

A REVISION OF THE GENERA OF THE TRIBE PLATYSOMATINI  
(COLEOPTERA: HISTERIDAE: HISTERINAE). PART 2.  
REDESCRIPTIONS OF THE GENERA, *THEROPATINA* MAZUR, 1984,  
*MICROLISTER* LEWIS, 1905 AND *PLATYBLETES* THÉROND, 1952.

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**Abstract.**— This is a second part of the revision of Platysomatini, providing redescriptions of the genera, *Theropatina*, *Microlister* and *Platybletes* based on their type species.



**Key words.**— Coleoptera, Histeridae, Platysomatini, taxonomy, redescription.

## INTRODUCTION

In series of the papers we revise the relationship among the genera belonging the tribe Platysomatini (sensu Mazur 1997). First of all, we redescribed their type species of the genera; herein, we revised almost genera among the Platysomatini and other few genera of the Histerinae added as members of the out-groups. Secondly we checked characteristics of their morphological characters to reconstruct their cladgram and then analyzed their reliability of the monophyly. The cladgram is represented that the tribe Platysomatini (sensu Mazur 1997) is not monophyly and should be divided into several taxonomical groups. Then, we also propose here a new system in the subfamily Histerinae.

In this paper three genera, *Theropatina* Mazur, *Microlister* Lewis and *Platybletes* ThéronD are redescribed and illustrated on the basis of their type species. Materials used in this study are taken from the collection of the senior author (SMC) as well as borrowed from the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France (MNHN) and the Koninklijk Museum voor Midden-Afrika, Tervuren, Belgium (KMMA).

**Measurements.** Measurements of some body parts are given in text or tables in the order of range, mean  $\pm$  standard error (all in mm), and sample size. Abbreviations used in the measurements are as follows: PPL: length between anterior angles of pronotum and apex of pygidium, PEL: length between anterior angles of pronotum and apices of elytra, APW: width between anterior angles of pronotum, PPW: width between posterior angles of pronotum, PL: length of pronotum along mid line, EL: length of elytron along sutural line, EW: maximal width between outer margins of elytra, ProW: maximal width of propygidium, ProL: length of propygidium, PyL: length of pygidium, PTL: length of protibia, MSTL: length of mesotibia, MTTL: length of metatibia. See also Ôhara (1994: 8, fig. 2).

## REDESCRIPTION AND NOTES

### *Theropatina* Mazur, 1984

*Theropatina* Mazur, 1984: 254.

*Patina* ThéronD, 1975: 749, nec Rafinesque, 1815: 155, homonymized by Mazur, 1984: 254.

**Type species.** *Patina oussagarai* ThéronD, 1975: 749.

**Notes.** *Theropatina* Mazur includes only the type species, *Th. oussagarai*. It is distinguished from other members of the tribe Platysomatini by the large body size and the strongly curved lateral metasternal stria. Considering this, the genus *Theropatina* should be transferred to the tribe Histerini (or to the tribe Omalodini) as having not only the general appearance of the members of these tribes but also a structure of aedeagus of the male genitalia (except median lobe) which is typical for the tribe Histerini. A reason to include the genus in the tribe Platysomatini has been the "S-shaped tarsal groove on protibia" (Mazur 1984 and 1997), but this is not an apomorphic state in the tribe so it has been rejected from the last key of Mazur (1990). The genus probably is the most primitive member of the tribes Histerini and/or Omalodini because of its simple structure of median lobe of the male genitalia, strongly curved lateral metasternal stria and presence of a profemoral stria.

