

***Neopimus tragardhi* (Fagel, 1961) from KwaZulu-Natal Province,
Republic of South Africa rediscovered
(Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Paederinae)**

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Abstract. *Neopimus tragardhi* (Fagel, 1961), known hitherto only in a holotype from Sweetwaters, KwaZulu-Natal Province, Republic of South Africa, is reported from the Gxalingenwa forest in the Drakensberg Mountains, KwaZulu-Natal Province, Republic of South Africa. The species is illustrated and data on the variability are given.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Neopimus* Özdikmen, Demir & Türkeş, 2008 was recently revised (Janák 2019) and consists of three species. The type species *N. tragardhi* (Fagel, 1961) from KwaZulu-Natal Province in Republic of South Africa was hitherto known only in the holotype. Additional specimens were collected during a research project in South Drakensberg Mountains, KwaZulu-Natal Province and the variability of the species is treated in the present paper.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Dry-mounted specimens were studied under a binocular stereomicroscope MBS 10. Habitus images were taken with a Canon EOS 700D camera in combination with a Canon MP-E65 1-5x macro lens. Images of aedeagi, tergites and sternites were made using a Canon EOS 700D camera mounted on a Motic BA 410E-T compound microscope in diffused reflected or in transmitted light. Resulting images were focus stacked using Zerene Stacker and then post-processed in Paint.Net, Paint, XnView and Live Photogallery.

Measurements were taken with the above mentioned stereomicroscope using ocular scale. Measurements and indices in this study are based on 20 specimens (10 males and 10 females). Body length was measured from the tip of closed mandibles to the end of abdomen, the length of forebody was measured from the tip of closed mandibles to the end of elytra.

Specimens were mounted on card plates using a water-soluble glue. Some males were dissected and male genitalia were glued on the same plate as the specimen or embedded in Euparal.

The following abbreviations are used to indicate the depository of specimens:

JJRC Jiří Janák, private collection, Rtyň nad Bílinou, Czech Republic;
TMSA Ditsong National Museum of Natural History (formerly Transvaal Museum),
Pretoria, Republic of South Africa (Werner Strümpher);
ZMLU Zoological Museum, Lund, Sweden (Christoffer Fägerström).

Other abbreviations: L = length, W = width, HW = width of head, PW = width of pronotum, M = arithmetic mean, R = ratio.

TAXONOMY

Neopimus tragardhi Fagel, 1961

(Figs. 1-11)

Pimus tragardhi Fagel, 1961: 286.

Neopimus tragardhi: Özdikmen, Demir & Türkeş, 2008: 202.

Neopimus tragardhi: Janák, 2019: 202.

Type locality. South Africa, KwaZulu-Natal Province, Sweetwaters.

Type material examined. Holotype (♂): “Sweet-waters, 20.III.1905 // S. Afr. Natal, Ivar Trägårdh // G. Fagel det. 1959, *Pimus Trägårdhi* n. gen. n. sp. // HOLOTYPUS // MZLU, Type no. 3402: 1” (ZMLU).

Additional material. “South Africa, KwaZulu-Natal, Maloti-Drakensberg Park, Mkomazi WA; Gxalingenwa forest; 29°39.2'S 29°25.2'E 1610 m; 15.i.2019, J. Janák lgt.”, “Berlese extraction, leaf & log litter, sifting”, 16 ♂♂, 12 ♀♀, (JJRC, TMSA).

Variability. Specimens collected recently in Gxalingenwa forest are very similar to the holotype even if some measurements and indices of the holotype are at the range of the variability of the species.

Measurements. Body (Fig. 1, Janák 2019: Fig. 16) length 2.9-3.7 mm (M = 3.2 mm, HT = 3.3 mm), forebody length 1.6-1.8 mm (M = 1.7 mm, HT = 1.8 mm).

