

**Five new *Philonthus* species
(Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Philonthina)
from the Afrotropical region**

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Abstract. Five new species of the genus *Philonthus* Stephens, 1829 (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae) are described: *Philonthus jelineki* sp. nov. (Republic of South Africa), *Philonthus jelinekianus* sp. nov. (Nigeria), *Philonthus loxodonta* sp. nov. (Republic of South Africa), *Philonthus phacochoerus* sp. nov. (Liberia) and *Philonthus tragelaphus* sp. nov. (Republic of South Africa). All species are described, illustrated and compared with related species.

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

Introduction

The genus *Philonthus* Stephens, 1829 is represented by approximately 300 species in the Afrotropical Region. Six species groups were defined for Afrotropical species by TOTTENHAM (1949) and HROMÁDKA (2008a). I have revised the *Philonthus abyssinus*, *P. caffer*, *P. nigriceps*, *P. peripateticus* and *P. turbidus* species groups (HROMÁDKA 2008a,b,c; 2009a,c), and transferred some species originally described as *Philonthus* to *Mentophilonthus* (HROMÁDKA 2009b).

In this study, five new species of Afrotropical *Philonthus* are described. Based on external characters and morphology of genitalia, it is not possible to affiliate any of these new species to the species groups mentioned above.

Material and methods

The following acronyms are used to refer to the collections mentioned:

- BMNH Natural History Museum, London, United Kingdom (Max Barclay and Roger Booth);
- FMNH Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, USA (James Boone);
- LHPC Lubomír Hromádka collection, Praha, Czech Republic;
- NMPC National Museum, Praha, Czech Republic (Jiří Hájek).