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The Pselaphinae (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae) of Madagascar. I. *Andasibe sahondrae*, a new, peculiar genus and species of Clavigeritae (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Pselaphinae)

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Abstract

Andasibe sahondrae, gen. nov. and sp. nov. is described based on one female collected by sifting in central Madagascar. The genus is a member of the supertribe Clavigeritae (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Pselaphinae). It is placed into the subtribe Mastigerina, and this is a first record of the subtribe for Africa.

Key words: Staphylinidae, Pselaphinae, Clavigeritae, *Andasibe*, new genus, new species, Madagascar

Introduction

The Madagascan Pselaphinae fauna is relatively well-studied due to two revisions by Jeannel (1954, 1960), but since the second revision only four papers have been published on the supertribe Clavigeritae (Célis 1969, 1970; Dajoz 1982; and Hlaváč 2005) in Madagascar.

The Clavigeritae fauna of Madagascar has a very high level of endemism - 30 genera and 64 species have been described from the island so far, all endemic to the island except for the genus, *Radamides* Wasmann, 1897 (*Radamides natalensis* Reichensperger, 1915) which is also known from the Republic of South Africa.

The aim of this paper is to describe a new genus of the subtribe Mastigerina. *Andasibe* gen. nov. is the first representative of this subtribe known from the Afrotropical region, with the other four genera *Longacerus* Hlaváč, 2011, *Mastiger* Motschulsky, 1851, *Tasmiger* Besuchet, 2008 and *Pseudacerus* Raffray, 1895 (Hlaváč 2011) being currently known only from the Oriental region.

Material and methods

The specimen was examined with a Leica S8APO stereo-microscope with diffuse lighting at magnifications up to 128X.

The following symbols are used in the type description: [p] denotes printed labels, ‘/’ separates different labels.

The head length was measured from the occiput to the anterior margin of the frontal rostrum; head width is measured across the eyes; the elytral length was measured along the suture, the width means maximum width of pronotum, elytra, etc. The body length is a combined length of the head, pronotum, elytra and abdomen.

The holotype is deposited in the first author’s collection (PHKS).

Andasibe gen. nov.

(Figs. 1–5)

Type species. *Andasibe sahondrae* sp. nov. Present designation.

Diagnosis. Medium-sized and stout clavigerine of subtribe Mastigerina with apparently two segmented antennae, scape very small, completely hidden in antennal cavity, terminal antennomere stout and short, about half length of head, pedunculate, broadening apically, considerably longer than pedicel, with truncate, setose apex; head short, with well-defined occipital constriction, elytra and first visible paratergite with two pairs of trichomes; pronotum with lateral foveae, elytra with four basal foveae.

Description. Body (Fig. 1) uniformly dark reddish, entirely glabrous. Head (Fig. 4) elongate, with short and oval rostrum and very prominent clypeus, disc of frons very finely punctured, vertex and margins of frontal rostrum with regular punctuation, neck with isodiametric structure, eyes well-developed, each located in large lateral cavity that extends along entire head, clearly visible in dorsal and in ventral side. Antennae with three antennomeres, only two distal visible in intact specimen, scape completely hidden in antennal cavity, terminal antennomere more than five times as long as pedicel, pedunculate, broadening apically and curved, truncate at apex with dense, short setation. Venter with large, deep median gular fovea, gular carina absent.



FIGURES 1–2. 1, *Andasibe sahondrae* gen. & sp. nov., female holotype, dorsal habitus; 2, microhabitat of the type locality of the *Andasibe sahondrae* gen. & sp. nov.

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Pronotum (Figs. 1, 3) subquadrate, with regular puncturation, longer and wider than head, shorter than elytra, pronotal base with prominent media triangular projection, with well-defined lateral foveae; scutellum not visible.

Venter (Fig. 5) entirely glabrous, proventrite with sharp keel narrowly separating procoxae, mesoventrite and metaventrite confluent, shiny, with regular puncturation, mesoventrite in middle clearly shorter than metaventrite, with median keel, basal mesoventral and apical metaventral processes adjacent, mesocoxae separated, metacoxae broadly separated by very large, truncate and short basal metaventral process; first visible sternite (III) about five times shorter than second (IV), second visible sternite about as long as sternites V–VIII combined, with two well-defined lateral foveae.

Elytra large, at suture shorter than abdomen and longer than pronotum, with fine puncturation, humeri sharp, prominent; posterior elytral corners with two projections; inner one with narrow, elongate trichomes; each elytron with four basal foveae, sutural and discal stria well-defined.

Legs short, tibiae pedunculate, femora clavate.

Abdomen shiny, with fine puncturation, composite tergite (IV–VI), clearly longer than elytra, with deep and large basal impression bearing two lateral foveae and two lateral patches, lacking trichomes; tergite VII and VIII very short, but still visible in dorsal view; paratergites IV–VI well-defined, paratergite IV large, with dense trichomes.

Sexual dimorphism. Male unknown.

Differential diagnosis: *Andasibe* is very similar to *Tasmiger* and *Mastiger* sharing with them the truncate and setose apex of the terminal antennomere. *Andasibe* can be readily separated from both genera on the basis of four basal foveae on each elytron and two lateral pronotal foveae; in addition, *Andasibe* differs from *Mastiger* by the presence of trichomes on the elytral apex (absent in *Mastiger*) and from *Tasmiger* by a different structure of the composite tergite which has a large, but simple, basal impression (impression divided into three semi-equal compartments in *Tasmiger*), as well as by the much smaller and thinner elytral trichomes and absence of trichomes on the composite tergite (present in *Tasmiger*).

Etymology. The new genus is named after the type locality, Andasibe-Mantadia National Park. Gender is masculine.