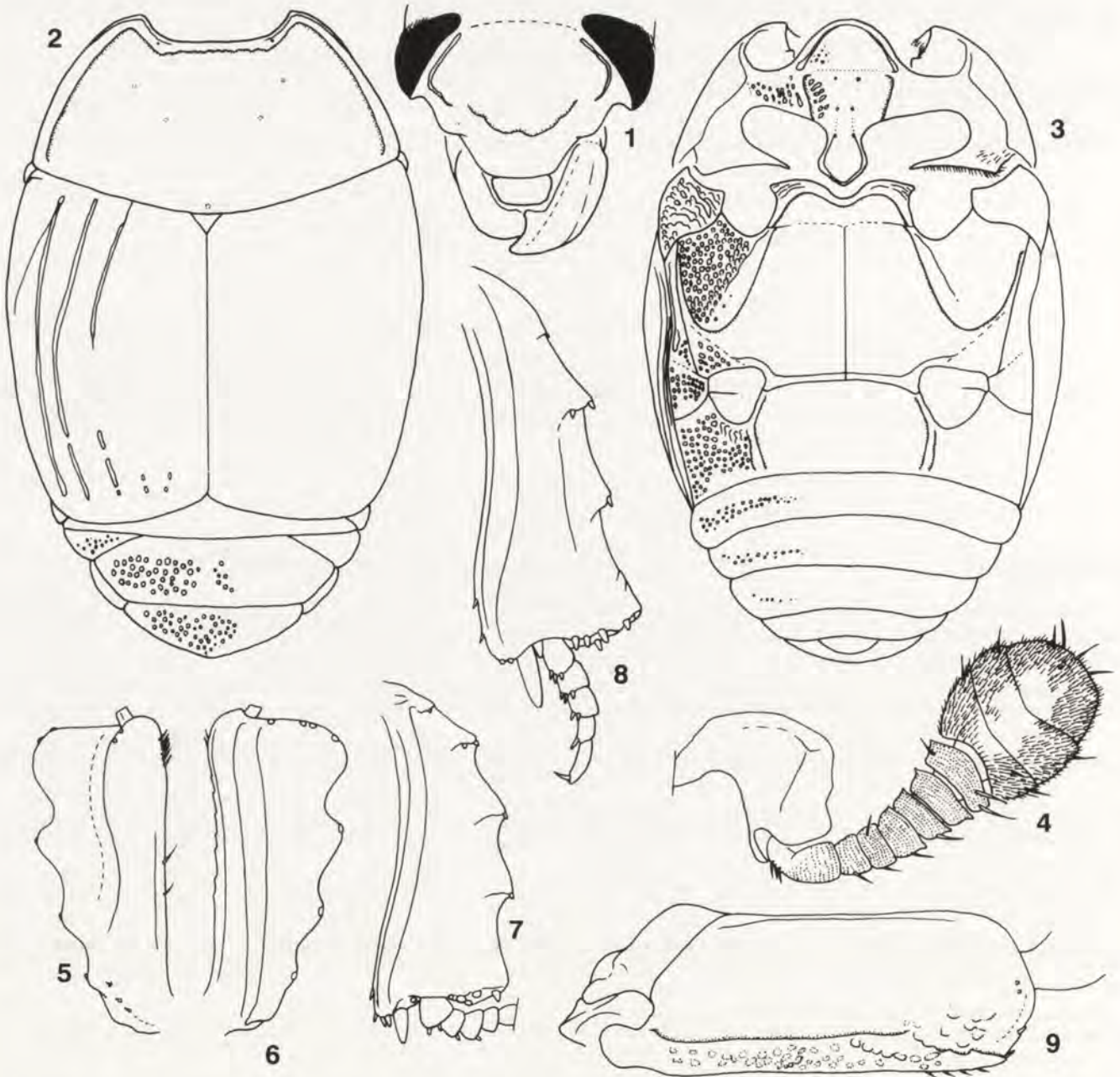
**Distribution** (Fig. 38). Tropical Africa (Tanzania).

### *Theropatina oussagarai* (ThéronD, 1975) (Figs 1–15)

*Patina oussagarai* ThéronD, 1975: 749 [Tanzania].

*Theropatina oussagarai*: Mazur, 1984: 255.

