

**A new species of *Gabronthus* Tottenham, 1955 from Republic of South Africa
(Coleoptera: Staphilinidae: Philonthina)**

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Abstract. *Gabronthus polemaetus* sp. nov. from the Republic of South Africa is described, illustrated and compared with a similar species *G. allardi* Levasseur, 1964.

INTRODUCTION

The philonthine genus *Gabronthus* Tottenham, 1955 with its type species *G. maritimus* (Motschulsky, 1858) originally described as *Gabrius maritimus*, including 39 species, belongs to the tribe Staphylinini and is distributed in all the major zoogeographical regions. Nineteen species of the genus have still been known from the Afrotropical Region. The genus is closely allied to *Gabrius* Stephens, 1829, but is easily distinguished from them by the following characters: labial palpi with penultimate palpomere much broader than the last one; each pronotum dorsal row consisting of five punctures; head longer than wide, usually somewhat quadrate, eyes small; size very small, not exceeding 5.5 mm.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The following acronyms are used to refer to the collections mentioned:
FMNH Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, U.S.A. (James Boone);
LHPC Lubomír Hromádka, private collection, Prague, Czech Republic.

A double slash (//) is used to divide information from separate labels attached to the type specimen. All measurements were made on beetles with extended abdomens. All ratios mentioned in the descriptions are dimensionless but can be converted to length as 20 units = 1 mm.

DESCRIPTION

***Gabronthus polemaetus* sp. nov.**
(Figs 1-2)

Type locality. Republic of South Africa: Cape Prov. Knysna Diepwalle.

Type material. Holotype (♂): 'Republic of South Africa: Cape Prov. Knysna, Diepwalle, 12.xii.1981. FMHD # 81-

603, elephant dung, S. Peck, Field Museum // Holotype *Gabronthus polemaetus* sp. nov. Hromádka det. 2012, [red oblong printed label]', (FMNH). Paratypes (7 spec.): same data as in holotype, (FMNH, LHPC).

Description. Body length 4.2-4.4 mm, length of fore body 2.1-2.2 mm.

Colouration. Head black, pronotum black-brown, head and pronotum slightly violaceous, bluish iridescent, elytra dark brown-red, abdomen anthracite black, clypeus along anterior margin and antennal sockets narrowly yellow-brown, maxillary and labial palpi black-brown, antennomere 1 and base of antennomere 2 brown-yellow, remaining antennomeres black, legs dark brown, all body strongly shiny.

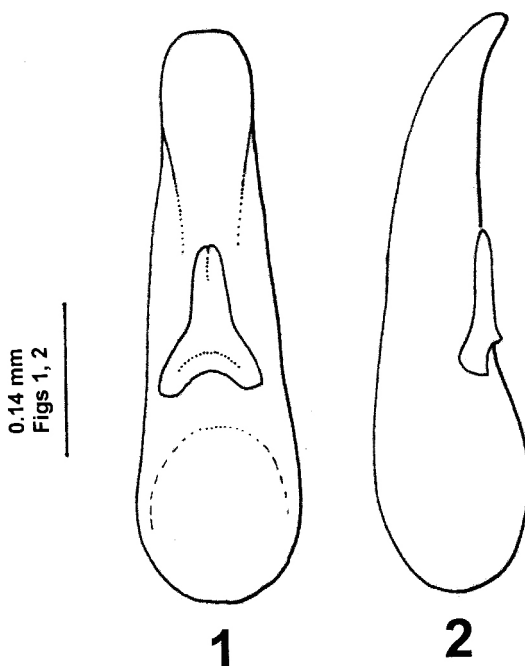
Head quadrate, about as long as wide, with a long and deep furrow in the middle of anterior half, eyes slightly convex and shorter than temples (ratio 5 : 6), between eyes with four coarse punctures, distance between two medial punctures about four times the distance between medial puncture and lateral one, each posterior angle of eye with two punctures, temporal area impunctate, surface with dense and very fine microsculpture of irregular waves.

Antennae long, at last reaching posterior third of pronotum, antennomeres 1-3 and 11 distinctly longer than wide, antennomere 4 as long as wide, antennomeres 5-10 wider than long, antennomere 1 twice longer than antennomere 11, antennomere 2 slightly longer than antennomere 3.

Pronotum distinctly longer than wide (ratio 15 : 13), very slightly narrowed posteriad, each dorsal row with five coarse punctures, equidistant from each other, each sublateral row with 2 coarse punctures, puncture 1 situated on the level between punctures 2 and 3 of dorsal rows, microsculpture similar to that on head.

Scutellum with 5 coarse punctures in the middle, surface without microsculpture.

Elytra longer than wide, (ratio 20 : 18), very slightly widened posteriad, punctuation very coarse and sparse, diameter of punctures much larger than eye-facets, separated by one or two puncture diameters, setation only here and there with separate bristles, surface without microsculpture.



Figs 1-2. *Gabronthus polemaetus* sp. nov.: 1- aedeagus, ventral view; 2- aedeagus, lateral view.

Legs. Metatibia somewhat longer than metatarsus (ratio 11 : 7) metatarsomere 1 shorter than metatarsomere 5, slightly shorter than metatarsomeres 2-3 combined.

Abdomen wide, from visible tergite V slightly narrowed anteriorly and posteriorly, first four visible tergites with two basal lines, elevated area between basal lines impunctate, punctuation on all visible tergites very fine and very sparse, diameter of punctures smaller than eye-facets, punctures separated by a distance equivalent to two puncture diameters or slightly larger, surface without microsculpture and setation.

Differential diagnosis. *Gabronthus polemaetus* sp. nov. may be distinguished from a similar species *G. allardi* Levasseur, 1964 by its wider head, sparser punctuation of elytra and different shape of the aedeagus.

Distribution. Republic of South Africa.

Etymology. The name of this species, a noun in apposition, is the Latin generic name of the African Martial eagle *Polemaetus bellicosus* (Daudin, 1800).

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