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On the distribution of some African species of *Diplocladus* Fairmaire
and *Strotocera* Schenkling (Coleoptera: Cleridae: Tillinae)

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Abstract. Twelve new country records are presented for *Diplocladus compactus* Gerstmeier and Weiss, 2009, *D. louvelii* (Spinola, 1844), *D. oculicollis* (Fairmaire, 1885), *D. rufus* (Pic, 1953) *Strotocera brevefasciata* Gerstmeier and Weiss, 2009, and *S. emerita* (Péringuey, 1899) and the distribution of *S. chicoi* Gerstmeier and Weiss, 2009, is corrected.

Introduction

Gerstmeier and Weiss (2009) revised and redescribed the members of the almost exclusively African genera *Diplocladus* Fairmaire and *Strotocera* Schenkling (Coleoptera: Cleridae: Tillinae). Having recently reviewed unidentified material from the Carnegie Museum of Natural History (CMNH) and the Florida State Collection of Arthropods (FSCA), the distributions for several of these revised species are expanded, including new country records, and the specimen data are presented below. Additionally, a correction is applied to the distribution of *S. chicoi* Gerstmeier and Weiss.

Specimens of various *Strotocera* species could not be identified to species even after consultation with the revising author (Gerstmeier, *in litt.*; regarding Gerstmeier and Weiss, 2009), who commented on the intraspecific variation of these difficult species and that specimens of these genera are few in collections. The depositories of the specimens referenced herein are recognized by the following collection codens:

CMNH	Carnegie Museum of Natural History (Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, USA)
FSCA	Florida State Collection of Arthropods (Gainesville, Florida, USA)
HNHM	Hungarian Natural History Museum (Budapest, Hungary)
IRSNB	Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique (Brussels, Belgium)
UFBI	Università di Firenze (Firenze, Italy)
WOPC	Weston Opitz collection (Salina, Kansas) [currently being donated in parts to FSCA]

***Diplocladus compactus* Gerstmeier and Weiss, 2009**

Distribution Records for *Diplocladus compactus* Gerstmeier and Weiss. Cameroon: 5kmE of Ndokayo, 6-7 March 1972, filtered black light, J. A. Gruwell, HOMOTYPE *Diplophorus pulcher* Schenkling [Opitz label] (WOPC; 1).

Discussion of *Diplocladus compactus*. Cameroon, **new country record**, is added to the distribution of *D. oculicollis*, which was previously only known by the holotype. The specimen herein was erroneously considered by Opitz to be homotypic of *Diplophorus pulcher* Schenkling.

***Diplocladus louvelii* (Spinola, 1844)**

Distribution Records for *Diplocladus louvelii* (Spinola). Aethiopia or., Prov. Hararge, Bisidimo, 1500 m., Verena Meyer leg., XII.1984 (HNHM; 1); at light, Botswana (B11), Moremi Reserve, 19° 23'S,

23° 33'E, 18-20.iv.1972, Southern African Exp. B. M. 1972-1, HOMOTYPE *Strotocera subnigra* Pic [Opitz label], HOMOTYPE *Callitheres louvelii* Spinola [Opitz label] (WOPC; 1).

Discussion of *Diplocladus louvelii*. Botswana and Ethiopia, **new country records**, are included in the distribution of *D. louvelii*.

***Diplocladus oculicollis* (Fairmaire, 1885)**

Distribution Records for *Diplocladus oculicollis* (Fairmaire). Botswana (Afr.), Gaborone, 22-28 Jan. 1988, R. D. Ward, Coll., Robert D. Ward Collection, donated 1989 (CMNH; 1); Kenya, SE 12.12 VOI 2007, S Foot Sagala Mts., lgt. Snizek. (IRSNB; 1).

Discussion of *Diplocladus oculicollis*. Botswana and Kenya, **new country records**, are included in the distribution of *D. oculicollis*.

