

***Uvarus laurentius* sp. n. and *Africodytes maximus* sp. n. and new faunistic records of other Bidessini (Coleoptera, Dytiscidae) from the Ethiopian region**

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Two new Bidessini species from the Ethiopian region are described, viz. *Uvarus laurentius* sp. n. from Madagascar and *Africodytes maximus* sp. n. from Cameroon. The following new faunistic records are given: *Uvarus nubilus* (Régimbart) and *Bidessus complicatus* Sharp, recorded for the first time from Senegal; and *Yola cuspis* Bilardo & Pederzani and *Africodytes rubromaculatus* Biström recorded for the first time from Liberia.

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Recently, I have completed a survey of almost 3 000 undetermined bidessines collected primarily from different parts of Africa and Madagascar. The material belongs to the collections of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., USA.

The diving-beetle tribus Bidessini has recently been revised and reviewed by me in separate papers (e.g. Biström 1988a, 1988b), and thus the taxonomic knowledge of the tribe in Africa can at present be regarded as satisfactory, at least in comparison with that of many other insect groups.

Below I present the most important results, derived from the present examination: Two new species are introduced and some new faunistic records are presented, extending the known distribution of some other bidessines.

Today, if one includes the present new species, six *Uvarus* species are known from Madagascar (Biström 1988a): *U. rivulorum* (Régimbart), *U. betsimisarakus* (Guignot), *U. caprai* Pederzani & Sanfilippo, *U. binaghii* Pederzani & Sanfilippo, *U. alluaudi* (Régimbart) and *U. laurentius* sp. n.

Records of *U. peringueyi* (Régimbart) from Madagascar are regarded at present as uncertain (Biström 1988a).

Uvarus laurentius sp. n.

Holotype, ♂: Madagascar Diego Suarez Prov., Mt. d'Ambre Forest Res., stream at entrance gate 915 m, XI-13-86 CL 2277 J.T. + D.A. Polhemus (in Smithsonian Institution). — Paratype, ♀: Same data as holotype (Zool. Mus., Helsinki).

Diagnosis and separation from other *Uvarus* species: In the key to species in the recent review of the African members of the genus (Biström 1988a), *U. laurentius* continues to couplet 24 where *U. straeleni* Biström and *U. retarius* (Guignot) are separated. At this point the new species belongs to the alternative *U. straeleni* on the basis of the shape of the penis apex in lateral view (apically straight). *U. straeleni* and *U. laurentius* are distinguished by differences in

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body-size (length of *U. straeleni* 1.3–1.6 mm; *U. laurentius* 1.74–1.76 mm) and in strength of dorsal body-reticulation (*U. straeleni* dorsally submat to mat). Additionally, *U. laurentius* is characterized by the ventral outline of the penis, which is evenly curved (in *U. straeleni* the corresponding curvature is uneven) and by the slender apical segment of the paramere (in *U. straeleni* the paramere apically is somewhat enlarged).

Derivation of the name: The species-name *laurentius* comes from "Insula Laurentii", an old name used for Madagascar.

Description

Length of body 1.74–1.76 mm, breadth 0.88 mm. Body quite elongate (Fig. 1).

Head: Dark brown, anteriorly and posteriorly with vague, rather narrow, paler areas. Punctuation fine and sparse. Posteriorly punctures become slightly coarser, except narrowly at pronotum where head impunctate. Rather shiny, anteriorly and posteriorly indistinct reticulation may be discerned. Frontally at eyes with a quite distinct depression. Antenna pale ferruginous.

Pronotum: Pale ferruginous. Anteriorly and posteriorly with vague, slightly darker areas. Punctuation fine, sparse to rather sparse. Punctures anteriorly densest. Rather shiny, with very fine, partly indistinct reticulation. Lateral outline of pronotum posteriorly straight, anteriorly distinctly curved inwards.

Elytra: Dark brown to brown, with vague, slightly paler areas (Fig. 1). Punctuation rather fine, somewhat sparse. Laterally and apically punctures become finer. Rather shiny, although with fine, partly indistinct reticulation. Elytral striae distinct but short (much shorter than pronotal striae). Epipleura pale ferruginous, almost impunctate and very finely reticulated.