**Redescription.** Body (Fig. 2) oval, black; funicule of antennae and tarsi dark brown. Body length (male, type, in



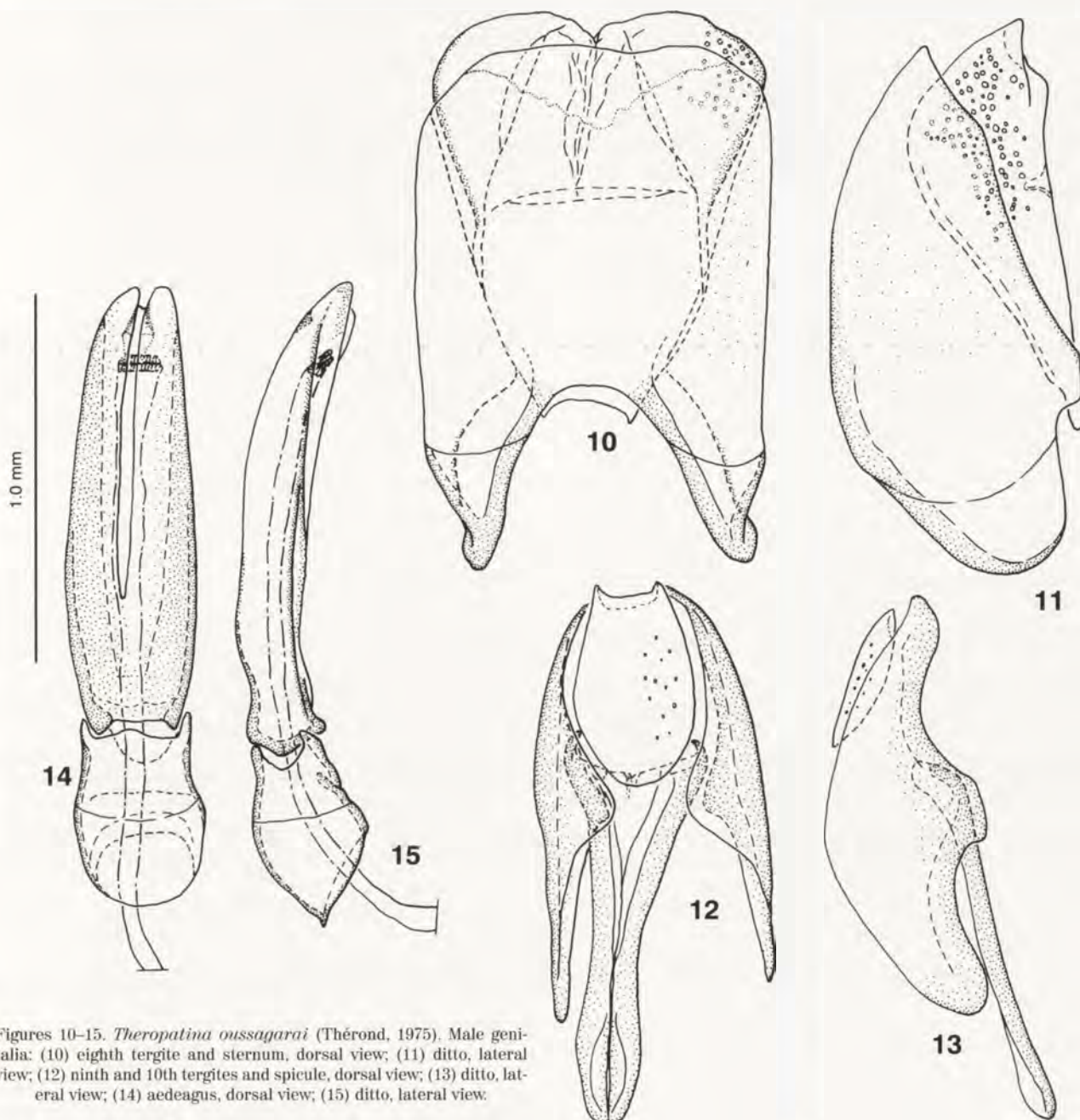
Figures 1–9. *Theropatina oussagarai* (Thérond, 1975). (1) Head, frontal view; (2) adult, dorsal view; (3) ditto, ventral view; (4) antenna, ventral view; (5) left protibia, dorsal view; (6) ditto, ventral view; (7) left mesotibia, ventral view; (8) left metatibia, ventral view; (9) profemur, ventral view.

mm), PPL, 8.8; PEL, 6.8; APW, 2.0; PPW, 5.0; PL, 2.4; EL, 3.8; EW, 5.6; ProL, 1.1; ProW, 3.4; PyL, 1.4; PTL, 1.8; MSTL, 1.7; MTTL, 2.0.

Antennal club with distinct suture (Fig. 4), each suture almost straight and not interrupted medially. Ratio of width of pronotum to head 2.94. Front of head feebly depressed, its surface sparsely and finely punctate, the punctures separated by about three times their diameters. Frontal stria of head (Fig. 1) well impressed and interrupted at lateral one-fourth. Labrum transverse, oblong and flat, its anterior margin round. Mandible without carina.

Pronotum (Fig. 2) feebly convex medially; marginal stria complete, impressed laterally and broadly interrupted behind head; outer lateral pronotal stria well impressed, and complete laterally and anteriorly, the medio-apical portion behind head almost straight and strongly crenate. Pronotal disc sparsely covered with fine punctures; two pairs of slight impression present on medio-anterior area. Pronotal base with a slightly impressed antescutellar point.

Elytral epipleuron with two marginal striae, the outer stria strongly impressed. Elytral marginal stria completely



Figures 10–15. *Theropatina oussagari* (Thérond, 1975). Male genitalia: (10) eighth tergite and sternum, dorsal view; (11) ditto, lateral view; (12) ninth and 10th tergites and spicule, dorsal view; (13) ditto, lateral view; (14) aedeagus, dorsal view; (15) ditto, lateral view.

impressed. External subhumeral stria slightly impressed on basal two-thirds. Internal subhumeral stria absent. Oblique humeral stria slightly impressed on basal two-fifths. Two first dorsal striae complete; 3rd one present on basal half as well as some rudiments on apical fourth; 4th and 5th striae only represented by few rudiments apically; sutural stria absent. Disc of elytra shining and impunctate.

Propygidium with feeble depression on each side, densely covered with large and longitudinal punctures, the punctures separated by half their diameter; the interspace and a broad area along margin covered with fine punctures. Pygidium flat, densely covered with large, round and deep punctures which are separated by half to twice their diameter.