***Diplocladus rufus* (Pic, 1953)**

Distribution Records for *Diplocladus rufus* (Pic). Kenya: Kilifi distr., Arabuko Sokoke Forest Reserve (20 km S of Malindi), legit L. Bartolozzi, B. Cecchi, A. Sforzi, 21.V-7.VI.1994 (UFBI; 1); Zimbabwe: Matopos National Park, 8-9- Nov 1989, Pete Cresswell (CMNH; 1); [South Africa:] Hluhluwe, 4-15-Oct. 1947, H. van Son (WOPC; 1); [country unknown] Wylie's Port, 9-XI-1920, C. J. Swierstra (WOPC; 1).

Discussion of *Diplocladus rufus*. Gerstmeier and Weiss (2009) only referenced the holotype and three other specimens. These specimens represent a considerable contribution to our knowledge of this large and ostentatious species and expand the known distribution to include Kenya and Zimbabwe, **new country records**.

Gerstmeier and Weiss (2009) redescribed *D. rufus* as having the legs with "femora reddish brown, tibiae and tarsi dark brown." The specimens examined in the present work have legs ranging from entirely reddish (as the bright elytra and thorax) with only hints of terminal infuscation in the tibiae and tarsi to nearly entirely black legs only hinting at dark reddish coloration in the tarsi.

***Strotocera brevefasciata* Gerstmeier and Weiss, 2009**

Distribution Records for *Strotocera brevefasciata* Gerstmeier and Weiss. Kenya: Kilifi distr., Arabuko Sokoke Forest Reserve (20 km S of Malindi), legit L. Bartolozzi, B. Cecchi, A. Sforzi, 21.V-7.VI.1994 (UFBI; 1); Zimbabwe: West Nicholson, Nov. 28, 1990, L. Stange-R. Miller, at light (FSCA; 1).

Discussion of *Strotocera brevefasciata*. Kenya and Zimbabwe, **new country records**, are included in the distribution of *S. brevefasciata*.

***Strotocera chicoi* Gerstmeier and Weiss, 2009**

Discussion of *Strotocera chicoi* Gerstmeier and Weiss. Gerstmeier and Weiss (2009) accidentally listed only Kenya (the locality of the paratype) for the distribution of *S. chicoi* when, in fact, the holotype was collected from Ethiopia. The inclusion of Ethiopia to the distribution of this species should be considered a correction. However, Gerstmeier and Weiss (2009) included all localities accurately in the figured distribution map.

***Strotocera emerita* (Péringuey, 1899)**

Distribution Records for *Strotocera emerita* (Péringuey). Bechuanaland (N'Gamiland?), March-April 1965 (data suspect) (CMNH; 1); Malawi: Chitipa District Jembya Reserve, 18km SSE Chisenga. 10-08S, 33-27E, 1870m. 1-10 Jan 1989, J. Rawlins, S. Thompson (CMNH; 1); Somalia, Gelib Alessandra, 1937.F.BIGI (WOPC; 1).

Discussion of *Strotocera emerita*. Malawi and Somalia, **new country records**, are added to the known distribution. Assuming the data from the other specimen is correct (the label reads “data suspect”) then the distribution of *S. emerita* also includes Botswana (Ngamiland), **new country record**.

Other Specimens

One WOPC specimen labeled “HOMOTYPE *Strotocera nitida* Schenkling” by Opitz exhibits a weak yellow macula in the basal third of the lateral elytra. This characteristic suggests that it is instead *S. rufobasalis* Gerstmeier and Weiss. However, this specimen is almost entirely brown, perhaps a paler form of *S. rufobasalis* not discussed in the original description, and Gerstmeier (*in litt.*) could not confirm the identification. If indeed this specimen is *S. rufobasalis* then Ghana would be added to its known distribution as a new country record. Ghana: Bimbilla (Wulensi), 2 September 1971, filtered black light, J. A. Cromwell, HOMOTYPE *Strotocera nitida* Schenkling [Opitz label] (WOPC; 1). This specimen will most likely be donated to the FSCA as is often the case with Opitz' material.

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