

**Revision of the Afrotropical species
of the genus *Mentophilonthus*
(Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Philonthina)**

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Abstract. Afrotropical species of the genus *Mentophilonthus* Levasseur, 1966 (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae) are revised taxonomically. Twenty species are recognized, including six new ones: *M. crocuta* sp. nov. (Ghana), *M. equus* sp. nov. (Malawi), *M. hystrix* sp. nov. (Namibia), *M. manis* sp. nov. (Gabon), *M. struthio* sp. nov. (Sudan, Democratic Republic of the Congo), and *M. vanellus* sp. nov. (Democratic Republic of the Congo). Six species are transferred to *Mentophilonthus* from the genus *Philonthus* Stephens, 1829: *M. curiosus* (Tottenham, 1949) comb. nov., *M. dilucidus* (Tottenham, 1962) comb. nov., *M. ochrighonalis* (Tottenham, 1962) comb. nov., *M. reinecki* (Schubert, 1902) comb. nov., *M. schoutedeni* (Bernhauer, 1928) comb. nov., and *M. tristichus* (Cameron, 1929) comb. nov. *Mentophilonthus bangoranensis* (Levasseur, 1980), syn. nov., is synonymized with *M. ochrighonalis* Tottenham, 1962; *M. seriatipennis* (Bernhauer, 1928), stat. restit. is removed from the synonymy with *M. dilutior* (Bernhauer, 1928). A lectotype is designated for *Philonthus schoutedeni* Bernhauer, 1928 and *P. seriatipennis* Bernhauer, 1928. All species are (re)described and morphological details of some species and aedeagi of all species are figured. A key to Afrotropical species of the genus *Mentophilonthus* is provided. A list of all *Mentophilonthus* species is provided along with their known distribution.

Key words. Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Philonthina, *Mentophilonthus*, taxonomy, new species, new synonymy, new combination, key, Afrotropical Region

Introduction

The philonthine genus *Mentophilonthus* (type species: *Philonthus triseriatus* Bernhauer, 1928) was described by LEVASSEUR (1966), including three Afrotropical species. Three additional species are known from the Oriental region (HROMÁDKA & SCHILLHAMMER 2007). During my recent revisional studies on the genus *Philonthus* Stephens, 1829, eleven further