***Andasibe sahondrae* sp. nov.**

(Figs. 1–5)

Type material. Holotype, ♀: (p) MADACASCAR - CE: Andasibe N.P., 26.xi.2010 ‘Circuit Indri 2’, sifting, L. S. Rahanitriniaina lgt. / red label (p) HOLOTYPE *Andasibe sahondrae* sp. nov., P. Hlaváč & P. Baňař det., 2012. PHKS.

Description. Body shiny, dark reddish, elytra and composite tergite slightly lighter, entirely glabrous. Body length 2.0 mm, maximum width in posterior corners of elytra 0.85 mm. Head about as long as wide, width of frontal rostrum 0.7 of maximum width of head, clypeus prominent and broadly subtriangular, ventral part of head with excision in front of eyes; antennomere III six times longer than pedicel and 1.8 times as long as wide. Pronotum about as long as wide, 1.35 times as long as head. Elytra 1.2 times as long as pronotum, sutural striae reaching posterior margin of elytra, discal striae ending just before apex. Abdomen long, 1.33 times as long as elytra, anterior half of first visible paratergite (IV) dentate.

Sexual dimorphism. Male unknown.

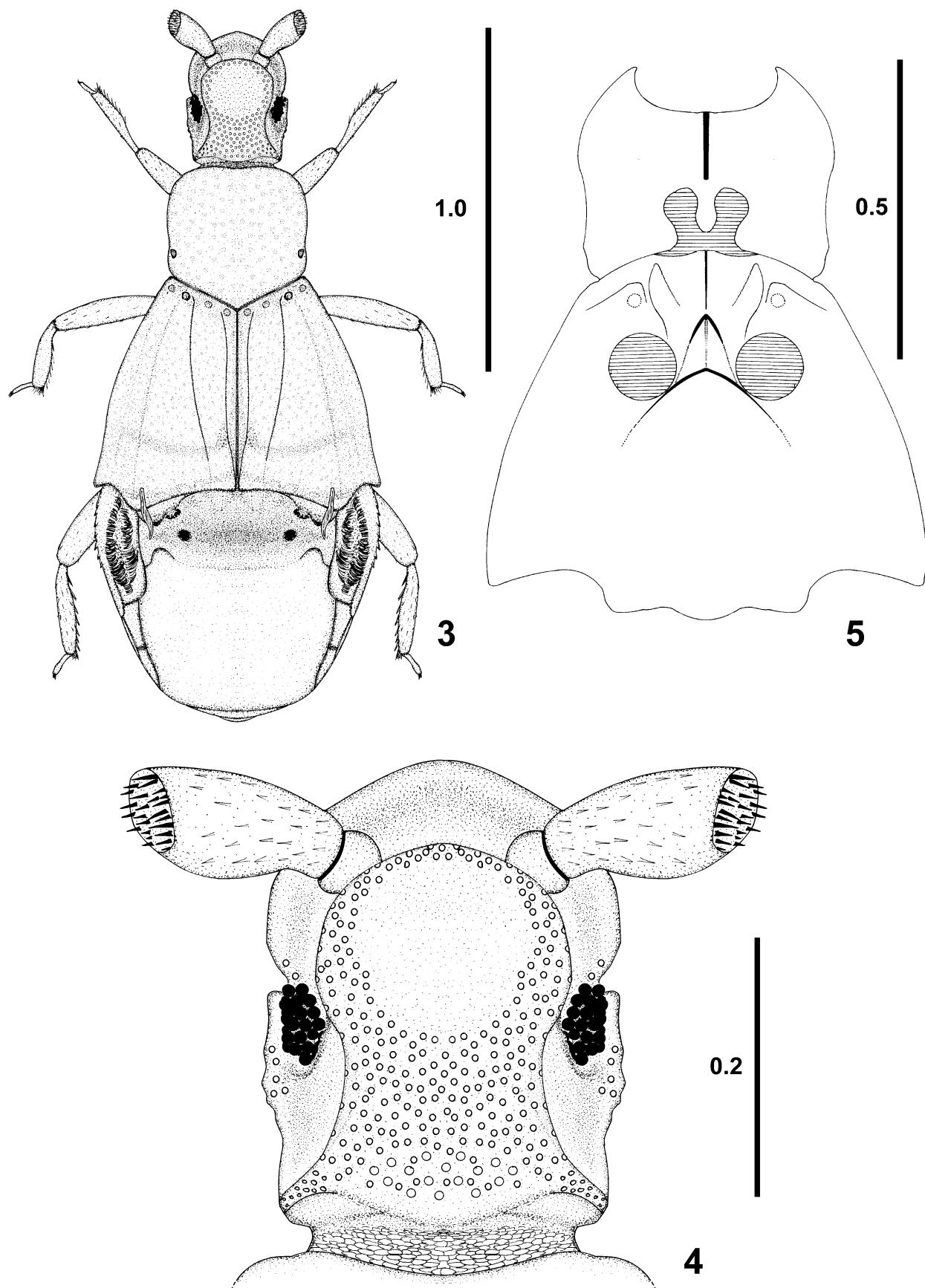
Bionomics. The holotype specimens was sifted from leaf litter in a dense humid forest (Fig. 2). The sifted sample was taken from the shallow ravine close to a small lake by the tourist path ‘Circuit Indri 2’ in the Andasibe-Mantadia National Park (Analamazaotra forest) in Central Madagascar.

Etymology. Named after our colleague and friend Lalao Sahondra Rahanitriniaina, the collector of the new species.

Distribution. Central Madagascar.

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FIGURES 3–5. *Andasibe sahondrae* gen. & sp. nov., female holotype: 3, habitus, dorsal view; 4, head, dorsal view; 5, sternum, ventral view, schematic.

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