

A new species of *Cryptarcha* (Coleoptera: Nitidulidae) from Madagascar

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Abstract. *Cryptarcha jenisi* sp. nov. from Madagascar is described and illustrated, and a key to the Madagascan species of *Cryptarcha* Shuckard, 1839, is provided.

Key words. Coleoptera, Nitidulidae, *Cryptarcha*, taxonomy, new species, key, Madagascar

Introduction

Cryptarcha Shuckard, 1839, is a cosmopolitan genus of the subfamily Cryptarchinae of the family Nitidulidae. Despite recent systematic developments by JELÍNEK (1974) and KIREJTSHUK (1981, 1987, 1997), the genus is probably paraphyletic (AUDISIO 1993). One likely monophyletic group within the genus includes species displaying a prosternal process gradually dilated to a subtruncate apex. Judging from conditions in other Cryptarchinae, this character seems to be synapomorphic, and is shared with the type species, *Cryptarcha strigata* (Fabricius, 1787).

Two species of *Cryptarcha* have been known from Madagascar, and were keyed by GROUVELLE (1906): *Cryptarcha klugii* Reitter, 1876, and *C. sicardi* Grouvelle, 1906. KIREJTSHUK (1981) subdivided the Afrotropical and Madagascan species of *Cryptarcha* into four species-groups, unfortunately defined only by the included species. He placed *C. klugii* and *C. sicardi* in the *Cryptarcha strigata* and *C. senegalensis* species-groups, respectively. Nevertheless, both species share a similarly shaped prosternal process and thus seem to be closely related. A third Madagascan species described in this paper, *Cryptarcha jenisi* sp. nov., occupies an isolated position among Afrotropical – Madagascan species of the genus as suggested by the combination of its oblong-oval body, narrow and subparallel-sided prosternal process and a characteristic colour pattern.