



A new genus and species of Malvapiini (Coleoptera: Curculionoidea: Apionidae) from Ghana

MIŁOSZ A. MAZUR

Department of Biosystematics, Centre for Biodiversity Studies, University of Opole, ul. Oleska 22, PL-45052 Opole, Poland.

E-mail: milosz@uni.opole.pl

Abstract

Anacrapion wanati, a new genus and species of Malvapiini is described from Ghana (West Africa). *Apion* (*Catapion*) *ghanense* Voss, 1973 and *Apion* (*Pseudapion*) *lamottei* Hoffmann, 1963 are transferred to the new genus. A key to species of *Anacrapion*, and to the genera of Malvapiini is provided.

Key words: weevils, *Anacrapion wanati* nov. gen. nov. sp., taxonomy, keys, West Africa

Introduction

The tribe Malvapiini was erected by Alonzo-Zarazaga (1990) for three Palearctic genera: *Rhopalapion* Schilsky, 1906 (type species *Rhopalapion longirostre* (Oliv.)), *Malvapion* Hoffmann, 1958 (type species *Curculio malvae* Fabricius, 1775) and *Pseudapion* Schilsky, 1906 (type species *Apion fulvirostre* Gyllenhal, 1833). The authors of the World Catalogue of Curculionoidea (Alonzo-Zarazaga & Lyal 1999) also included *Sterculapion* Rhenheimer, 1997 (type species: *Apion vertebrale* Lea, 1910). This placement is disputable because *Sterculapion* actually has more features in common with other paleotropical genera like *Apiotherium* Beguin-Billecocq and *Harpapion* Voss, both of which are presently without tribal assignment. Moreover, the structure of the male pygidium in *S. vertebrale* and other studied Australian members of this genus is clearly different from that in Palearctic Malvapiini.

While studying weevils collected in Ghana by S. Endrödy-Younga, a long series was found of one *Apion* species representing an undescribed genus among Afrotropical Apionidae. Further studies revealed its close relatives described by Hoffmann (1963) and Voss (1973) in the genus *Apion* s. lato. The latter author incorrectly placed them in the subgenus *Catapion*, currently a valid Palearctic genus and subtribe (Catapiina) of its own within Oxystomatini (Apionitae). Hoffmann (l. c.) assigned his species to *Pseudapion*, presently a genus in Malvapiini, the tribe classified in another supertribe, Aspidapiitae, by Alonzo-Zarazaga (1990), who also doubts that Palearctic and non-Palearctic species classified in *Pseudapion* are congeneric. After a thorough morphological analysis and comparison with several other apionid genera occurring in Africa south of the Sahara, the group studied is here described as a new genus, and placed in the tribe Malvapiini, which is thus confirmed to occur in the Ethiopian region.

Material and methods

The study was based on 207 specimens from several institutional collections, abbreviated as follows:

DBUO	Department of Biosystematics, University of Opole, Poland (coll. M. A. Mazur);
HMNH	Hungarian Museum of Natural History, Budapest, Hungary;
MHNG	Museum of Natural History, Geneva, Switzerland;
MNHN	National Museum of Natural History, Paris, France;