Two new species of African Agrilini
(Coleoptera: Buprestidae: Agrilinae)

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Abstract. Bellamyus opacus sp. nov. from Cameroon and Agrilus (Lilliput) pulex sp. nov. from South Africa are described.

Taxonomy, new species, Coleoptera, Buprestidae, Bellamyus opacus sp. nov., Agrilus (Lilliput) pulex sp. nov., Palaeotropical Region

The buprestid subfamily Agrilinae Laporte, 1835 is the largest single group within the family containing the most genus rich tribe, Coraebini Bedel, 1921 and the most speciose genus, Agrilus Curtis, 1825, perhaps the largest genus in the entire animal kingdom, in the nominate tribe. Two new species are described herein to continue with the progress towards a complete accounting and understanding of the African Agrilini (see Curletti i.e. 1993, 1995, 1996a, b, 1997a, b, 2000) and so that the names will be available for the nearly complete world catalogue (Bellamy, in prep., see Bellamy 2003).

Abbreviations used in the text are:

CLBC C. L. Bellamy research collection, Sacramento, California;
LACM Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, Los Angeles, California;
MCCI Museo Civico di Storia Naturale di Carmagnola, Italy;
TMSA Transvaal Museum, Pretoria, South Africa.

\textbf{Bellamyus opacus sp. nov.}

(Fig. 1)

Type locality: Central Cameroon.

Specimens examined. Holotype $\delta$ (MCCI): “Cameroun centre, VI.1997, Desfontaine leg.”

Description. Holotype, male. Length 12.0 mm.; glabrous, dark, with head black, pronotum cupreous, elytra green. Ventral surface cupreous with white pubescence
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more concentrated at meteoxa and at anterolateral portion of each ventrite; corresponding spots occur on lateroterga. Legs cupreous.

Head. Vertex flat in dorsal view, ½ the width of anterior margin of pronotum. Frons furrowed in middle, covered with brief white pubescence at the base; black pubescence in the rest of the frons, appreciable in profile only. Clypeus reduced, without transversal carina. Antennae short and small, with antennomeres widened from IV. Eyes relatively large with respect to the head.

Thorax. Pronotum widest at midpoint, with lateral margins regularly rounded and lateroposterior angles obtuse. Disc without premarginal carina, replaced by a rounded swelling. Superficial sculpture formed by transverse striae except near lateroposterior angles, where it is concentric to the swelling. Sublateral carina contiguous to lateral carina at posterior ½. Anterior prosternal lobe feebly produced and sub-sinuate medially. Prosternal process with lateral margins parallel.

Scutellum. Large, quadrangular, without transverse carina.

Elytra with apices rounded, expanded and denticulate.

Legs. Metafemur slender. Metatarsus short: first metatarsomere only as long as combined length of II and III together. All claws bifid.

Aedeagus strongly sclerotized, black, with median lobe subacute apically.

Variation. One female paratype: length 13.8 mm. Apart from the larger size, the only visible difference is sexual: all the claws are mucronate.

Etymology. The specific epithet refers to the dark coloration of the integument.

Comments. Bellamyus opacus sp. nov. is the fourth species to be discovered in this relatively new genus (Curletti 1997b). The other three are B. fulgidus Curletti, 1997 from Congo, Gabon and Ivory Coast, B. maddalenae Curletti, 2002 from Ivory Coast, B. acutiformis Curletti, 2002 from Congo (Curletti 2002). With a flattened frons and the form of the anterior portion of the prosternal lobe, B. opacus sp. nov. is most similar to B. acutiformis. This latter species (Fig. 2) differs with the body longer, a more acuminate elytral apex, the coloration more brilliant (pronotum red, elytra blue), prosternal process rhomboidal, and aedeagus with parameres wider apically.

Agrilus (Lilliput) pulex sp. nov.

(Fig. 3)

Type locality: South Africa, Waterberg Mts., Geelhoutbush farm, 24.22°S 27.33°E.


Description. Holotype, male. Length 3.0 mm. Uniformly bronzed, dorsally covered with long, white pubescence; ventral side with pubescence less dense than dorsal.

Head projecting, ovoid, with vertex ½ width of anterior margin of pronotum. Frons smooth with obsolete sculpture. Clypeus transversely carinate. Eyes large.
Antennae short, with median and apical antennomeres very transverse, expanded from fifth.

Pronotum widest anteriad middle, with lateral margins arcuately rounded and sinuate before posterior margin. Posterior angles obtuse. Disc with long white pubescence not covering the integument, regularly convex, without depressions. Sculpture superficial, formed by vertical wide striae. Premarginal carinula absent. Lateral carinae parallel, separate also at the base. Anterior prosternal lobe rounded.

Scutellum with transverse carina.

Elytra with the same regular white pubescence of the pronotum. Apices separately rounded and microdenticulate.

Legs. First metatarsomere as long as II, III and IV together. Anterior claws bifid.

Aedeagus elongate, thin and parallel.

Variation. 1 ♂ and 6 ♀♀ paratypes: length from 2.5 to 3.2 mm. The females have the anterior claws mucronate.

Etymology. The specific epithet refers to the diminutive size of this species.
Comments. With the uniform pubescence on the elytra, *Agrilus* (Lilliput) *pulex* sp. nov. is similar to *A. (L.) paracuspidadus* Obenberger, 1939 from South Africa, *A. (L.) pseudolituratus* Descarpentries, 1959 from Tanzania, *A. (L.) sangadzinus* Théry, 1934 from Mozambique, and *A. (L.) fossithorax* Théry, 1955 from South Africa and Zimbabwe. These species are similar with the presence of premarginal carinula that is absent in *A. (L.) pulex* sp. nov.

References


