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## New data on the Afrotropical Xantholinini 8. New species and new record from Kenya (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae)

307° contribution to the knowledge of the Staphylinidae

### ABSTRACT

The following new species from Kakamega District (Kenya) are described and illustrated: *Thyrecephalus minutulus* n.sp., *Metocinus yala* n.sp., *Byziniella buyangu* n.sp., and *Chaetocinus isecheno* n.sp. *Microaфра congoana* Bordon, 2016 is new record for Kenya.

Keywords: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Xantholinini, new species, *Thyrecephalus*, *Metocinus*, *Byziniella*, *Chaetocinus*, Kenya.

### INTRODUCTION

Thanks to kind support of Zachary Falin, (Biodiversity Institute & Collection Manager of Entomology, Natural History, Kansas University Museum) I received a lot of Staphylinidae. Among this material I found some Xantholinini collected in the Kakamega District, Kenya. This material includes four new species which are described in this contribution. This is the eighth contribution to the knowledge of Afrotropical Xantholinini after my revision of the tribe of Africa south of Sahara (Bordon, 2016).

### MATERIAL AND METHODS

Some specimens collected in the Kakamega District (Kenya) by reserches of the Kansas University Museum Natural History are studied, following the methodology adopted in (Bordon, 2016). The acronyms used in this paper are: cB (coll. Bordon, Florence, Italy); KUNHM: (Kansas University Natural History Museum, Lawrence, U.S.A).For the study of specimens, I used a Wild M5A binocular and an Optika B-290 triocular microscope.

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TAXONOMY  
in systematic order

***Microafra congoana*** Bordoni, 2016

*Examined material.* Kenya, Kakamega Distr., Salazar circuit, Buyangu forest, 1500 m, 0.335°N, 34.874°E, R. R. Snelling 15.III.2020, 2 exx. (KUNHM), 1 ex. (cB).

*Distribution.* W Congo, NW Zambia (Bordoni, 2016). New record for Kenya and first record since the description of the species.

***Thyrecephalus minutulus*** n.sp.

(Figs 1-5)

*Examined material.* Holotype ♂: Kenya, Kakamega Distr., Isecheno, Isecheno forest Res., 0.24°N, 34.87°E, 1800 m, R. R. Snelling 10.III.2002, litter (KUNHM).

*Description.* Length of body: 10 mm; from anterior margin of head to posterior margin of elytra: 5 mm. A small *Thyrecephalus* Guérin-Méneville, 1844, with narrow body and peculiar labrum. Head and pronotum black, elytra red with brown scutellum, abdomen reddish brown, antennae and legs brown. Head and pronotum and related punctuation as in Fig. 1. Labrum without protrusions, rounded, with a very small median emargination (Fig. 2). Pronotum with micro-punctuation. Elytra sub-rectangular, as long as pronotum, narrower than it, with sub-rectilinear sides and narrowly rounded humeral angles. Surface with punctures arranged in three series, one juxtasutural, one median and one lateral; the median series with long setae. Abdomen with transverse micro-striation and fine, sparse punctuation on the sides. Tergite and sternite of the male genital segment as in Figs 3-4. Aedeagus (Fig. 5) 1 mm long, spherical, with long, robust median lobe and short, robust parameres. Inner sac tube-like, folded one time on itself, covered with very fine scales.

*Etymology.* The specific epithet is the Latin *minutissimus- a- um* (very small).

*Distribution.* The species is known only from the type locality.

*Remarks.* This is certainly one of the smallest *Thyrecephalus* known to me, well characterized by the shape of the body, the labrum and the aedeagus. Only *T. minutus* Bordoni, 2016 from Cameroon have similar body size. Some other species of this genus have labrum of similar but not identical conformation, in particular *T. ferox* (Harold, 1881) from Kenya and Tanzania, and *T. africanus* (Bernhauer, 1913) from Gabon, Cameroon, Rep. Congo and Congo. The new species differs from these taxa for its small size, its punctuation and its aedeagus.

***Metocinus yala*** n.sp.

(Figs 6-8)

*Examined material.* Holotype ♂: Kenya, Kakamega Distr., Yala river forest Res., 0.204°N, 34.873°E, 1450-1470 m, *Ficus* litter, R. R. Snelling 15.II.2003 (KUNHM), paratype: same data, 1 ♀ (cB).

*Description.* Length of body: 5.2 mm; from anterior margin of head to posterior margin of elytra: 2.6 mm. Body reddish brown; antennae and legs brown light. Very similar to *M. fluviatilis* Bordoni, 2016 from Congo (Lubero) from which it differs in darker head, smaller body, smaller eyes and narrower pronotum; sub-rectangular, shorter and narrower elytra, longer aedeagus, with different inner sac. Tergite and sternite of the male genital segment as in Figs 6-7. Aedeagus (Fig. 8) 0.92 mm long, composed by three telescopic parts, as in every species of this genus, gradually narrower towards the characteristic distal structure on which the short parameres are attached. Inner sac tube-like, folded on itself, covered with fine scales, more evident in the proximal portion; distally, at the end of the tube, are 2 short series of sub-spheric, very peculiar scales.

