

# A new species of *Coelocraera* (Coleoptera: Histeridae) from Ruanda

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The new species *Coelocraera tuberiventer* is described and figured. Its position within the genus *Coelocraera* is discussed.

## Introduction

The myrmecophilous beetle genus *Coelocraera* Marseul, 1857, belongs to the subfamily Histerinae, tribe Exosternini, and is limited to tropical Africa. At present ten species are recognized in this genus, but a more systematic exploration of ants' nests in Africa undoubtedly will raise the number of species. The close relationship of this genus with the genera *Coproxenus* Lewis, 1897, and *Paratropus* Gerstaecker, 1867, is discussed in a revision of the latter genus (Kanaar, in press). In the scope of this revision a single specimen from Ruanda was studied that after some hesitation was attributed to the genus *Coelocraera* and that appeared to be new to science. The terminology used in the following description is the same as in the above-mentioned revision and is there explained.

## Description

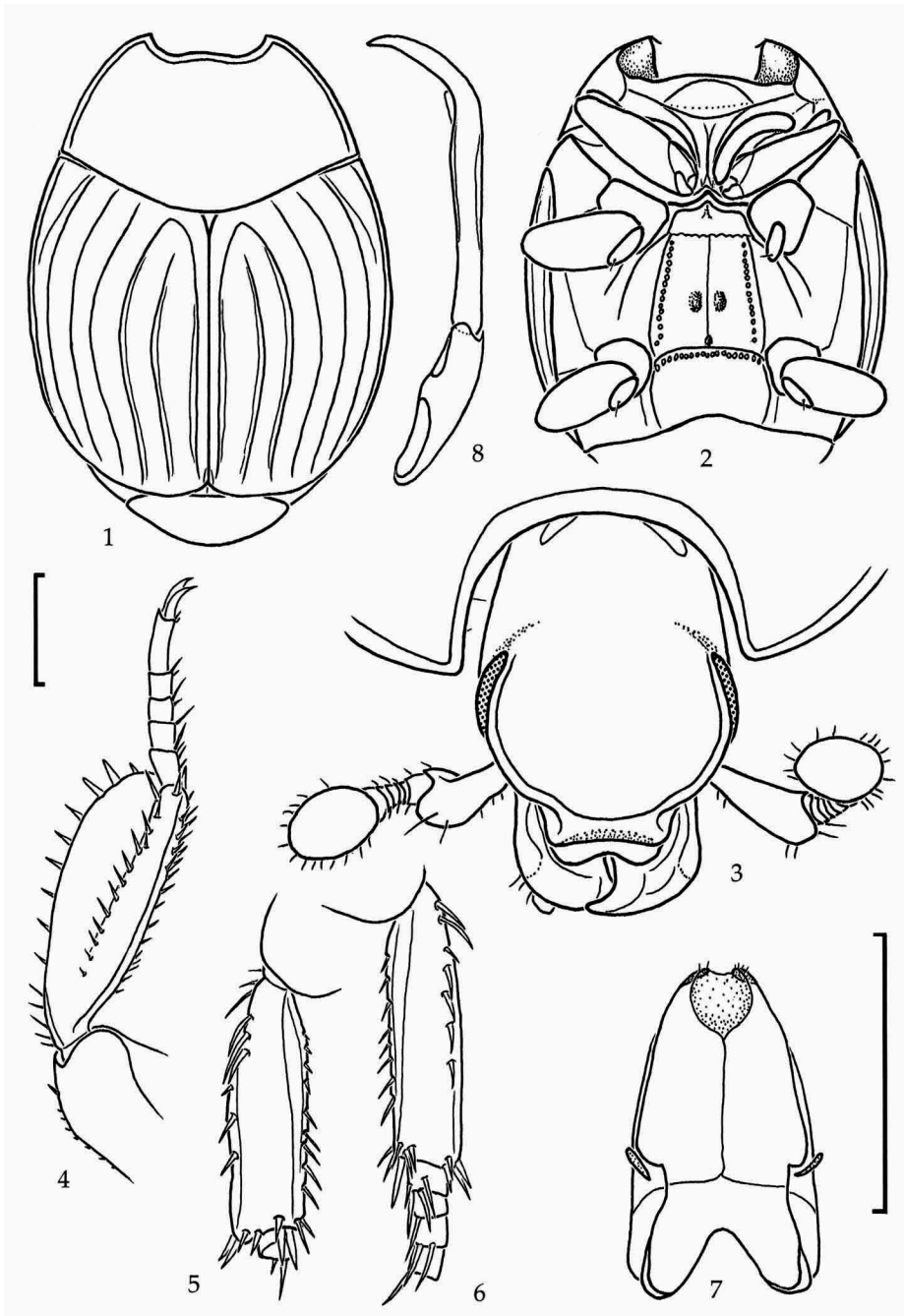
*Coelocraera tuberiventer* spec. nov.  
(figs 1-8)

Material.— **Ruanda:** Holotype, ♂ (Musée Royal de l'Afrique centrale, Tervuren, MRAC), left middle leg but for the trochanter and many tarsal segments missing, [white label, printed:] "♂"; [white label, printed:] "I.R.S.A.C.- MUS. CONGO/ Ruanda: Forêt Rugege/ 2100 m. III-1951/ N. Leleup"; [white label, written in Thérond's hand:] "*Paratropus*/ sp. ?"; [red label, printed and handwritten:] "HOLO-TYPUS/ *Coelocraera*/ *tuberiventer*/ sp. n./ P. Kanaar des. 1995".

