



<http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3646.5.1>

<http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:2957278F-B969-4952-B6B9-C027FF78D97C>

Soil insect research in South Africa. 1. A new genus of terricolous weevils with four new species from the Richtersveld National Park (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Entiminae: Trachyphloeini)

R. BOROVEC¹ & M. MEREGALLI²

¹Sloupno 64, 503 53 Smidary, Czech Republic. E-mail: romanborovec@mybox.cz

²Dept. Life Sciences and Systems Biology, University of Turin, Italy, V. Accademia Albertina 13, 10123 Torino, Italy.

E-mail: massimo.meregalli@unito.it

Abstract

The new genus, *Nama* gen. n., and four new species, *N. richtersveldiana* sp. n., *N. pentamera* sp. n., *N. iuliae* sp. n. and *N. erikae* sp. n., are described from the Richtersveld National Park. The taxonomic position of the new genus is discussed, and it is compared with the other Trachyphloeini native to South Africa and with some genera of Trachyphloeini occurring in the Palearctic region. A key to the species of *Nama* is provided.

Key words: taxonomy, new genus, new species, key, *Nama*

Introduction

Several studies on South African floricolous and arboricolous Entiminae are available, such as Tanyrhynchini Schoenherr, 1826 (Oberprieler 1988), Embrithini Marshall, 1942 and Oosomini Lacordaire, 1863 (Marshall 1942, 1943), *Protostrophus* Jekel, 1875 (Schalkwyk 1968, 1972, Kania 1994), *Cadoderus* Marshall, 1926 (Yunakov 2012) and others, but knowledge of the terricolous Entiminae is almost nil. So far only ten species of Trachyphloeini have been described from South Africa, the majority of them during the nineteenth century: *Trachyphloeus brevis* Boheman, 1843, *T. notulatus* Boheman, 1843, *T. spathulatus* Boheman, 1843, *T. squalidus* Boheman, 1843, *T. nanus* Fahræus, 1871, *T. setiger* Fahræus, 1871, *T. hardenbergi* Marshall, 1923, *T. pustulifer* Voss, 1959, *Pentatrachyphloeus patruelis* Voss, 1974 and *Trachyphloeosoma brevicollis* Voss, 1974. Type material of all these South African species was examined by one of the authors (R.B.). Six of the eight species described as *Trachyphloeus* belong to genera of Embrithini or Sciaphilini Sharp, 1891. The two remaining species, *Trachyphloeus brevis* Boheman, 1843 and *T. hardenbergi* Marshall, 1923, are true Trachyphloeini and belong to an undescribed genus, distinct from the Palearctic *Trachyphloeus* in many characters (Borovec, in preparation). *Trachyphloeosoma brevicollis* Voss, 1974 and *Pentatrachyphloeus patruelis* Voss, 1974 also belong in Trachyphloeini. The first species clearly does not belong to *Trachyphloeosoma*, a genus known from China, Vietnam, Korea, Japan and the island of St. Helena and introduced to Hawaii and the continental USA (Borovec 2009). Instead, it can be referred to another undescribed South African genus, composed of several undescribed species and known from the Western and Eastern Cape provinces and KwaZulu-Natal. *Pentatrachyphloeus* is a valid genus and thus represents the only genus of Trachyphloeini described up to now from South Africa.

In recent decades comparatively extensive material of terricolous Entiminae was collected by several entomologists, mainly by soil-sifting, in various parts of South Africa, in forests as well as arid or semiarid regions. Hundreds of other specimens, mainly sampled in pitfall traps, are unidentified in South African museums and the Natural History Museum in London. A study of these small, terricolous broad-nosed weevils from South Africa is highly overdue.

The present paper is the first specifically addressing this overlooked and unknown, but highly interesting, part of the South African weevil fauna. The specimens here described were recently collected by the authors in the