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A new genus of Clytrinae (Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae) from South Africa

by L. Medvedev

Abstract: A new genus of Clytrinae (Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae) from South Africa: A new genus and species, *Karooclytra wittmeri*, is described. A key to african genera of Clytrinae with pubescent propleura and figures are given.

Key words: Coleoptera Chrysomelidae Clytrinae – South Africa – taxonomy – new species

In the present paper I describe a new genus and species, which was found in Clytrinae material, collected by Dr. W. Wittmer in South Africa and kindly forwarded to me for study. Types are deposited in the Basel Museum of Natural History, two paratypes are in my collection.

Karooclytra L. Medvedev, n.gen.

type-species: *Karooclytra wittmeri* n.sp.

Body cylindrical, with distinct sexual dimorphism, male larger than female.

Male. Head almost as broad as prothorax, pubescent and roughly punctured, without ocular sulci. Eyes small, almost round, feebly incised on innerside, genae practically as long as the diameter of eye. Frons twice as broad as eye's diameter. Mandibles moderately enlarged. Antennae rather short, feebly serrate, segment 1 as long as broad, strongly widened on innerside, distinctly claviform; segments 2 and 3 short and subequal in length, segment 4 elongate, feebly widened to apex (Fig. 3). Last segment of maxillar palpi elongate, thin and cylindrical.

Prothorax transverse, with rather straight fore and hind margin and feeble basal lobe, roughly punctured and with extremely short pubescence, lateral sides margined, hind angles not elevated. Scutellum elongate triangular with blunt elevated apex. Elytra irregularly punctured, laterally and behind with traces of regular rows; surface with 3 feeble ribs, the humeral one more developed. Base of elytra margined and moderately elevated throughout all the length. Epipleurae narrow, developed in basal $\frac{1}{4}$ of elytra.

Propleura flat, impunctured, with long adpressed pubescence, which is rather sparse and not covering underground surface. Fore legs enlarged, more long as middle or hind ones, coxae moderately large, femora a little more thick as middle ones, tibiae without apical tooth. Tarsi narrow, segment 1 elongate triangular, claw segment twice as long as the third. Claws slightly toothed.

Female. Body smaller, head narrower, not enlarged, prothorax narrowed anteriorly and more distinctly pubescent.

Generotype: *K. wittmeri*, n.sp.

Karooclytra wittmeri L. Medvedev, n.sp.

Figs 1–3.

Dirty fulvous; occiput, frons between eyes, apices of antennae, central part of prothorax (sometimes divides in 3 indistinct spots), scutellum, humeral spot, apices of tibiae, tarsi and sometimes femora and breast dark or pitchy brown; all darkened parts not distinctly limited from light ones; males usually darker than females.

Male. Head roughly punctured, frons longitudinally strigose, with feeble central groove, vertex with slightly impressed longitudinal line. Clypeus triangularly notched. Mandibles robust, curved, not large, with acute apical tooth.

Prothorax 1.6 times as broad as long, slightly narrowed anteriorly, very densely punctured and wrinkled, with very short silver hairs, more distinct on basal part. Scutellum punctured and shagreened, with short hairs and central smooth line. Elytra dull, more or less gibbous in the scutellum area, with deep punctures, which are rather dense and show the tendency to form irregular rows in hind part; apical slope almost impunctured; all interspaces shagreened. Fore tibiae slightly elongate, fore tarsus longer and broader as compared with middle or hind ones. Aedeagus (fig. 2) simple, with concave plate covering orifice and slight longitudinal groove on underside. Length of body 5–5.2 mm.

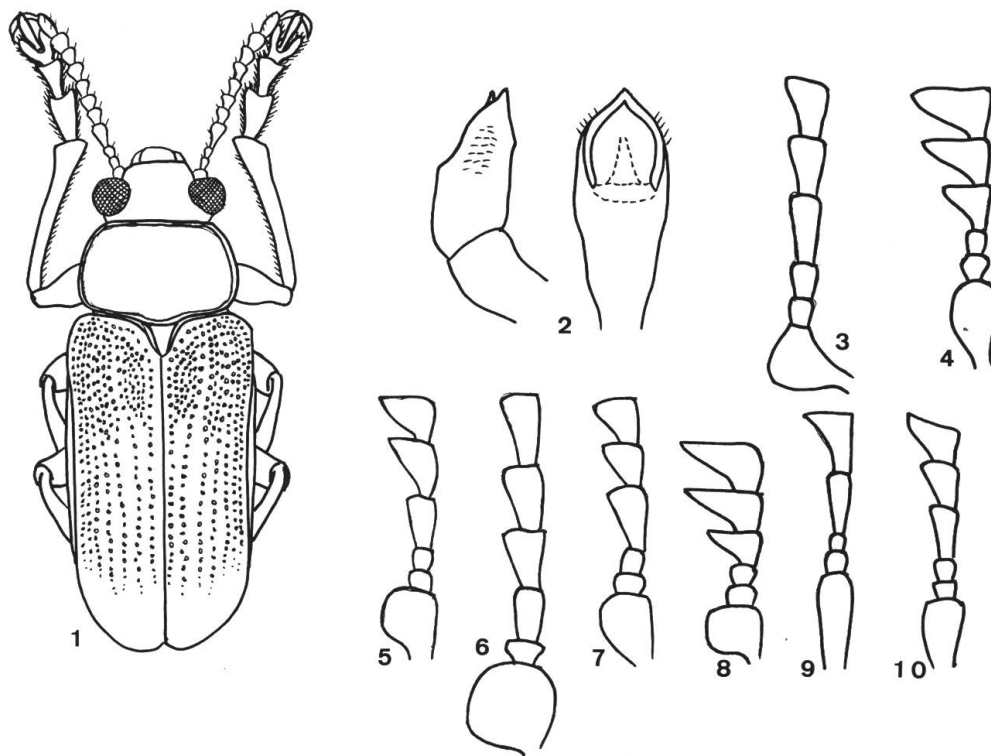
Female. Head narrower, mandibles not enlarged, fore legs not elongate. Length of body 4.3–4.4 mm.

