

# New Data About the Diversity of Jewel Beetles (Coleoptera: Buprestidae) in Kenya

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**Abstract:** Based on specimens collected during expeditions of the senior author in Kenya in the period 2003-2006 and the examination of specimens stored in private Italian entomological collections, 48 species belonging to 14 genera of jewel beetles (Coleoptera: Buprestidae) are reported for the first time for the fauna of Kenya. The faunistic list includes recent nomenclature, localities of specimens and general geographical distribution of the recorded taxa.

**Key words:** Coleoptera, Buprestidae, new records, East Africa, Kenya.

## Introduction

According to the World Catalogue of Buprestoidea (BELLAMY 2008-2009), 410 species and subspecies, which belong to 54 genera of all 6 subfamilies of the family Buprestidae occur in Kenya (including those reported for East Africa without precise locality). In a subsequent article, CURLETTI, SAKALIAN (2009) described 14 new species of the genus *Agrilus* from the territory of Kenya. Two new species of *Anthaxia* (see BILÝ 2010) and 3 new species of *Brachelytrium* (see BILÝ, BELLAMY 2010) were also reported. Thus, the total number of Kenyan buprestid fauna increased to 429 species.

The present article reports data about the records of 48 species of jewel beetles, which are reported for the first time for the fauna of Kenya.

## Material and Methods

During the period 2003-2006, the senior author collected various insect species in Kenya, in particular jewel beetles. The present article is based on newly

recorded species deposited in the entomological collection of the Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, as well as on the results of examination of specimens stored in three private Italian buprestid collections designated in the text below with the following abbreviations: coll. G. Curletti – [GC]; coll. D. Gianasso – [DG]; coll. D. Baiocchi – [DB].

The jewel beetles were collected by traditional entomological methods in different regions of Kenya:

- Collection by entomological nets on flowers and host plants;
- Shaking tree and shrub branches and crowns, and collecting the fallen insects;
- Collection in yellow sticky traps and soil traps baited with ethylene glycol;
- Rearing adults from infested parts of food plants under laboratory conditions.

The recent nomenclature the taxa is adopted (BELLAMY 2013); the general distribution of the species is given according to the World Catalogue of

Buprestoidea (see BELLAMY 2008-2009).

## Results and Discussion

A total of 150 species and subspecies (450 specimens) of jewel beetles (Coleoptera: Buprestidae) were collected during four years of study in Kenya. Among them, 20 species were recorded for the first time from Kenya. In addition, 14 species new to the Kenyan buprestid fauna were found during the examination of the entomological collections of Italian entomologists. Other 14 species are reported in this paper as unpublished records identified by G. Curletti. All reported species belong to 4 subfamilies and 8 tribes.

POLYCESTINAE LACORDAIRE, 1857

Acmaeoderini KERREMANS, 1893

*Acmaeodera ngamensis* OBENBERGER, 1928

Kajado District, Ngurumane, 15-22.05.1998, 1 ex., leg. J. Samngo [GC].

**General distribution:** Botswana, South Africa: Transvaal.

CHRYSOCHROINAE LAPORTE, 1835

Chrysochroini LAPORTE, 1835

*Asamia pulcherrima* (OBST, 1903)

Northeastern Province, El Wak, 1-3.05.2001, 1 ex., leg. Werner & Smrz [DG].

**General distribution:** Somalia.

*Afrophorella africana* (THOMSON, 1879)

Meru District, 800 m, Materi (Mitunguu), 1 ex., leg. D. Gianasso [DG].

**General distribution:** Somalia.

Sphenopterini LACORDAIRE, 1857

*Sphenoptera (Hoplística) orion* JAKOVLEV, 1902

Gede Forest, 11.1987, 1 ex., leg. G. & M. Novak [DG].

**General distribution:** Tanzania.

*Sphenoptera (Hoplística) ardens* (KLUG, 1829)

Tsavo West, 03°30' S – 38°16' E, 7.11.2005, 1 ex., leg. V. Sakalian & G. Curletti.