Prosternal lobe (Fig. 3) convex medially, its disc sparsely and coarsely punctate, the anterior margin round; marginal stria complete and the outer edge of stria subcariniform, ending in a deep fovea on each side. Prosternal process impunctate, with carinal striae on posterior half, the striae united posteriorly, impressed along posterior margin; posterior margin pointed outwardly, its apex round. Only one lateral prosternal stria present, strongly impressed.

Mesosternum transverse; surface covered with fine and shallow punctures along marginal stria; anterior margin deeply emarginate medially; marginal stria impressed and sinuate medially; other short striae well impressed behind each antero-lateral angle. Meso-metasternal suture slight-

ly areuate anteriorly. Intercostal disc of metasternum flat and impunctate. Lateral metasternal stria subcariniform, extending obliquely and posteriorly, then strong curved outwardly, ending at antero-lateral corner. Post-mesocostal stria straight and impressed on basal half. Lateral metasternal disc covered with large, semicircular and shallow punctures, sometimes being fused.

Intercostal disc of 1st abdominal sternum impunctate; two lateral striae present on each side, the inner one complete and its inner edge evanescent so that the stria appear feebly subcariniform, the outer one present on posterior half. Lateral disc irregularly and densely covered with coarse punctures and longitudinal rugae.

Protibia (Figs 5, 6) dentate, with 4 spines on outer margin (not including a spine at apical outer angle), and a pair of spines on inner angle and 4 or 5 spine present on apical margin (the dermal structure and spines are partially destroyed in only existing type specimen). Mesotibia (Fig. 7) dentate, with 3 spines on outer margin, and 9 spines on apical margin; ventral surface with a row of 2 or 3 spines. Metatibia (Fig. 8) with 3 dental spines on outer margin, and 10 spines present on apical margin; ventral surface with 2 small spines. Profemur (Fig. 9) with profemoral stria ventrally, covered with coarse punctures along posterior margin.

Male genitalia (Figs 10–15). Posterior margin of eighth sternite straight, not divided. Ninth tergite distinctly sclerotized, with antero-lateral, not rod-shaped projections. Spicule Y-shaped. Tenth tergite oblong, the posterior margin broadly emarginate. Ratio of length of parameres to basal piece about 2.64. Lateral sides of parameres parallel on basal half, thence convergent apically on posterior half; parameres not fused on apical two-thirds of dorsal surface. Median lobe simple, probably extruded from the dorsal side of tegmen.

**Specimen examined.** TANZANIA. Holotype, male, "Holotype (red label)", "Tanzanie: Mts Uluguru, Kiroka, for héliophile, alt, 725 m, 27–31.V.(19)71", "Coll. Mus. Tervuren, Mission Mts Uluguru, L. Berger, N. Leleup, J. Debecker, V/VIII/71", "Patina oussagarai nov. sp. J. Théron det., 1924" (KMMA: #MO-00-145).

#### *Microliaster* Lewis, 1905

*Microliaster* Lewis, 1905: 400.

**Type species.** *Microliaster coronatus* Lewis, 1905: 400.

**Notes.** The genus *Microliaster* Lewis is represented only by one species, *M. coronatus*, and may be characterized by "peculiar frontal striae of head". It is also easily distinguished from the other members of the tribes Platysomatini and Histerini by the combination of the following characters: (1) presence of two frontal striae, (2) V-shaped suture of antennal club, (3) S-shaped tarsal groove of protibia, (4) oval and small body, (5) simple median lobe of male genitalia, (6) lateral metasternal stria straight, extending posteriorly, but not attaining the metepisternal suture, (7) parameres of male genitalia not fused on dorsal side, and (8) presence of a row of spines on ventral side of meso- and metatibiae. The systematic status of *Microliaster*, however,

remains still unclear, because of its occupying an intermediate position between the tribes, Platysomatini (2, 3, 6) and Histerini (7, 8). As yet there is no satisfactory solution to this problem. The genus is probably closely related to *Theropatina* Mazur being also a primitive representative of the tribes Histerini and/or Platysomatini.

**Distribution** (Fig. 38). Tropical Africa (Eastern, central and western Africa).

#### *Microliaster coronatus* Lewis, 1905 (Figs 16–29)

*Microliaster coronatus* Lewis, 1905: 400 [Fernado Po].

*Microliaster sheppardi* Lewis, 1907: 102 ["East Africa"], synonymized by Mazur, 1984: 221.

*Platysoma striatifrons* Desbordes, 1919: 73 [Zaire], synonymized by Mazur, 1993: 5.

*Platysoma excavatum* Théron, 1952: 416 [Zaire], nec *Platysoma excavatum* (Lewis, 1906: 182) Mazur, 1984: 233, homonymized by Mazur, 1997: 82.