Ventral aspect: Prothorax pale ferruginous. Other parts blackish ferruginous to ferruginous. Almost impunctate; scattered, very fine punctures may be recognized. Rather shiny, almost entirely with fine reticulation.

Legs: Pale ferruginous to ferruginous. Pro- and mesotarsi rather slender.

Male genitalia: Figs. 2–4.

Female: Externally similar to male.

Distribution: Known only from the type local-

ity in Madagascar.

Biology: Practically unknown. Sampled from stream at an altitude of 915 m a.s.l.

The genus *Africodytes* was recently introduced (Biström 1988b) and thus far only two species, *A. silvestris* (Bilardo & Pederzani, 1978) and *A. rubromaculatus* Biström, 1988b, have been associated with it. The range of the genus covers western and central parts of the Ethiopian region. Having examined quite a number of *A. rubromaculatus* specimens lately, I today suspect that *A. rubromaculatus* may be a colour-morph of *H. silvestris*. This question requires a re-examination of the types together with comparison of additional material from the two taxa.

Africodytes maximus sp. n.

Holotype, ♂: Cameroon: Libamba, 10 km East of Makak 5–10–IX–1973 J. A. Gruwell (in Smithsonian Institution).

Diagnosis: The new species is distinguished from *A. rubromaculatus* and *A. silvestris* by a more elongated body, by a keeled male apical sternite and by a structurally very complicated penis (the penis of the two other *Africodytes* species is quite simple; slender and without distinct modifications (cf. illustrations in Biström 1988b). External similarity between the new species and the previously known *Africodytes* species is, however, so considerable that at least at present they should be assigned to one and the same genus.

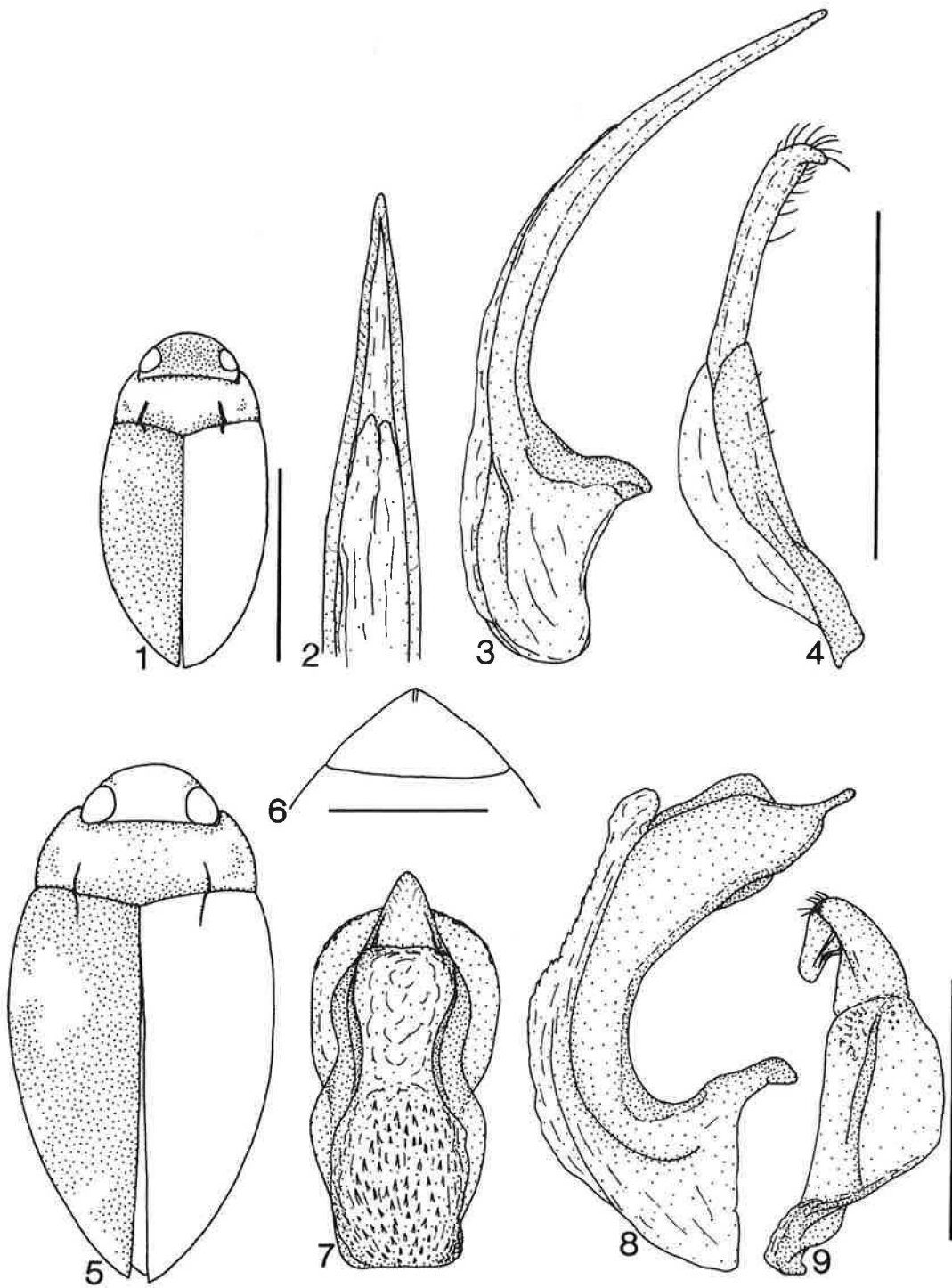
Derivation of the name: The species-name *maximus* refers to the large body-size of the new species.