Length (without head, propygidium and pygidium) 2.0 mm, width 1.7 mm, height 1.1 mm; shape oval, moderately convex, dull shiny by intense shagreening. Colour brown, legs, antennae and pygidium ferruginous.

Head (fig. 3).— Clypeus transversely concave, in marked angle with front. Frontal stria complete, distinct, rounded, slightly sinuous behind lateral sides of clypeus, front not impressed. Vertex slightly convex, with distinct, moderately dense double punctation, the secondary points barely visible in the dense interstitial microreticulation. Eyes little protuberant in dorsal view, supraorbital striae divergent to the front, occipital stria absent.

Pronotum (fig. 1).— About 1.8 times wider than long in the median line, moderately convex; at either side a large shallow impression is present at some distance posteromedial of the anterolateral angles, which are not impressed. No antescutellar impression. Anterior emargination deep, slightly bisinuous in dorsal view. Lateral



Figs 1-8, *Coelocraera tuberventer* spec. nov., ♂ holotype. Fig. 1, dorsal view (in part); fig. 2, ventral view (in part); fig. 3, head (dorsal view); fig. 4, left protibia (inner face); fig. 5, right mesotibia (outer face); fig. 6, left metatibia (outer face); fig. 7, eighth sternite, ventral view; fig. 8, aedeagus, right lateral view. Scale lines 0.5 mm; left figs 1-2, right figs 3-8.

striae fine, continuous with complete anterior stria. Marginal striae indistinct by microreticulation, ascending above the antennal fossae. Pronotal disc with a distinct, moderately dense double punctation, the primary points gradually smaller towards sides and anterior margin, the secondary points barely visible in the interstitial microreticulation.

Elytra (fig. 1) with sparse punctulation, interspaces intensely shagreened by microreticulation. Marginal epipleural striae and epipleural striae well visible, the latter impressed. Marginal elytral striae ending near the posterolateral elytral angles. External subhumeral striae complete, slightly cariniform. Course of the other punctato-crenulate striae: fig. 1. Fourth, fifth and sutural striae slightly broadened, having a geminate appearance.

Propygidium and pygidium with scarce punctulation and dense interstitial microreticulation like the elytra. Marginal stria of pygidium very fine and ill-visible within the microreticulation.

Prosternum (fig. 2).— Finely punctate, points almost invisible by intense microreticulation. Lobe of average length, strongly deflexed, rounded in front, with well impressed complete marginal stria, that is broadly sulciform towards base. Prosternal keel slightly convex in lateral view, carinal striae fine, divergent both anteriorly and posteriorly, more or less fused in the median part. Lateral prosternal striae very short, basal. Lateral marginal prosternal striae deep, from the base divergent anteriorly.

Meso- and metasternum.— Striation: fig. 2; meso- and metasternal discs sparsely punctulate, the interspaces with distinct microreticulation. Inner lateral metasternal striae sulciform, at their medial side accompanied by a row of points. Metasternal disc with a distinct elevation at either side of the median line near the middle; metasternum depressed between these elevations. Moreover, there is a small median tubercle at the hind margin. Parts of metasternum lateral from the inner lateral metasternal striae with distinct, moderately sparse points (not shown in the figure), about equal in size to the points along the inner lateral metasternal striae.

First visible abdominal sternite with a basal row of points, and a scarce punctulation in a densely microreticulated background. Posterior margin without row of points.

Protibiae (fig. 4) barely broadened, middle- and hindtibiae (figs 5-6) parallel, their upper margins with long yellow hairs instead of spines.

Aedeagus.— Fig. 8; eighth sternite: fig. 7.

Etymology.— The name of this species refers to the tuberos metasternum.

### Discussion

Female unknown. It might be that the metasternal elevations at either side of the median line are mere male characters. By the absence of the occipital stria, the peculiar form of the middle and hind-tibiae and the queerly shaped metasternum this species cannot be placed within the genus *Paratropus*. On the other hand it does not show the deep sulciform external subhumeral striae and the cariniform dorsal interstriae of the type-species *Coelocraera costifera* Marseul, 1857. However, Dégallier (1983), in his study of the genera *Coelocraera* Marseul, 1857, and *Coproxenus* Lewis, 1897, did not attach much weight to these characters, as they appear to vary from one species to

another. The clypeus of the new species has a marked angle with the front, a character that is constant in all known *Coelocraera* species as stressed by Dégallier. Dégallier's key (1983) can be adapted as follows to insert the new species:

1. Stries et interstries élytrales ne formant pas des carènes élevées; strie subhumérale ne formant pas un profond sillon ..... 1bis
- 1'. Stries et interstries élytrales formant des carènes élevées; strie subhumérale formant un profond sillon ..... 3
- 1bis. Disque du métasternum sans 5 stries longitudinales .....  
..... *Coelocraera tuberiventer* sp. nov.
- 1bis'. Disque du métasternum avec 5 stries longitudinales .....2
2. (et cetera)

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### References

- Dégallier, N., 1983. Étude des genres *Coelocraera* Marseul et *Coproxenus* Lewis (Coleoptera, Histeridae).— *Sociobiology* 8: 137-153.
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