*Platysoma leleupi* Théron, 1952: 417 [Zaire], synonymized by Mazur, 1997: 82.

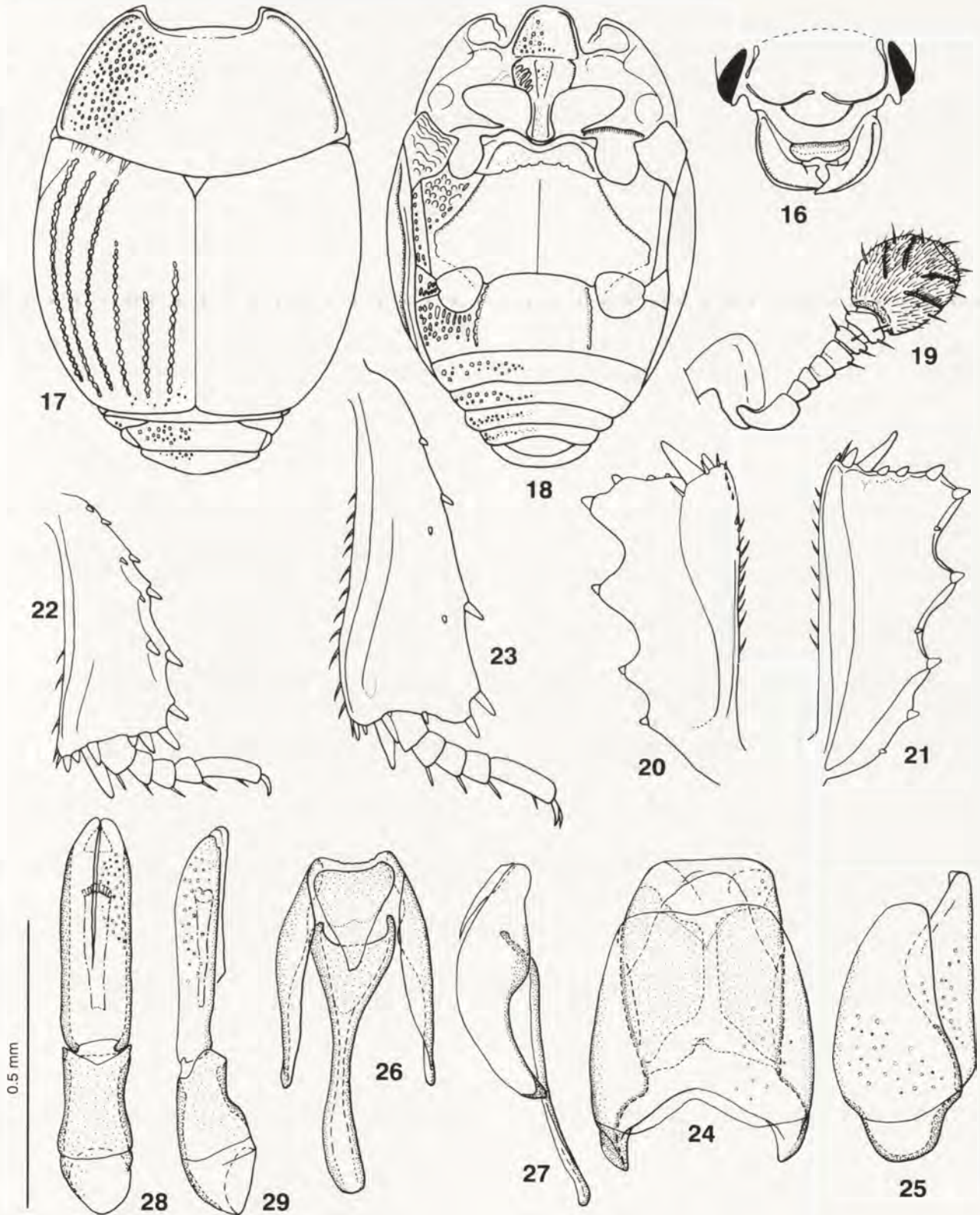
*Platysoma noveexcavatum* Thayer in Johnson et al., 1991: 14 (emend).

**Redescription.** Body (Fig. 17) oval, black; mandible, antennae, tibiae and tarsi reddish brown. Body length (male, in mm), PPL, 3.37; PEL, 2.71; APW, 0.8; PPW, 2.01; PL, 0.99; EL, 1.72; EW, 2.31; ProL, 0.36; ProW, 1.09; PyL, 0.46; PTL, 0.66; MSTL, 0.56; MTTL, 0.69.

Antennal club with distinct suture (Fig. 19), the suture V-shaped and interrupted medially. Ratio of width of pronotum to head 2.90. Frons flat, sparsely and finely punctate, the punctures separated by about four times their diameters. Frontal stria (Fig. 16) briefly interrupted at middle, its outer edge strongly subcariniform; additional stria present on frontoclypeal region, this stria regularly curved and subcariniform. Labrum with a transverse keel medially, the anterior margin slightly emarginate medially. One denticle present at inner margin of mandible. Mandible with distinct carina on outer margin.

