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Autor: Löbl, Ivan

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Sphaeroscapa punctata, a new species from New Caledonia (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Scaphidiinae)

IVAN LÖBL

Muséum d'histoire naturelle, Case postale 6434, CH-1211 Geneva 6, Switzerland

Sphaeroscapa punctata is described from New Caledonia. The new species may be easily distinguished from *S. globosa* (Löbl, 1981), the sole described species of the genus, by its coloration and abdominal punctuation.

Keywords: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Scaphidiinae, *Sphaeroscapa*, taxonomy, New Caledonia.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Sphaeroscapa* Leschen & Löbl, 2005 is one of the two scaphidiines genera endemic in New Caledonia. It was established for a single species placed originally in *Pseudobironium* Pic, 1920, *P. globosa* Löbl, 1981. *Sphaeroscapa* has a conspicuously globular body, as illustrated in Leschen & Löbl (2005), and may be easily distinguished from all other Scaphidiinae reported from the Pacific areas. *Sphaeroscapa globosa* was known only from its type locality, Col d'Amieu. Three additional specimens were recently collected in the north of New Caledonia, extending the known range of this species. The locality data of these specimens are as follows: «New Caledonia Prov. Nord Aoupinié upper site 24 March 2007 TR Buckley RAB Leschen R. Hoare TRB061 / 900m fogging logs 21 11S / 165 17E». The voucher specimens are housed in NZAC and MHNG.

I have found a second species of *Sphaeroscapa* on my 1997 trip to New Caledonia. It comes also from Col d'Amieu, indicating how difficult it is to complete an inventory of mycophagous Coleoptera in an area with high species diversity. In fact, a number of entomologists collected at the same site, including me on a second trip to New Caledonia, but to my knowledge no other specimens of the new *Sphaeroscapa* species have been found.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The length of specimens is measured from anterior pronotal margin to inner apical angle of the elytra. The relative length of antennomeres is measured on dry specimens.

The material examined is deposited in the following collections:

