

**Revision of the Afrotropical species  
of the *Philonthus caffer* species group  
(Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Philonthina)**

Lubomír HROMÁDKA

Anny Letenská 7, CZ-120 00 Praha 2, Czech Republic; e-mail: hromadka@seznam.cz

**Abstract.** The *Philonthus caffer* species group of the genus *Philonthus* Stephens, 1829 is revised. Sixteen species are recognized, three species are described as new: *Philonthus aonyx* sp. nov. (Ethiopia), *Philonthus bucorvus* sp. nov. (Malawi), and *P. falco* sp. nov. (Madagascar). The remaining 13 species are redescribed: *P. aminius* Tottenham, 1955, *P. biguttulus* Fauvel, 1907, *P. caffer* Boheman, 1848, *P. cliens* Eppelsheim, 1890, *P. combustus* Fauvel, 1907, *P. gabonensis* Levasseur, 1966, *P. iridicollis* Bernhauer, 1932, *P. kenyanus* Bernhauer, 1939, *P. leptophilus* Hromádka, 2006, *P. limbipennis* Fauvel, 1905, *P. maridadus* Tottenham, 1962, *P. sequens* Bernhauer & Schubert, 1914, and *P. tomicus* Tottenham, 1962. The lectotype of *P. limbipennis* Fauvel, 1905 is designated. An identification key to all species of the species group is provided, and male genitalia and significant morphological characters are illustrated.

**Key words.** Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Philonthina, *Philonthus caffer* species group, taxonomy, new species, key, Afrotropical Region

### Introduction

The genus *Philonthus* Stephens, 1829 is represented in Afrotropical Region by approximately 300 known species divided in six species groups defined by TOTTENHAM (1949) and HROMÁDKA (2008a). The *P. abyssinus* and *P. peripateticus* species groups were recently revised by HROMÁDKA (2008a,b). The present study follows these previous studies by providing the revision of the species belonging to the *P. caffer* species group. Until present, thirteen species have been described within this species group. All species are distributed in the Afrotropical Region and in Madagascar, with the only species, *P. cliens* Eppelsheim, 1890, reaching the Oriental Region (India). Three new species from Ethiopia, Malawi and Madagascar are described within this paper.