

# ***larina*, new genus from the Afrotropical Region (Coleoptera, Histeridae)**

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*larina*, new genus from the Afrotropical Region (Coleoptera, Histeridae).- The genus *larina* is described, being known only from Tanzania. The new genus shows a characteristic morphology of mesosternum and metasternum: meso-metasternal suture with an arcuate stria composed of elongated punctures and another similar stria on metasternal apex; between both striae there is a smooth surface contrasting with the rest of the sternal area which is densely punctate. *Xenosternus* Bickhardt, 1911 and *Catacraerus* Bickhardt, 1920 are closely related genera.

*Key words:* Coleoptera, Histeridae, *larina* n. gen., Tanzania.

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## **Introduction**

The tribe Exosternini is poorly defined. Since MAZUR (1990) redescribed it (structure of antennal club and genitalia), several genera have been transferred and others should be transferred to other tribes, mainly Omalodini and Platysomatini.

The tribe contains many symplesiomor-

phic characters (sensorial foveae of antennal club, elytral striae, aedeagical morphology, position of gonopore, spermathecal morphology, etc.) (ÓHARA, 1994). Autapomorphies of the tribe and the genera should be determined since due to the diverse structure of their aedeagi, there are polyphyletical genera.

Several Afrotropical genera were not included in DESBORDES' key (1922) of Afri-

can exosternine genera: *Asolenus* Lewis, 1906, *Aspidolister* Bickhardt, 1920, *Catacraerus* Bickhardt, 1920. Since the publication by Desbordes some new Afro-tropical genera have been described: *Platysomatinus* Mazur, 1972 and *Canarinus* Mazur, 1993. Sometimes the old genera were vaguely described. Genus *Diabletes* Reichardt, 1933 has recently been transferred from the tribe Platysomatini to the tribe Exosternini (YÉLAMOS & KANAAR, in press).

In an attempt to place the present material into an exosternine genus, the confusion between genera *Xenosternus* Bickhardt, 1911 and *Catacraerus* became clear. The main distinctive character between the two genera is the S-shaped tarsal groove (*Catacraerus*), but this is not easy to observe in small species, adding further confusion to the description of this tribe.

#### ***Iarina* n. gen.**

Frontal stria fine, complete behind head, ending on epistoma; antennal club without transverse sutures. Pronotum rather narrowed in front, with anterior angles directed downwards; marginal stria distinct in overview, in dorsal position; antescutellar area with a small shallow impression. Elytra with crenulate striae; first dorsal stria somewhat shortened on apex; second, third and sutural striae complete, third stria arcuate on base, almost joined to basal arch of sutural stria; fourth, fifth and subhumeral striae lacking; marginal and epipleural striae complete. Propygidium slightly shorter than pygidium. Pygidium not visible in overview. Prosternal lobe prominent, with a marginal stria; keel emarginate on base, with two inner striae, subparallel on all the surface; outer striae cariniform, complete, joined to other striae parallel to base of lobe. Mesosternum short, with a basal projection fitted into prosternum; marginal stria lacking; lateral stria complete,

directed to prosternum in the middle; meso-metasternal suture with a stria curved toward prosternum in the middle, formed by a fine stria and elongate punctures, joined to the lateral metasternal stria on sides, very short; transverse arched stria near apex; metepisternal stria complete; postcoxal stria very short. Post-metacoxal striae basal very short. Protibiae with fine denticles; tarsal grooves shallow. Male eighth abdominal tergite short; eighth sternite narrow, very long, recurved, horn-shaped; ninth abdominal tergite weakly sclerotized and short; spiculum gastrale Y-shaped; aedeagus somewhat shorter than the eighth segment; basal piece short, cylindrical; parameres wide, depressed, recurved near base, gradually recurved toward apex.

Type species: *Iarina tanzanica* n. sp.

Etymology: The generic name is an euphonious combination of letters with no meaning. Its gender is feminine.