*Etymology.* The specific epithet refers to the type locality, as a noun in apposition.

*Distribution.* The species is known only from the type locality.

*Remarks.* The specimen is in poor conditions.

***Byziniella buyangu* n.sp.**  
(Figs 9-11)

*Examined material.* Holotype ♂: Kenya, Kakamega Distr., Salazar circuit, Buyangu forest Res., 0.335°N, 34.874°E, 1500 m, R. R. Snelling 15.III.2002 (KUNHM).

*Description.* Length of body: 3.3 mm; from anterior margin of head to posterior margin of elytra: 1.8 mm. A very small, narrow *Byziniella* Bordoni, 2016. Head black, elytra and abdomen reddish brown, elytra reddish brown dark with reddish anterior margin; antennae and legs brown light. Head sub-rectangular, narrow, long, with sub-parallel sides and widely rounded posterior angles. Eyes medium-sized and a little protruding. Surface with deep, evident punctation, except for a median stripe; the distance between the punctures is a little wider than its diameter. Pronotum scarcely longer and narrower than head, dilated forward, with very oblique anterior margins, almost obsolete anterior angles and very sinuate sides. Surface with dorsal series of 9-10 punctures and lateral series of 4-5 punctures. Elytra large, very wider and longer than pronotum, sub-rectangular, with sub-rectilinear sides and rounded humeral angles. Surface with fine and scattered punctures arranged in three series, one juxtasutural, one median and one lateral. Abdomen with traces of polygonal micro-reticulation at the base of the segments and fine punctation on the sides. Tergite and sternite of the male genital segment as in Figs 9-10. Aedeagus (Fig. 11) 0.63 mm long, ovoid elongate, with narrow parameres; inner sac with a long, right series of scales and three spines in the central part, one very long.

*Etymology.* The specific epithet refers to the type locality, as a noun in apposition.

*Distribution.* The species is known only from the type locality.

*Remarks.* This species differs from its congeners by size, punctation and aedeagus.

***Chaetocinus isecheno* n.sp.**

(Figs 12-14)

*Examined material.* Holotype ♂: Kenya, Kakamega Distr., Isecheno, Isecheno forest Res., 0.25°N, 34.85°E, 1600 m, W. Okoka 7.IX.2001, litter (KUNHM); paratypes: same data, 6♀ (KUNHM), 3 ♀ (cB).

*Description.* Length of body: 4.5 mm; from anterior margin of head to posterior margin of elytra: 2.4 mm. Body shiny, reddish brown with darker head; antennae and legs orange yellowish. Head sub-rectangular, convex, with moderately rounded sides and widely rounded posterior angles. Eyes large and a little protruding. Surface of head with fine, sparse punctation, except for a median stripe. Pronotum longer and narrower than head, with very oblique anterior margins, almost obsolete anterior angles and very sinuate sides. Surface with dorsal series of 8-9 irregular punctures and lateral series of 5-6 punctures; other punctures near the anterior angles. Elytra large, dilated posteriad, very wider and longer than pronotum, with rounded humeral angles. Surface with very fine, spaced punctation, arranged in some series. Abdomen with fine, dense, transverse micro-striation and fine punctation on the sides. Tergite and sternite of the male genital segment as in Figs 12-13. Aedeagus (Fig. 14) 0.7 mm long, ovoid elongate, with short, robust parameres, provided with some setae; inner sac with righth series of scales and three median series of long spines.

*Etymology.* The specific epithet refers to the type locality, as a noun in apposition.

*Distribution.* The species is known only from the type locality.