Pronotum (Fig. 17) convex medially; marginal stria impressed laterally and anteriorly, the anterior part behind the head broadly distant from anterior margin; outer lateral pronotal stria well impressed and complete laterally, its anterior end curved and a little extending inwardly, its outer edge strongly subcariniform. Pronotal disc densely covered with coarse, round and deep punctures on lateral third, the coarse punctures separated by one to three times their diameter; the interspace and median area evenly covered with fine punctures. Antescutellar area with a slight impression.

Elytral epipleuron with two marginal striae, the outer stria strongly impressed. Elytral marginal stria and both subhumeral striae absent. Oblique humeral stria slightly impressed on basal thirds. First to 3rd dorsal striae complete; 4th and sutural striae shortened on basal third; 5th dorsal stria present on apical half; all dorsal and sutural striae deeply impressed and coarsely punctate. Elytral disc sparsely covered with fine punctures, with apical transverse band of coarse punctures.



Figures 16-29. *Microlistes coronatus* Lewis, 1905. (16) Head, frontal view; (17) adult, dorsal view; (18) ditto, ventral view; (19) antenna, ventral view; (20) left protibia, dorsal view; (21) ditto, ventral view; (22) left mesotibia, ventral view; (23) left metatibia, ventral view. (24-29) Male genitalia: (24) eighth tergite and sternum, dorsal view; (25) ditto, lateral view; (26) ninth and 10th tergites and spicule, dorsal view; (27) ditto, lateral view; (28) aedeagus, dorsal view; (29) ditto, lateral view.

Propygidium densely covered with large and round punctures, the punctures separated by half to twice their diameter; interspace covered with fine punctures. Pygidium convex medially, evenly covered with fine punctures; several coarse punctures present on medio-basal area.

Prosternal lobe (Fig. 18) feebly convex at middle, sparsely and finely punctate, the punctures becoming larger laterally; its anterior margin round; marginal stria briefly interrupted medially. Prosternal process finely and sparsely punctate, with carinal striae, the striae divided into anterior and posterior parts; the striae of anterior part divergent apically, while the striae on posterior almost parallel to lateral margins; posterior margin rounded outwardly. One lateral prosternal stria present.

Mesosternum transverse, irregularly covered with fine punctures; anterior margin deeply emarginate medially; marginal stria completely impressed and sinuate medially; also a short stria present behind each antero-lateral angle. Meso-metasternal suture slightly arcuate anteriorly, sparsely and coarsely crenate. Intercoxal disc of metasternum flat, sparsely covered with fine punctures. Lateral metasternal stria extending obliquely and posteriorly, its apex curved posteriorly and then curved again inwardly. Post-mesocoxal stria absent. Lateral metasternal disc covered with large, semicircular and shallow punctures.

Intercoxal disc of 1st abdominal sternum sparsely and finely punctate; lateral stria complete and its inner edge evanescent so that the stria appear subcariniform. Sides densely covered with coarse punctures and longitudinal rugae.

Protibia (Figs. 20, 21) dentate, with 5 spines on outer margin (not including a spine at apical outer angle), their base with 3 apical denticles, a pair of spines on inner angle and 3 spine on apical margin (including a spine at apical outer angle). Mesotibia (Fig. 22) with 5 spines on outer margin, and 7 spines present on apical margin; ventral side with a row of 3 spines. Metatibia (Fig. 23) with 4 dental spines on outer margin and 6 spines on apical margin; ventral side with 2 small spines. Profemur with coarse punctures, and several rugae ventrally on apico-posterior area.

Male genitalia (Figs. 24–29). Posterior margin of eighth sternite straight, not divided. Ninth tergite distinctly sclerotized, with antero-lateral projections, not rod-shaped. Spicule Y-shaped. Tenth tergite triangular. Ratio of length of parameres to basal piece about 1.40. Lateral sides of parameres parallel, thence convergent apically at apical one-sixth; parameres not fused on apical half of dorsal surface. Median lobe simple, probably extruded from the dorsal side of tegmen.

**Specimens examined.** TOGO. 1 male, Togo, Palime, Forêt de Klout, 20–24.IV.1974, S. Vit leg. (SMC: #MO-00-138). ZAIRE. 1 ex., Kivu, Irangi Bopa, 1–2.II.1986, H. Mühle leg.

### *Platybletes* Théron, 1952

*Platybletes* Théron, 1952: 418; Mazur, 1997: 66 [treated as a subgenus of the genus *Platysoma*].