Description (only differences from re-description of *A. silvestris* in Biström (1988b) are recognized).

Length of body 2.64 mm, breadth 1.40 mm. Body quite elongate, with fairly distinct colour pattern (Fig. 5).

Head: Ferruginous, posteriorly head becomes gradually somewhat darker.

Pronotum: Pale ferruginous to ferruginous; basally with broad but vague darkened area, at head rather narrowly blackish ferruginous. Pronotum broadest a very short distance anterior to posterior corners. Angle between pronotum and elytron clearly visible (Fig. 5).



Figs. 1-9. *Uvarus laurentius* sp. n. (1-4) and *Africodytes maximus* sp. n. (5-9): 1: Habitus; 2: penis, dorsal aspect; 3: penis, lateral aspect; 4: paramere; 5: habitus; 6: apical sternite of male; 7: penis, dorsal aspect; 8: penis, lateral aspect; 9: paramere. — Horizontal scale 0.5 mm (6); vertical scales 1.0 mm, applying as follows: top vertical left to 1 & 5, top vertical right to 2-4, and bottom vertical to 7-9.

Elytra: Blackish to dark ferrugineous, with rather vague, ferrugineous markings (Fig. 5).

Ventral aspect: Apical sternite at extreme apex with a minute keel (Fig. 6).

Legs: Pale ferrugineous to ferrugineous.

Male genitalia: Figs. 7–9.

Female: Unknown.

Distribution: So far recorded only from type locality in Cameroon.

Biology: Practically unknown. The specimen was placed in the same vial as a number of *A. rubromaculatus* specimens, which indicates an occurrence in common of the two closely related and habitually similar species. (If the specimens in the vial were collected with a light trap we know nothing about their habitat preferences.)

New records of Bidessini from the Ethiopian region: *Uvarus nubilus* (Régimbart) and *Bidesus complicatus* Sharp: Senegal Richard Toll 8.X. 1978, blacklight G. Hevel & J. Portin (1 ex. of

each in Smithsonian Institution). New for Senegal.

Yola cuspis Bilardo & Pederzani (2 exx.) and *Africodytes rubromaculatus* Biström (1 ex.): Liberia Suakoko 25.IV. 1952 C.C. Blickenstaff (all in Smithsonian Institution). New for Liberia.

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References

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