South Africa, Cape province, Karoo, 6 km east of Bedford, 860 m, 11.X.1984, leg. W. Wittmer, 8 males and 2 females. Holotype – male.

This genus has a general appearance of *Miopristis* but differs immediately by the pubescent propleurae and gibbous first antennal segment, which is usually thin and elongate in *Miopristis*.

I have already published a key for determination of african genera with pubescent propleurae (MEDVEDEV, 1970). Below I propose a revised key with many new features and two additional genera, including *Karooclytra*.

- 1(4) Epipleuron with long erect hairs, which are longer than the maximal width of epipleuron.
- 2(3) Prothorax and propleura with adpressed hairs. Eyes elongate, almost twice as long as gena. Antennae serrate from fourth segment; first segment elongate (fig. 4.) Basal margin of elytra not elevated **Otjosondia** L. Medv.
- 3(2) The whole body with long erect hairs. Eyes small and round, shorter than gena. Antennae serrate from fourth segment; first segment subquadrate (fig. 5). Basal margin of elytra elevated
Crabronites Lac.



Figs 1–10: 1–3: *Karooclytra wittmeri*: 1, general view. 2, aedeagus, lateral and dorsal view. 3, 1–6 antennal segments. 4–10: Basal segments of antennae of: 4, *Otjosondia*, female. 5, *Crabronites*. 6, *Teinocera*. 7, *Smeia*. 8, *Pseudolachnaia* (same type in *Clytra*, *Merilia*, *Protoclytra* s.str., subg. *Hirtolenes* and *Lacordairella*). 9, *Protoclytra*, subg. *Paralenes*. 10, *Protoclytra*, subg. *Camptomima*.

- 4(1) Epipleuron bare or with short hairs along inner margin.
5(16) Fore legs of male elongate, fore tibiae usually curved, tarsal segments elongate. Distinct sexual dimorphism of head and prothorax. Eyes rounded or ovate, mostly subequal to length of gena.
6(9) Fore femora of male strongly thickened as compared with the middle ones. Antennae feebly serrate from fourth segment. Eyes rounded, shorter or subequal to gena.
7(8) Fore margin of elytra sharply elevated in middle part. Antennae – fig. 6. Prothorax pubescent **Teinocera** Lac.
8(7) Fore margin of elytra elevated along all its length. Antennae – fig. 7. Prothorax bare **Smeia** Lac.
9(6) Fore femora of male not or slightly thickened. Antennae usually strongly serrate.
10(11) First antennal segment strongly widened on outer side (fig. 3). Propleurae throughout with long sparse pubescence, not hiding underground surface. Prothorax with short pubescence. Basal margin of elytra not elevated **Karoclytra** n.gen.
11(10) First antennal segment subquadrate or elongate.
12(13) Basal margin of elytra distinctly elevated. Propleurae densely pubescent, with bare external margin. Eyes round or ovate, shorter or equal to gena. Antennal structure variable (fig. 8, 9)
Protoclytra Weise (including subg. **Hirtolenes**, **Paralenes**, **Lacordairella**)
13(12) Other combination of features.
14(15) Propleurae sparsely pubescent throughout. Eyes ovate, a little longer, than gena. Prothorax pubescent. Basal margin of elytra moderately elevated. Antennae – fig. 10
Protoclytra, Weise subg. **Camptomima**
15(14) Propleurae densely pubescent on anterior part, or with pubescent stripe. Eyes round, shorter than gena. Prothorax bare, black. Basal margin of elytra slightly elevated. Antennae as in fig. 8 **Merilia** Lac.
16(5) Fore legs of male not elongate, fore tibiae straight. Without noticeable sexual dimorphism. Eyes elongate, not less than twice as long as gena. Basal margin of elytra not elevated. Propleurae with dense pubescence, hiding underground surface and with bare external margin. Antennae as in fig. 8.
17(18) Sharp ridge of fore elytral margin reaches apex of scutellum. Prothorax with deep impressions . . **Pseudolachnaia** L. Medv.

- 18(17) Sharp ridge of fore elytral margin disappears already before base of scutellum. Prothorax usually without deep impressions **Clytra** (pars) Laich.

Literature

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