**Type species.** *Platybletes stirpium* Théron, 1952: 419.

**Notes.** The genus *Platybletes*, now including 6 species, has been classified recently as a subgenus of the genus *Platysoma* Leach (Mazur, 1997), but a detailed examination of the type-species showed, that *Platybletes* does not belong to the Platysomatini in which it has been placed originally because of the absence of a median mesosternal projection. Having many affinities with the genus *Hypobletes*, *Platybletes* should be classified among the tribe Exosternini. Also, in general appearance, it has a less retractable head and more horizontal propygidium and pygidium as compared with the species of the genus *Platysoma*.

*Platybletes* may be characterized by following characters: suture of antennal club straight; anterior margin of mesosternum emarginate; body oblong-oval; frontal stria strongly reduced; marginal pronotal stria almost absent, slightly incised latero-basally; mesosternum without marginal stria; outer margin of protibia not denticulate.

All the character presented above should be treated as rather reduced conditions or rather primitive (plesiomorphic) ones, so it is very difficult to find, at least, one apomorphy of this genus. Anyway, there is no doubt that the species included here are not congeneric and should be revised and rearranged, too.

**Distribution (as temporary stated).** Tropical Africa (Zaire, Cameroon, Gabon, Rwanda) and Indonesia (Celebes).

### *Platybletes stirpium* Théron, 1952

(Figs 30–37)

*Platybletes stirpium* Théron, 1952: 419 [Congo].

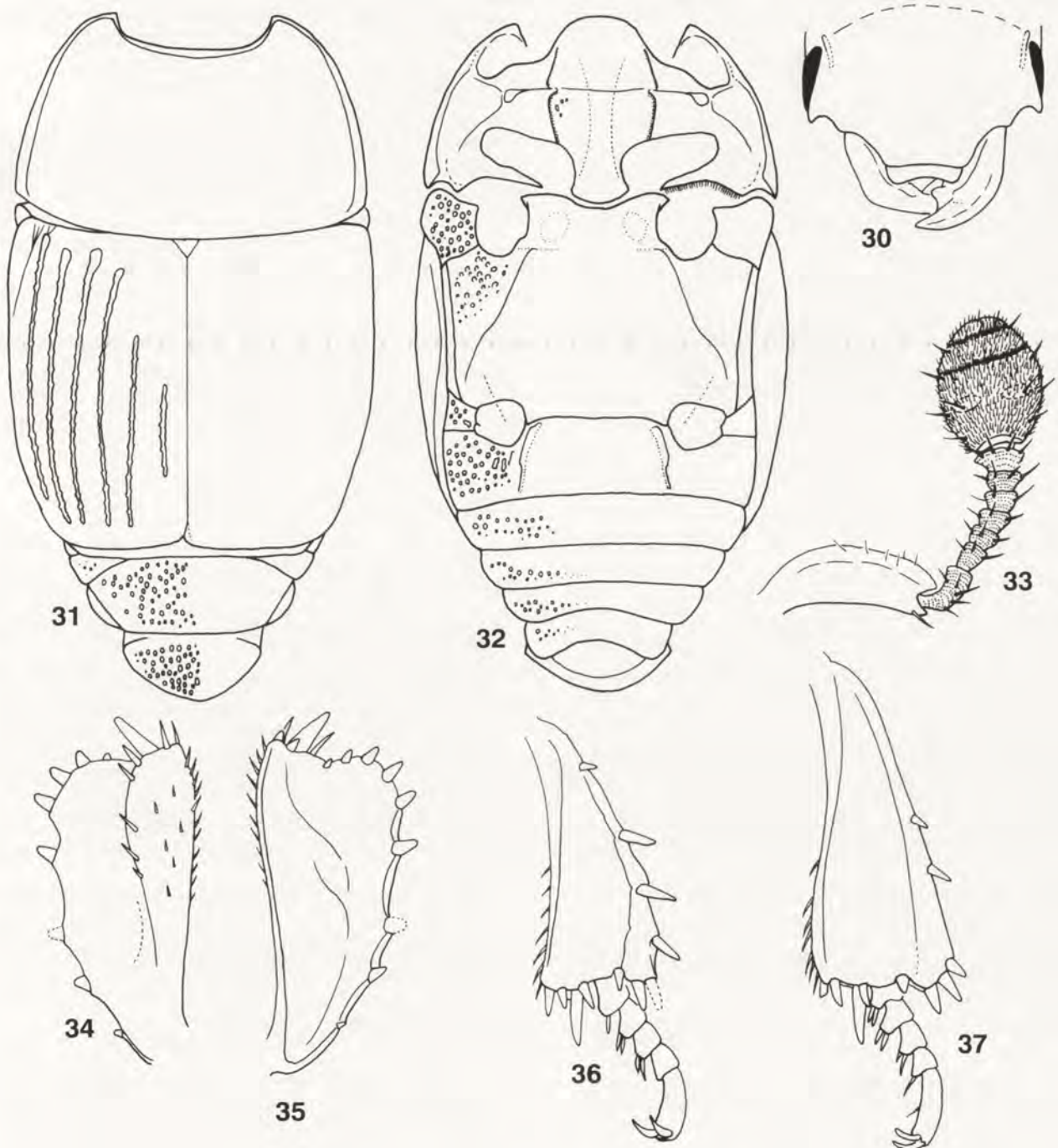
*Platysoma (Platybletes) stirpium*: Mazur, 1997: 67.

