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***Crenitis bicolor* sp. n. from the Kamiesberg of South Africa (Coleoptera: Hydrophilidae)**

DAVID T. BILTON

Marine Biology and Ecology Research Centre, Plymouth University, Drake Circus, Plymouth PL4 8AA, UK.

E-mail: d.bilton@plymouth.ac.uk

Introduction

Crenitis Bedel is a small hydrophilid genus of 41 species (Hansen, 1999; Hebauer, 1994, 2005), distributed across Eurasia, Africa and the Americas. The genus is particularly diverse in temperate regions, with the eastern Palearctic and Nearctic regions containing the highest concentrations of taxa. The eight described African species are all restricted to temperate South Africa, most being found within the winter rainfall area of the Western Cape (Hebauer, 1994). Here I describe a distinctive new species on the basis of specimens collected in the high Kamiesberg of Namaqualand in 2010.

Specimens were studied using a Leica MZ8 stereomicroscope, with a Fluopac FP1 fluorescent illuminator. The habitus photograph was taken with a Canon EOS 600D camera fitted to a Leica Z6 Apo macroscope, fitted with a 2x objective lens. Specimens were illuminated using two Fluopac FP1 illuminators and a fibre-optic swan-neck illuminator to avoid shadow, light being diffused using a tracing-paper collar placed around the specimen. The aedeagus was traced from an image stack made using a Canon EOS 600D on a Brunel SP100 microscope at x 400 magnification. Image stacks were produced by hand, and combined using Helicon Focus software.

Specimens are deposited in the collection of the author (CDTB, Plymouth, UK) and the South Africa Museum (SAM) in Cape Town, South Africa. Exact label data are cited for specimens.

Taxonomy

***Crenitis bicolor* sp. n.**

(Figs. 1–4)

Type locality. South Africa, Northern Cape, Kamiesberg, small stream ca. 5 km W of Witwater above Studer's Pass, 30 23 13.49S, 18 07 05.78E, 1105 m, D.T. Bilton leg. (Figure 2).

Type material. **Holotype** (male): "19/ix/2010 South Africa NC, Kamiesberg, small stream ca. 5 km W of Witwater above Studer's Pass, D. T. Bilton leg." (genitalia extracted and mounted in DMHF on same card) and red holotype label (SAM). **Paratype** (female): Same data as holotype (CDTB). Head lacking. With red paratype label.

Description. Size: Holotype: body length (to elytral apices) 2.4 mm; max. width (elytra) 0.95 mm. Elytral length 1.4 mm. Head entirely black, pronotum and elytra pale, somewhat translucent straw-yellow, slightly paler towards front and lateral margins; darker endoskeletal elements visible in places through pronotal disc, giving the superficial appearance of infuscation. Underside of head dark brown; mentum and stipes slightly paler. Pronotal pseudopleura straw yellow in glabrous lateral areas, this grading to dark brown over inner pubescent portion. Elytral epipleura straw yellow; remainder of venter dark brown – black. Tibia and tarsi yellow. Femora pale in glabrous distal 1/3; then strongly infuscated. Trochanters pale. Front coxae brown, infuscated; mid and hind coxae black. Maxillary palps with segments 1–3 pale straw yellow; segment 4 infuscated. Infuscation weak in proximal 1/3 of this segment; deep in distal 2/3, giving a black appearance. (Fig. 1).

Head: Eyes relatively large and protruding; distance between eyes slightly greater than 4x eye diameter when viewed from directly above. Labrum with dense, deep punctures, spaced approximately ½–1 puncture-widths apart. Punctures slightly deeper, and clearly denser, towards hind margin. Shining between punctures; without microreticulation. Clypeus and frons rather evenly punctured; punctures somewhat smaller and shallower than on labrum