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#### RIASSUNTO

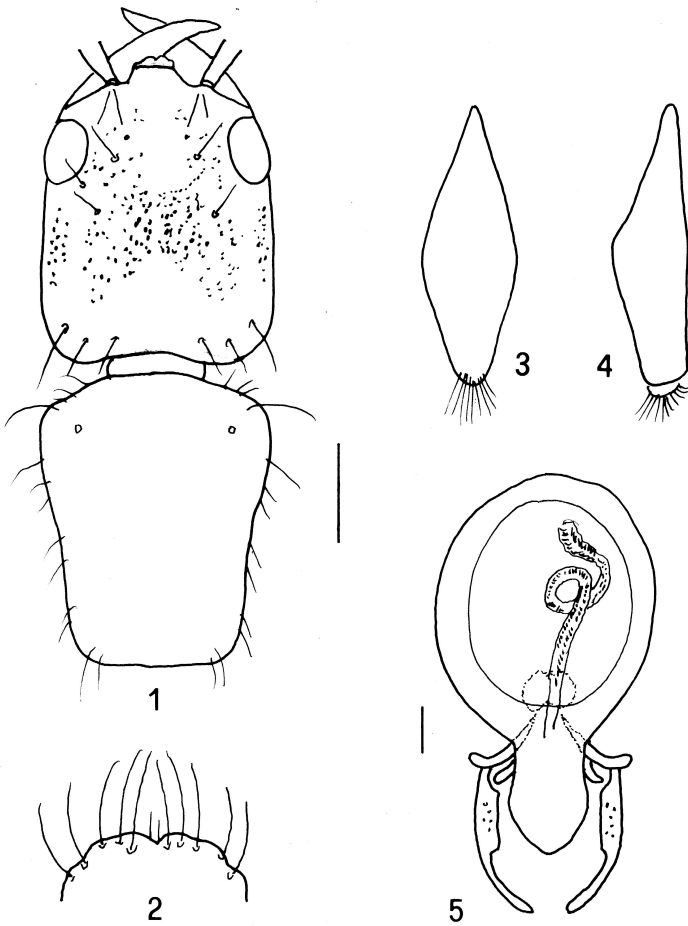
Vengono descritte e illustrate le seguenti nuove specie del distretto di Kakamega (Kenya): *Thyrecephalus minutulus* n.sp., *Metocinus yala* n.sp., *Byziniella buyangu* n.sp. e *Chaetocinus isecheno* n.sp. *Microafra congoana* Bordoni è nuova segnalazione per il Kenya.

Parole chiave: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Xantholinini, nuove specie, *Thyrecephalus*, *Metocinus*, *Byziniella*, *Chaetocinus*, Kenya

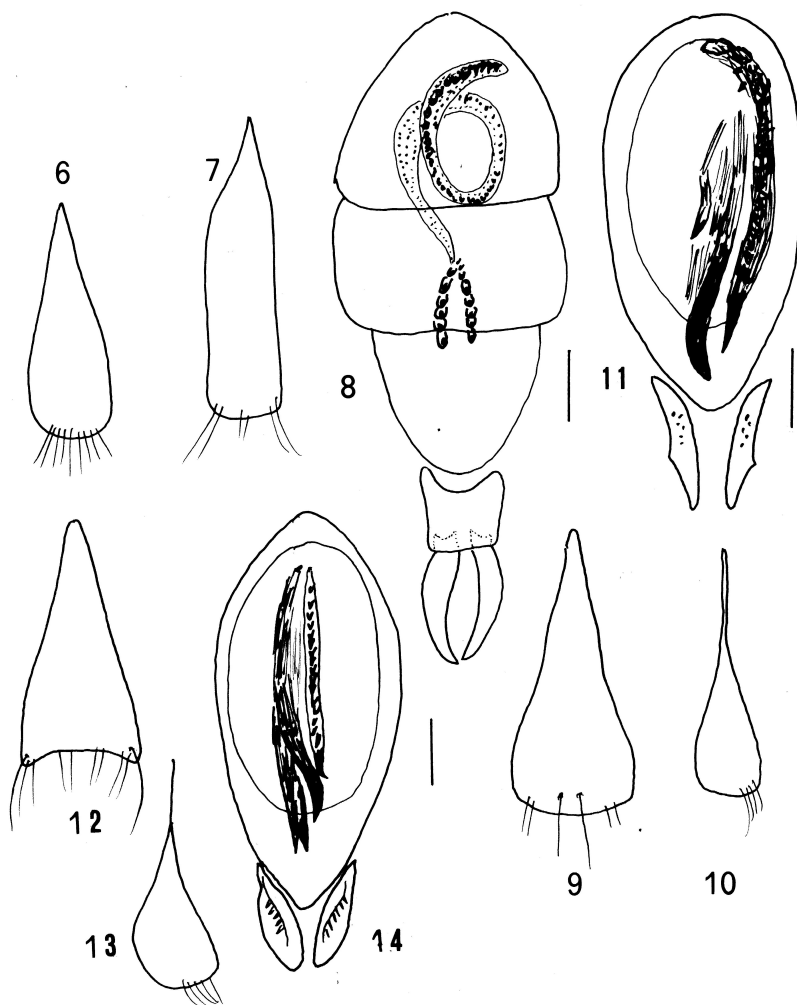
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Figs 1-5. *Thyrecephalus minutulus* n.sp.: head and pronotum (scale bar: 0.5 mm) (1), labrum (2), tergite (3) and sternite (4) of the male genital segment and aedeagus (scale bar: 0.1 mm) (5).



Figs 6-14. *Metocinus yala* n.sp.: tergite (6) and sternite (7) of the male genital segment and aedeagus (8); *Byziniella buyangu* n.sp.: tergite (9) and sternite (10) of the male genital segment and aedeagus (11); *Chaetocinus isecheno* n.sp.: tergite (12) and sternite (13) of the male genital segment and aedeagus (14) (scale bar: 0.1 mm).