Diagnosis: The generic autapomorphies cannot be specified yet. It differs from genera *Epitoxus*, *Exosternus*, *Probolosternus* and *Adelopygus* because these genera have the propygidium longer than pygidium, metasternum and genitalia different (DESBORDES, 1922). The differences in relation to genus *Asolenus* are mainly based on the morphology of elytra, mesosternum and metasternum. It may be distinguished from genus *Catacraerus* by having different morphology of head, sides of pronotum, elytral striae, prosternum and metasternum. Genera *Xenosternus* and *Anaglymma* have the propygidium flat, of lower length than its half width, clearly longer than its half width in the new genus. By its general appearance, it seems more related to genus *Xenosternus* (BICKHARDT, 1911), whereas *Anaglymma* have a very depressed body, besides other morphological differences. It may be easily distinguished from genus *Aspidolister* (BICKHARDT, 1920) by the different morphology of protibiae.

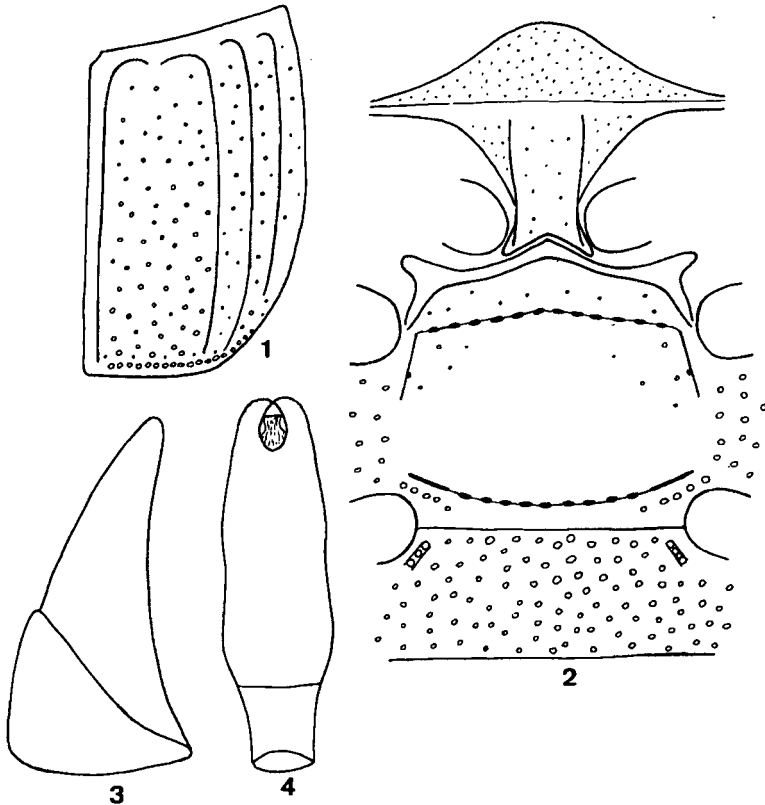
*larina tanzanica* n. sp. (figs. 1-4)

Description: colour dark brown, with legs and antennae reddish and shiny; body elongate oval, convex.

Mandibles finely and densely punctured; labrum short, finely punctured, truncate; epistoma convex, covered with very small and dense punctules; frons convex, with puncturation as on epistoma, but sparser; frontal stria with a hind trait

fine, complete and slightly arcuate; two lateral traits deeper, straight near eyes; two fore straight traits, fine, not joined in front; antennae long; scape weakly re-curved, very enlarged and rugose; funicle short, yellowish; antennal club with two apical sutures, straight, on upper side, with an additional short trait of a third suture on lower side; eyes normal.

Pronotum convex, narrowed in front, with anterior angles directed downward;



Figs. 1-4. *larina tanzanica* n. sp.: 1. Right elytron; 2. Discal area of prosternum, mesosternum, metasternum and first abdominal sternite; 3. Eighth abdominal segment, in lateral view; 4. Aedeagus, in ventral view. (Scale in mm.)

*larina tanzanica* sp.n.: 1. Élitro derecho; 2. Área discal de prosterno, mesosterno, metasterno y primer esternito abdominal; 3. Octavo segmento abdominal, vista dorsal; 4. Edeago, vista ventral. (Escala en mm.)

marginal stria complete, in dorsal position, visible in overview; surface covered with deep, small and sparse punctures, smaller and sparser on sides; antescutellar area with a small and shallow impression. Elytra long and convex, slightly wider than pronotum, gradually narrowed toward apex; apex of elytra truncate; striae crenulate; first stria weakly shortened on apex; second, third and sutural striae complete, third with a wide basal arch, almost joined to the arch of the sutural stria (fig. 1); fourth, fifth and subhumeral striae lacking; marginal and epipleural striae complete, cariniform; surface covered with deep and sparse punctures, denser between third and sutural striae, apex with several aligned punctures, partially coalescent, similar to an apical stria; sides and epipleurae smooth.

