

***Thorictus johni* sp. nov. from Nigeria
(Coleoptera: Dermestidae: Thorictini)**

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Abstract. The new species *Thorictus johni* sp. nov. from Nigeria is described, illustrated and compared with similar species belonging to the *Thorictus orientalis* species group.

INTRODUCTION

The subfamily Thorictinae includes two tribes: Thorictini and Thaumaphrastini. The tribe Thorictini contains three genera *Afrothorictus* Andreae, 1967, *Macrothorictus* Andreae, 1967 and *Thorictus* Germar, 1834. The genus *Thorictus* Germar, 1834 contains about 158 species and subspecies worldwide (Háva 2003, 2010). The first catalogue of the Thorictinae was published by Hetschko & Wasmann (1925) and supplemented by Hetschko (1926, 1930). The revision of the tribe Thorictini from the Afrotropical region was published by John & Andreae (1967) and Andreae (1967); further new species were described by Háva & Lackner (2005) from Benin and by Háva & Lenoir (2008) from Burkina Faso.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The following abbreviations refer to the collection where the examined material is deposited:

BMNH British Museum Natural History [= The Natural History Museum], London,
United Kingdom;

JHAC author's collections.

The following measurements were made:

BL body length (measured from the head anterior margin to the apex of the elytra).

BW body width (measured between two anterolateral humeral calli).

PL pronotum length (measured from the top of the anterior margin to scutellum).

PW pronotum width (measured between the two posterior angles of pronotum).

All measurements are given in millimeters.

Male genitalia were not studied. Differential diagnoses of aedeagi are often problematical and interspecific variation is currently very poorly defined (John, 1963). The two species groups were stated by John (1963).

DESCRIPTION

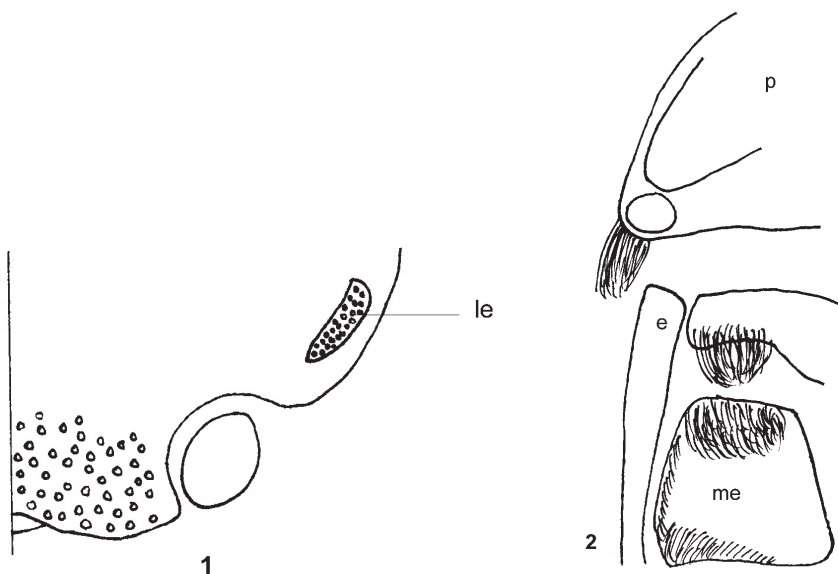
Genus *Thorictus* Germar, 1834

Thorictus johni sp. nov.

(Figs 1-2)

Type material. Holotype (not sexed): „N. Nigeria, Kano, nr. Nguru, viii.1949, R. W. Howe“ \ „com. Inst. Ent., coll. No. 11391“ \ „from stored groundnuts“; (BMNH). Paratypes (6 spec.): the same data as holotype, (4 BMNH, 2 JHAC). Type specimens provided with label: „HOLOTYPE (or PARATYPE, respectively) *Thorictus johni* sp. n. Jiří Háva det. 2008“; [printed, red label].

Description of holotype. Body small, brown, covered by very short, yellow setae on dorsal and ventral surfaces. Measurements (mm): BL 1.95 BW 1.02 PL 0.75 PW 1.02. Head finely punctate with very short yellow setae. Labial palpi entirely brown. Antennae brown, with 11 antennomeres, antennal club compact, with 3 antennomeres. Pronotum as finely punctate as head, covered by short yellow setation. Lateral margin of pronotum very finely dentate. Pronotum in posterior part near scutellum without bumps. Ventral posterior pronotal angles with long setation. Scutellum very small and not visible from above. Elytra very finely punctate, bump with foveate-reticulate punctures. Each elytron in anterior part near scutellum with one large bump. Epipleuron finely punctate, anterior angles without setation.



Figs 1-2. *Thorictus johni* sp. nov.: 1- head; 2- ventral aspect of pronotum, epipleuron, metepisternum (le- lateral eyes, e- epipleuron, p- pronotum, me- metepisternum).

Metepisternum with yellow setation on anterior part (the setation is long and forms large tuft); on posterior and lateral parts, the setation is short and decumbent. Prosternum finely punctate. Mesosternum with foveolate punctures. Metasternum finely punctate. Visible abdominal sternites very finely punctate, covered by very short yellow setae. Legs brown, covered by yellow setae.

Variability. Body measurements (mm): BL 1.95-2.07 BW 1.02-1.07 PL 0.75-0.8 PW 1.02-1.07.

Differential diagnosis. The new species belongs to the “*T. orientalis* species group” defined by (John, 1963), and is visually similar to *Thorictus beninensis* Háva & Lackner, 2005, but differs from it by the form of lateral eyes on head (Fig. 1), pronotal ventral pubescence and metepisternal pubescence (Fig. 2). *T. beninensis*: metepisternum without pubescence on lateral and posterior parts; lateral eyes on head is oval.

Name derivation. Patronymic, the species name is dedicated in memoriam to Dr. Hans John, a specialist in Thorictinae and Discolomidae.

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