**General distribution:** Chad, Senegal.

*Sphenoptera (Hoplística) sagax* OBENBERGER, 1920

Kipepeo Farm near Malindi, 2 ex.; Mida Creek, 1 ex., Lower Tana River Nyangoro, 1 ex., 24.04.2006, leg. V. Sakalian.

**General distribution:** Tanzania.

*Sphenoptera (Tropeopeltis) boera* OBENBERGER, 1926

Tsavo West N.P. 03°30' S – 38°16' E, 28-30.04.2006, 4 ex., leg. V. Sakalian.

**General distribution:** South Africa: Transvaal.

Dicercini GISTEL, 1848

*Lampetis (Lampetis) infralaevis* (KERREMANS, 1911)

Ngong Hills, Kiserian District, 1940 m, 17. 04.2006, 1 ex., leg. V. Sakalian.

**General distribution:** Namibia, Uganda.

BUPRESTINAE LEACH, 1815

Anthaxiini GORY & LAPORTE, 1839

*Anthaxia (Anthaxia) dispar* KERREMANS, 1898

Kakamega Forest, 1500 m, 8.12.2003, 2 ex., leg. V. Sakalian.

**General distribution:** Botswana, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Zimbabwe.

*Anthaxia (Anthaxia) ikuthana* OBENBERGER, 1928

Namanga District, Nkoile, 1500 m, 4.12.2003, 1 ex., leg. V. Sakalian; Tsavo Park: Ngulia lodge, ex. from larva in *Acacia xanthophlaea* Benth., 1 ex., leg. R. Mourglia [DB].

**General distribution:** Tanzania.

*Anthaxia (Anthaxia) nyssa* OBENBERGER, 1931

Tsavo West N.P. 03°30' S – 38°16' E, 7.11.2005, 2 ex., leg. V. Sakalian & G. Curletti.

**General distribution:** South Africa: Kwazulu-Natal.

*Anthaxia (Cratomerus) cytheraea* OBENBERGER, 1931

Voi, 13-17.12.1997, 1 ex., leg. Snizek [DB].

**General distribution:** Zimbabwe.

*Anthaxia (Cratomerus) cratomerina* OBENBERGER, 1922

Nairobi N. P., 31.10.1983, 1 ex., leg. R. Mourglia [GC].

**General distribution:** South Africa: Transvaal, Tanzania.

*Anthaxia (Haplanthaxia) albopilosa* KERREMANS, 1913

Materi, 6.11.1983, 1 ex., leg. R. Mourglia [GC].

**General distribution:** Angola, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique, South Africa: Kwazulu-Natal, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Anthaxia (Haplanthaxia) cuprivittis* OBENBERGER, 1928

Road Voi to Taveta, 032°63' S – 38°30' E, 650 m, 5.11.2005, 3 ex.; Road Naivasha - Nakuru, 00°39' S – 36°23' E, 1908 m, 12.11.2005, 1 ex., leg. V. Sakalian & G. Curletti.

**General distribution:** South Africa: Transvaal, Zimbabwe.

*Anthaxia (Haplanthaxia) cytheraea* OBENBERGER, 1931

Tsavo N. P., Kilaguni Lodge, October 1985, 7 ex., leg. R. Mourglia [DG].

**General distribution:** Zimbabwe.

*Anthaxia (Haplanthaxia) dauensis* OBENBERGER, 1924

Amboseli N.P., Kilimanjaro Safari Lodge, October 1985, 3 ex., leg. R. Mourglia; Samburu N. P., 1988, 5 ex., leg. R. Mourglia [DG].

**General distribution:** Ethiopia, Somalia.

*Anthaxia (Haplanthaxia) kerremansiella* BÍLY, 1995

Naivasha Lake, 1800 m, 3.12.2003, 2 ex.; Narok, 1750 m, 9.07.2003, 1 ex., leg. V. Sakalian.