Propygidium convex, slightly shorter than pygidium, with deep puncturation denser than on pronotum. Pygidium with fine and weakly dense puncturation.

Prosternal lobe wide and prominent, with sparse punctures; marginal stria complete; keel emarginate on base, with two inner subparallel striae, not joined together on apex; outer striae cariniform, complete, joined to other striae parallel to base of lobe. Mesosternum short, with a medial projection fitted into prosternum; marginal stria lacking; lateral stria complete, ending on mesocoxae, in the middle directed in front; surface scarcely punctured; meso-metasternal suture with a stria arcuate in front, composed of a fine stria and elongate punctures, joined to a short trait of lateral metasternal stria. Metasternal disc convex and smooth; postcoxal stria very short, like lateral stria; metepisternal stria complete; sides and mesepimeron coarsely and densely foveate; apex with a transverse arcuate stria symmetrical to the stria of meso-metasternal suture, passing between the metacoxae, composed of a fine stria and elongate granules, with fine punctures between this stria and each metacoxae (fig. 2).

First abdominal sternite covered en-

tirely with the same puncturation as on metasternal sides; post-metacoxal striae very short, only formed by three coalescent punctures. Suture between the first and the second abdominal sternites straight.

Legs of normal length, not expanded; profemora flat on lower side, densely punctured, as well as a stria on anterior margin; lower side of meso- and meta-femora smooth, with a stria on posterior margin; protibiae with grooves not deep, with five denticles on outer margin; meso- and metatibiae spinose; lower side of protibiae with a stria on anterior margin; lower side of meso- and metatibiae with a stria on posterior margin; tarsi normal.

Male eighth abdominal tergite short; eighth abdominal sternite fitted into the tergite, very long, apically narrowed, only joined together on base, with general horn-shaped appearance, recurved (fig. 3); ninth abdominal tergite weakly sclerotized, short, with long and narrow basal expansions, and two apical denticles; spiculum gastrale short and wide, weakly sclerotized, medially narrowed, expanded and rounded on base; apex wider, Y-shaped; aedeagus long and wide; basal piece very short, cylindrical; parameres rather wider, depressed, recurved near base, gradually narrowed toward apex; parameres not joined on apex (fig. 4).

Maximum length (head, propygidium and pygidium excluded) 1.4 mm

Maximum width 0.9 mm

#### Type material

Holotype male, labeled /AMANI, Est Usambara TANZANIA, Illum 03.02.1993 X. CARBONELL LEG. /. Deposited in the collection of the Zoology Museum of Barcelona.

#### Comments

It was collected with a light trap in the rainy season at an altitude of 1,000 m.

#### Etymology

Specific name derived from Tanzania.

## Resumen

*Iarina* género nuevo de la región afro-tropical (Coleoptera, Histeridae)

Se describe el género *Iarina* (Coleoptera, Histeridae, Exosternini) de Tanzania. Las principales diferencias en relación a los géneros *Epitoxus*, *Exosternus*, *Probolosternus* y *Adelopygus* están basadas en la longitud relativa del propigidio y pigidio, así como por la morfología del metasterno y de la genitalia. Diferencias respecto a otros géneros: *Asolenus* (morfología elitral, meso- y metasternal); *Catacraerus* (morfología de la cabeza, pronoto, estrías elitrales, prosterno y metasterno); *Anaglymma* (cuerpo muy deprimido); *Aspidolister* (morfología de las protibias); *Xenosternus* (morfología del propigidio).

El nuevo género presenta una peculiar característica del mesosterno y del metasterno (fig. 2): sutura meso-metasternal con una estría arqueada, compuesta de punteado alargado y otra estría similar en el ápice metasternal, con una área lisa entre ambas estrías que contrasta con el resto de la zona esternal que es densamente punteado.

También cabe destacar la peculiar morfología elitral (fig.1) del octavo segmento abdominal de los machos (fig. 3) y del eidego (fig. 4).

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