tomé Island (2 specimens), Principe Island (4 specimens), Ghana (3 specimens), Uganda (2 specimens), Cameroon (2 specimens) and established *Glipa aurocaudata* (Fairmaire 1897) as the type species. The author based the original description almost exclusively on specimens from São Tomé Island, considering them as “typical form” and treating the Principe Island specimens as aberrations (Franciscolo 1952), without taking into consideration or examining specimens from the type localities (Togo, Guinea, Gabon). The opportunity to study some of Franciscolo’s material has revealed that specimens from São Tomé and Principe Island not only do not belong to *O. aurocaudata* but that they are two distinct species, both new to science. It is therefore necessary to clarify and redefine the status of the type species and redescribe *O. aurocaudata*.

### Material and methods

The 82 specimens examined for this study were borrowed from the following institutions and private collections:

MCSNG	Museo Civico di Storia Naturale “G. Doria”, Genua, Italy.
BMNH	Natural History Museum, London, UK.
MNHN	Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France.
ERPC	Enrico Ruzzier private collection, Mirano, Italy.

### *Ophthalmoglipa* Franciscolo, 1952

Franciscolo proposed this genus on the basis of what I now understand to be a mix of three species; this therefore raises the problem of credibly associating the correct type species. *O. aurocaudata* (*sensu* Franciscolo) represents a combination of the three different species, does not fully represent the true *Mordella aurocaudata* (*sensu* Fairmaire