**General distribution:** Angola, Botswana, South Africa.

*Anthaxia (Haplanthaxia) marginata* (THUNBERG, 1787)

Naivasha Lake, 1800 m, 19.05.2004, 2 ex., leg. V. Sakalian.

**General distribution:** South Africa: Cape, Zimbabwe.

*Anthaxia (Haplanthaxia) oneili* OBENBERGER, 1931

Samburu N.P., 14.04.1989, 14 ex., leg. R. Mourglia; Amboseli N. P., Safari Lodge, 06.1987, 1 ex.; Tsavo Park, Kilaguni Lodge, 3 ex., leg. R. Mourglia [DG].

**General distribution:** South Africa: Cape, Zimbabwe.

*Anthaxia (Haplanthaxia) sculptipennis* OBENBERGER, 1924

Ngong Hills: Road Kiserian to Oltepesi, 1770 m, 28.04.2004, 2 ex.; Naivasha Lake, 1800 m, 28.04.2004, 1 ex.,

leg. V. Sakalian.

**General distribution:** South Africa: Transvaal, Zimbabwe.

*Anthaxia (Haplanthaxia) zanzibarica* KERREMANS, 1898  
Nairobi N. P., 22.05.1989, 1 ex. leg. D. Gianasso [DG].

**General distribution:** Mozambique.

*Brachelytrium (Brachelytrium) africanum* (POCHON, 1972)

Namanga, ex. from larva in *Acacia* sp., 04.-05.2004, 1 ex.,

leg. V. Sakalian.

**General distribution:** South Africa: Kwazulu-Natal, Mpumalanga.

*Brachelytrium (Elytrobrachium) blairi* OBENBERGER, 1931

Road Voi to Taveta, 32°63' S – 38°30' E, 650 m, 5.11.2005, 2 ex., leg. V. Sakalian & G. Curletti.

**General distribution:** Namibia, South Africa: Kwazulu-Natal, Transvaal, Zimbabwe.

*Chalcogenia gracilis* BILÝ, 2008

Elmentaita Lake, 1820 m, ex. from *Acacia* sp., 8 ex., leg.

V. Sakalian.

**General distribution:** Tanzania.

Actenodini KERREMANS, 1890

*Belionota (Belionota) championi* MURRAY, 1862

Kipepeo Farm near Malindi, 24.04.2006, 1 ex., leg. V. Sakalian.

**General distribution:** Angola, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique, South Africa: Transvaal, Madagascar.

AGRILINAE LAPORTE, 1835

Coraebini BEDEL, 1921

*Discoderoides alluaudi* (KERREMANS, 1914)

Meru District, 800 m, Materi (Mitunguu), 5-13.12.1988, 1 ex., leg. D. Gianasso [DG].

**General distribution:** Ethiopia, Tanzania.

*Kamosia jakobsoni* OBENBERGER, 1935

Lower Tana River: Nyangoro, 22.04.2006, 2 ex., leg. V. Sakalian.

**General distribution:** South Africa, Sudan.

Agrilini LAPORTE, 1835

*Agrilus (Agrilus) yemenita* CURLETTI & VAN HARTEN, 2002

Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, 16.04.2005, 1 ex., leg. V. Sakalian.

**General distribution:** Yemen.

*Agrilus (Agrilus) zuluanus* OBENBERGER, 1935

Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, 16.04.2005, 1 ex., leg. V. Sakalian.

**General distribution:** South Africa: Kwazulu-Natal, Transvaal.

*Agrilus (Diplophotus) hildebrandti* HAROLDS, 1878

Lake Bogoria, 12.04.2004, 5 ex., leg. V. Sakalian.

**General distribution:** Zanzibar.

*Sjoestedtius thoracicus* (KERREMANS, 1903)

Narok, 1750 m, 12.05.2004, 1 ex., leg. V. Sakalian.

**General distribution:** Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Uganda.

*Pseudagrilus dubius* OBENBERGER, 1924

Kibwezi Tsavo N. P., 1300 m, December 1989, 1 ex., leg. Werner [GC].

