

Studies on the 'agriform' *Anthaxia* from Africa, with the descriptions of four new species (Coleoptera: Buprestidae)

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Abstract. Four new species of *Anthaxia* Eschscholtz, 1829, subgenus *Haplanthaxia* Reitter, 1911, are described and illustrated: *A. (H.) gongeti* sp. nov. from Uganda, *A. (H.) bezdeki* sp. nov. from the Democratic Republic of Congo and Sierra Leone, *A. (H.) libenae* sp. nov. from Guinea, Ivory Coast, Togo and Cameroon, and *A. (H.) eloumdenica* sp. nov. from Cameroon. All the described species belong to the 'agriform' morphological type of Afrotropical *Haplanthaxia* and are compared with the most similar species. A new species group, *Anthaxia gianfrancoi* Bílý, 2000 species group, is established. An identification key for the species of *Anthaxia gianfrancoi* species group, *A. rothkirchi* Obenberger, 1922 species group and *A. atomaria* Obenberger, 1922 species group is presented.

Key words. Taxonomy, new species, species groups, Coleoptera, Buprestidae, *Anthaxia*, *Haplanthaxia*, Afrotropical region

Introduction

The subgenus *Haplanthaxia* Reitter, 1911, of the genus *Anthaxia* Eschscholtz, 1829, was established by REITTER (1911) for three species from Central Europe: *Anthaxia cichorii* (Olivier, 1790), *A. millefolii* (Fabricius, 1801) and *A. inculta* (Germar, 1817) (junior synonym of *A. umbellatarum* (Fabricius, 1787)). According to BÍLÝ (1997), the subgenus *Haplanthaxia* comprises 310 species and 28 subspecies distributed in the Palaearctic, Oriental, Afrotropical, and Nearctic regions.

BÍLÝ (1997) listed 132 African species and subspecies within *Haplanthaxia*. Additional seven species from Africa were recently described by BÍLÝ (2000, 2002). Two species groups occurring mainly in Central Africa, *A. rothkirchi* species group and *A. atomaria* species group as defined by Bílý (2000), are characterised by an 'agriform' body shape. According to Bílý (pers. comm. 2006), these species are probably canopy inhabitants.