**Redescription.** Body oblong-oval (Fig. 31), slightly depressed, black; propygidium and pygidium dark brown; mouth parts, tibiae and tarsi reddish brown. Body length (female, paratype, in mm), PPL, 3.5; PEL, 2.63; APW, 0.8; PPW, 1.7; PL, 0.9; EL, 1.53; EW, 1.83; ProL, 0.43; ProW, 1.0; PyL, 0.38; PTL, 0.55; MSTL, 0.45; MTTL, 0.55.

Antennal club with straight suture (Fig. 33). Ratio of width of pronotum to head 2.52. Frons flat, evenly and finely punctate, the punctures separated by about three times their diameters. Frontal and orbital striae (Fig. 30) absent, only supraorbital stria marked laterally. Labrum feebly convex, its anterior margin emarginate medially. One denticle present on inner margin of mandible. Mandible without carinae.

Pronotum (Fig. 31) feebly depressed; marginal stria very fine but slightly impressed laterally on basal third ventrally; outer lateral pronotal stria well impressed and complete. Pronotal disc evenly covered with fine punctures, the punctures separated by four to seven times their diameter. Antescutellar area without impression.

Elytral epipleuron with a complete epipleural marginal stria, the stria sinuate medially. Elytral marginal and subhumeral striae absent. Oblique humeral stria slightly impressed on basal third. First to 4th dorsal striae complete, the basal ends of 3rd and 4th feebly bent inwardly; 5th stria



Figures 30–37. *Platybletes stirpium* Théron, 1952. (30) Head, frontal view; (31) adult, dorsal view; (32) ditto, ventral view; (33) antenna, ventral view; (34) left protibia, dorsal view; (35) ditto, ventral view; (36) left mesotibia, ventral view; (37) left metatibia, ventral view.

absent in basal third; sutural stria present on medio-apical one-fourth. Elytra sparsely covered with fine punctures which are separated by about eight to ten times their diameter.

Propygidium sparsely covered with large and round punctures, the punctures separated by about half to twice their diameter; the interspace intermingled with fine punctures which are separated by about twice their diameter. Punctuation of pygidium similar to that of propygidium, but the large punctures denser and deeper.

Prosternal lobe (Fig. 32) broad and flat, finely and sparsely punctate, its anterior margin round; marginal stria marked latero-basally only. Prosternal process without carinal striae, similarly punctate as lobe, its posterior margin round. One lateral prosternal stria present, the outer edge of stria subcariniform.

Mesosternum transverse, feebly excavated on each side and sparsely covered with fine punctures; anterior margin emarginate medially; marginal stria of mesosternum absent.



Figure 38. Distribution of the genera *Theropatina* and *Microlister*.

Meso-metasternal suture finely impressed. Intercostal disc of metasternum flat, and sparsely covered with fine punctures which are separated by about ten times their diameter. Lateral metasternal stria extending obliquely and posteriorly, the apical end nearly attaining postero-lateral corner of metasternum. Post-mesocoxal stria absent. Lateral metasternal disc covered with several large punctures on basal half, sparsely and finely punctate apically.

Intercostal disc of 1st abdominal sternum with similarly punctate as intercostal disc of metasternum; with one complete stria on each side. Lateral disc covered densely with few longitudinal rugae and large punctures.

Protibia (Fig. 34, 35) feebly dentate, with 5 spines on outer margin (not including a spine at apical outer angle), and a pair of spines on inner angle and 3 small spine on apical margin (including a spine at apical outer angle). Mesocoxa with a few longitudinal impressions, without distinct carina. Mesotibia (Fig. 36) with 4 spines on outer margin, and 7 spines on apical margin. Metatibia (Fig. 37) with 2 spines on outer margin, and 7 spines on apical margin. Ventral surface of profemur covered with microscopic rugae and a few longitudinal impressions on outer lateral area.

**Specimen examined.** CONGO. 1 female (Paratype), "I.R.S.A. – Mus. Congo. Kivu. Wlungu, 1750 m, 7.VII.1949, Dr. R. Laurent", "Récolté dans, souches pourries de

bananiers", "Paratype (red label)", "*Platybletes stirpium* n. sp., J. Théron det., 1952" (MNHN: #MO-00-142).

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