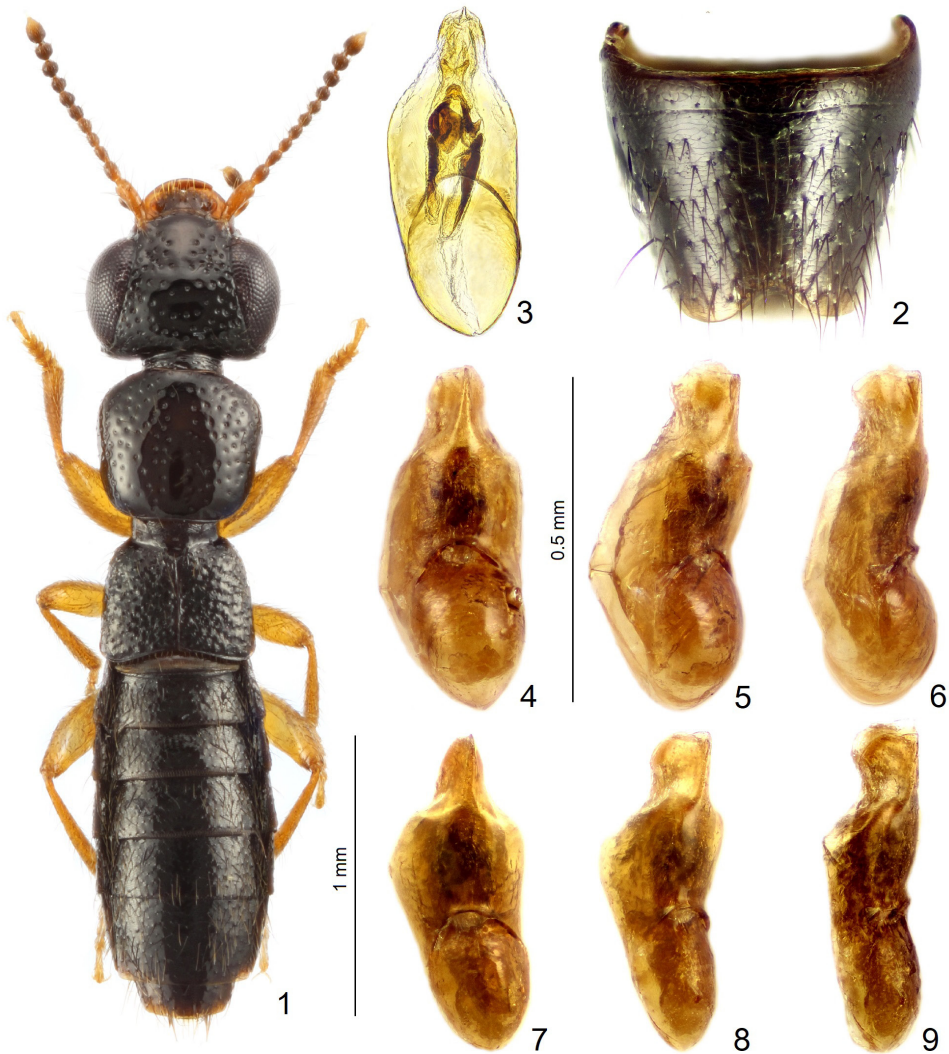
Head: W/L = 1.28-1.40, M = 1.32, HT = 1.28; eyes/temples R = 0.08-0.14, M = 0.10, HT = 0.12). Antennae: fifth segment longer than wide (L/W = 1.06-1.36, M = 1.18, HT = 1.34), tenth segment transverse or about as long as wide (L/W = 0.58-1.00, M = 0.73, HT = 1.00).

Pronotum: L/W = 0.85-0.92, M = 0.89, HT = 0.87; PW/HW = 0.80-0.86, M = 0.84, HT = 0.86).

Elytra: R = 1.19-1.39, M = 1.30, HT = 1.31.

Male. Sternites III–VII without modifications, posterior margin of sternite VIII (Fig. 2; Janák 2019: Fig. 19) largely moderately deeply triangularly. Aedeagus (Figs. 3-9; Janák 2019: Figs. 17, 18) 0.42-0.52 mm (M = 0.49 mm, HT = 0.42 mm). Median lobe with apical process narrow or moderately very wide (holotype) in ventral view and markedly straight in lateral view.

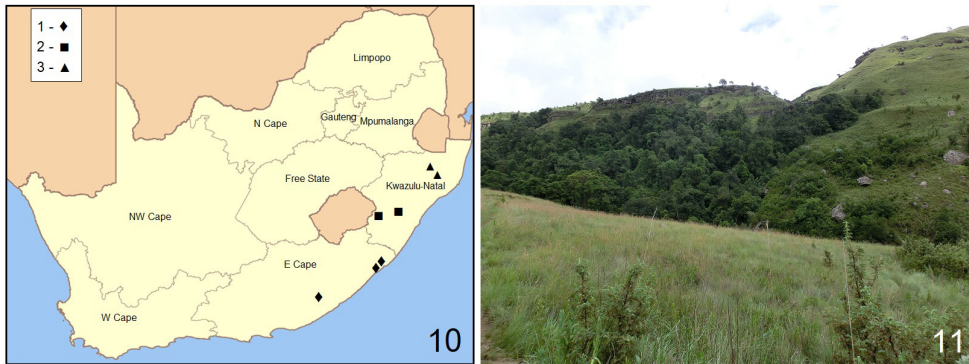
Female. Sternite VIII largely rounded posteriorly.



Figs. 1-9. *Neopimus tragardi* Fagel; Gxalingenwa forest. 1- habitus; 2- male sternite VIII; 3- aedeagus ventral, transmitted light; 4, 7- aedeagus ventral; 5, 8- aedeagus two thirds ventral; 6, 9- aedeagus lateral; 4-9- reflexed light.

Bionomics. The data of the holotype are not known. Additional specimens have been found in siftings of forest litter in an indigenous forest (Fig. 11).

Distribution. *N. tragardi* is currently recorded only from the Sweetwaters and Gxalingenwa forest, both in KwaZulu-Natal Province, Republic of South Africa (Fig. 10).



Figs. 10-11. 10- Distribution of *Neopimus* (1- *N. capensis* Janák; 2- *N. tragardhi* Fagel; 3- *N. zulu* Janák). 11- Drakensberg Mts., Gxalingenwa forest (new locality of *N. tragardhi*).

Discussion. The holotype was redescribed by Janák (2019). The attempt of the author to collect additional specimens in January 2015 in Sweetwaters was unsuccessful. The locality with only small remnants of indigenous forest is apparently damaged by logging and cattle grazing. Specimens collected recently in Gxalingenwa forest are very similar to the holotype. A key to species of *Neopimus* published by Janák (2019) can remain unchanged.

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REFERENCES

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