MHNG: Muséum d'histoire naturelle, Geneva

NZAC: New Zealand Arthropod Collection, Auckland

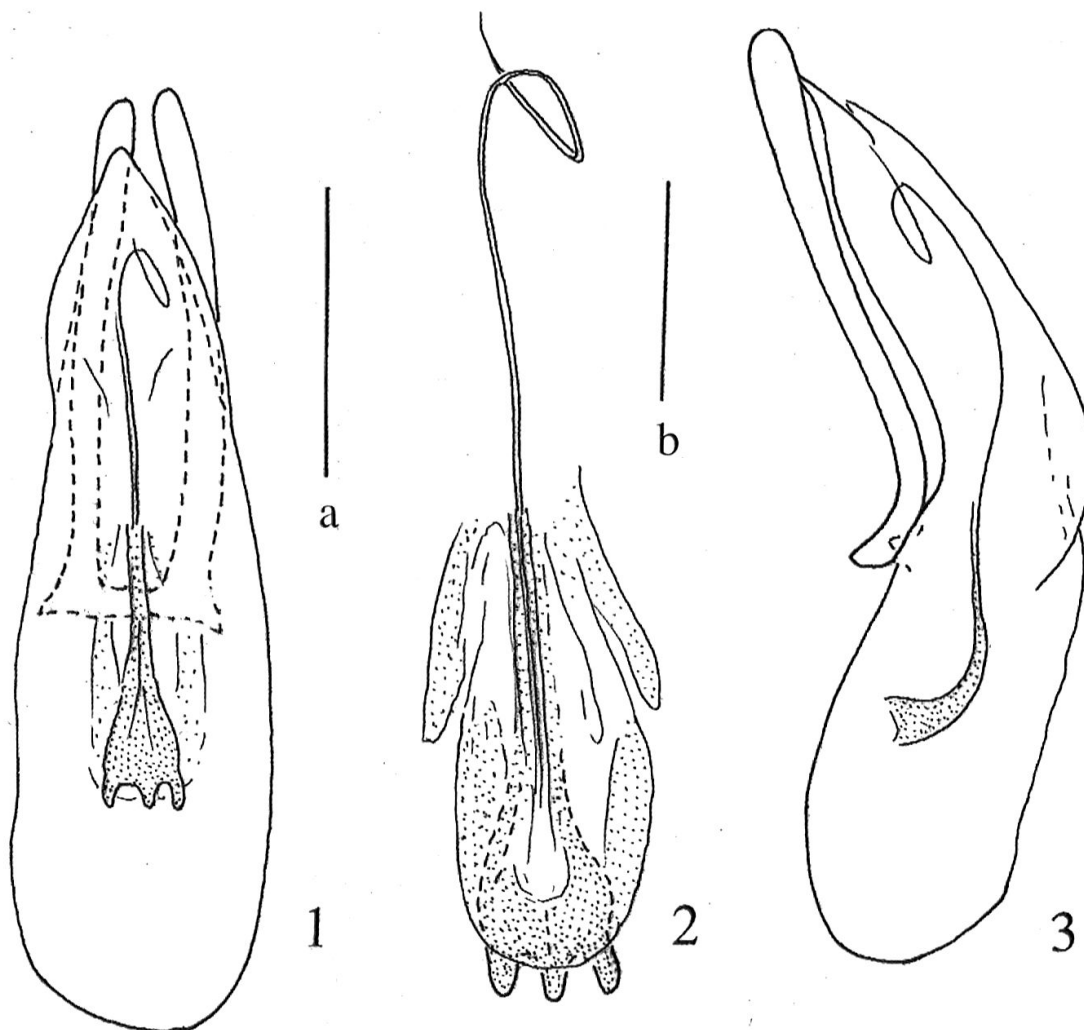
TAXONOMY

Sphaeroscapha punctata sp. n.

(Figs 1 to 3)

Holotype ♂ labelled: New Caledonia, Col d'Amieu 11.xi.1997 leaf litter + log I. Löbl (MHNG).

Description: Length 1.93 mm, width 1.37 mm. Head and most of body very dark, blackish with reddish shine. Femora and tibiae hardly lighter than body. Apical part of elytra translucent and lighter. Apical, microsculptured margins of visible abdominal ventrites 1 to 4, following abdominal segments, mouth-parts, and antennae brown. Frons between eyes shallowly impressed. Antennae with relative length of segments III to XI as: III 9: IV 10: V 12: VI 11: VII 11: VIII 8: IX 12: X 12: XI 18; segments 3 to 6 similar, slightly thickened at apex; segment VIII distinctly wider than segment VI and VIII, about 3 times as wide as long, segments IX and X sub-triangular, distinctly wider than segment VII, segment XI oval, about twice as long



Figs 1–3. *Sphaeroscapha punctata* sp. n., aedeagus in dorsal and lateral views. Scale bars: a (Figs 1, 3) = 0.2 mm, b (Fig. 2) = 0.1 mm.

as wide. Pronotum at base 1.18 mm wide, with evenly convex lateral margins, lateral margin carinae not visible in dorsal view, punctation sparse, consisting of very fine and not well delimited punctures, hardly visible at magnification x 50. Scutellum concealed. Elytra with lateral margins arcuate, lateral margin carina exposed in apical half (in dorsal view), sutural striae shallow but distinct, parallel with sutural margin, curved along base to form basal striae extending up to mid-width of basal margin. Adsutural areas flat. Apical margins slightly rounded. Inner apical angle not denticulate, lying posterior to level of outer angles. Elytral disc flattened near apex. Discal punctation sparse, irregular, near base about as fine as that on pronotum, on most of surface distinctly coarser. Metathoracic wings apparently fully developed. Hypomera, mesoventrite and metaventrite lacking microsculpture, with sparse, extremely fine punctation, punctures along mesocoxal lines excepted. Centre of metaventrite flat. Mesocoxal lines parabolic, coarsely punctate. Submesocoxal areas 0.05 mm long. Pygidium with extremely fine microsculpture consisting of transverse striae. Visible abdominal ventrite 1 impressed along basolateral margin and at lateral margins posterior mid-length; base with conspicuously coarse, very dense, partly elongate punctures; lateral areas behind basal puncture row smooth, punctation behind smooth area irregular, less coarse than at base, punctation on median part of visible ventrite 1 fine. Following ventrites very finely punctate.

Protibiae slightly curved, mesotibiae and metatibiae distinctly curved. Metafemora 0.50 mm long, distinctly curved, metatarsi 0.33 mm long.

Male sexual characters. Segments 1 to 3 of protarsi weakly widened. Aedeagus (Figs 1–3) 0.63 mm long. Median lobe moderately sclerotized, with apical part inflexed, about as long as basal bulb, strongly narrowed at tip in lateral view. Parameres weakly arcuate, in lateral view somewhat widened at apex. Internal sac with basal sclerite tridentate proximally, joined to weakly sclerotized plate and extended by very long flagellum.

Habitat. The new species was found at the forest edge in litter accumulated along a large log.

Comments. This new species differs conspicuously from *S. globosa* by the dark body coloration, and the visible abdominal ventrite 1 lacking microsculpture and being distinctly punctate. The aedeagus of *S. punctata* is very similar to that of *S. globosa*; it differs mainly by the proximally tridentate basal sclerite of the internal sac.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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