**General distribution:** Mozambique, Tanzania.

*Pseudagrilus subfasciatus* KERREMANS, 1898

Meru District: Materi (Mitunguu), 800 m, 5-13.11.1988, 1 ex., leg. D. Gianasso [GC].

**General distribution:** Malawi, Somalia, Tanzania, Zimbabwe.

The following 14 species of the genus *Agrilus*, identified by G. Curletti but not previously reported (G. Curletti, personal communication), are also new to the buprestid fauna of Kenya. They are listed below without the specifying the number of specimens collected.

*Agrilus (Agrilomorpha) fahraei* SAUNDERS, 1871

Gede Forest, April 1976, leg. Novak.

**General distribution:** South Africa: Transvaal, Zimbabwe.

*Agrilus (Agrilus) reynoldsi* OBENBERGER, 1935

Mombasa, July 1986, leg. R. Mourglia.

**General distribution:** South Africa: Kwazulu-Natal, Transvaal.

*Agrilus (Agrilus) reynoldsi* OBENBERGER, 1935

Mombasa, July 1986, leg. R. Mourglia.

**General distribution:** South Africa: Kwazulu-Natal, Transvaal.

*Agrilus (Diplophotus) galiberti galiberti* OBENBERGER, 1931

Turkana Region; Lake Baringo, 30.01.1980, leg. B. Lamoral.

**General distribution:** Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania.

*Agrilus (Paralophotus) invectus* CURLETTI & DUTTO, 1999

Samburu N. P., 1.11.1995.

**General distribution:** Tanzania.

*Agrilus (Personatus) discolor* FAHRAEUS IN BOHEMAN, 1851

Kilifi District.

**General distribution:** Mozambique, South Africa: Cape, Free State, Kwazulu-Natal, Transvaal, Swaziland.

*Agrilus (Robertius) costulatus* HAROLD, 1878

Voi, 5.06.1997; Voi, 16.12.2000; Mitto Ardei, 1.12.1988, leg. Hasegawa.

**General distribution:** Democratic Republic of Congo.

*Agrilus chalcoventris* GORY, 1841

Gede Forest, April 1985, leg. Novak; Matembur, 26.05.1980, leg. B. Lamoral.

**General distribution:** South Africa: Cape.

*Agrilus nataligenus* OBENBERGER, 1935

Voi, 9.04.1982, leg. Novak.

**General distribution:** South Africa: Kwazulu-Natal.

*Agrilus nickerli* OBENBERGER, 1935

Gede Forest, April 1977, leg. Novak.

**General distribution:** South Africa: Transvaal, Zambia.

*Agrilus notus* KERREMANS, 1903

Diani Beach, August 1951.

**General distribution:** Mozambique, Tanzania.

*Agrilus patrizzi* THÉRY, 1927

Diani Beach, July 1951; Mombasa; Gede Forest, April 1985, leg. Novak.

**General distribution:** Somalia.

*Agrilus rustenburgensis* OBENBERGER, 1939

Voi, 12.04.1997, leg. Halada.

**General distribution:** South Africa: Transvaal.

*Agrilus trochilus* ABIELE DE PERRIN, 1897

Rift Valley, Ol. Arabe, 18.11.1988, leg. R. K. Butlin.

**General distribution:** Djibouti.

The new records in this study have increased the total number of the jewel beetles in Kenya up to 477 species. This relatively great number of species and subspecies reported for the Kenyan fauna is characteristic of the tropical areas of the world. The description of species that are new to science (CURLLETTI, SAKALIAN 2009) as well as the numerous

first reports of taxa for this country indicate that the buprestid fauna of Kenya has not been comprehensively studied. The investigations were concentrated mainly around the large villages and thus they were partial and incomplete. In our opinion, further detailed studies are needed to enrich the knowledge about actual number and distribution of the buprestid species in Kenya.

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