

## On the South African genus *Heisonyx* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Entiminae)

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**Abstract.** Six new species of the genus *Heisonyx* Marshall, 1947 from South Africa (*H. barclayi* sp. nov., *H. danielssoni* sp. nov., *H. fuscus* sp. nov., *H. giustocaroli* sp. nov., *H. hexarthrum* sp. nov., and *H. jelineki* sp. nov.) are described, illustrated and keyed. The genus is redescribed and its taxonomic position is briefly discussed. *Heisonyx* and *Lalagetes* Schoenherr, 1842 are newly transferred from the Oosomini Lacordaire, 1863 to the Embrithini Marshall, 1942. Male and female genitalia of *Heisonyx* are studied and illustrated for the first time.

**Key words.** Coleoptera, Curculionidae, Entiminae, *Heisonyx*, South Africa, taxonomy, new species

### Introduction

The present knowledge of the Curculionidae from southern Africa (i.e., Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique south of the Zambezi river, South Africa, Swaziland and Lesotho) is still at the very beginning, even if there are many entomologists active in South Africa and collections in some local natural history museums and universities available for study. In spite of the large number of species of weevils that can be collected in this area (E. Colonnelli and G. Osella, pers. observ.), only a limited number of them have been named or indicated from the region to date (e.g., OBERPRIELER 1988). It means that most of them await description.

One reason that might have prevented intensive work on the weevil fauna of this region is the scattering of the types among various European museums. To have all of them simultaneously available for a direct comparison is essential, since many of the species are very closely related, and even long descriptions are often useless. This is particularly true for the broad-nosed weevils of the subfamily Entiminae. Among them, the genus *Heisonyx* Marshall, 1947, from the tribe Embrithini had only a single species, *H. vitticollis* Marshall, 1947, but three undescribed species of the genus were collected by two of us (L. Colonnelli and G.