A new species of *Elgonidium* BASILEWSKY, 1954 (Coleoptera: Anthicidae) from Tanzania

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Abstract: *Elgonidium bartolozzii* sp. nov. (Coleoptera: Anthicidae: Tomoderinae), the first representative of his genus from Tanzania, is described and illustrated. Updated key to species of *Elgonidium* is presented.

Key words: Coleoptera, Anthicidae, Tomoderinae, *Elgonidium*, East Africa, new species, identification key.

Introduction

Elgonidium The genus BASILEWSKY, 1954 is a characteristic element of the East African Rift and considered be endemic to this area. A taxonomic revision of *Elgonidium* was published very recently (Telnov 2008). These tiny and eye-less beetles occur in litter between grass and under stones, mostly in mid- to high montane areas above 1600 m (Telnov 2008). Of the 7 described species, six are known from Kenya and one species occupies the Mount Elgon massif on the border between Kenya and Uganda.

In the material of Anthicidae from Zoological museum "La Speco-

la" of Florence University, a new species of Elgonidium was discovered: E. bartolozzii sp. nov. This is the first record of Elgonidium from Tanzania, and also the southernmost locality for the genus. The Udzungwa Mountains, where this new species was collected, are a part of a series of isolated mountain ranges stretching from southern Kenva to south-central Tanzania. The Udzungwa Mountains are almost unexplored biologically, and famous due to its endemic mammals like the recently discovered Giant Elephant-Shrew Rhynchocyon udzungwensis ROVERO et RATHBUN, 2008.

The holotype of the new *Elgonidium* species is preserved in the Zoological Museum "La Specola" in Florence, Italy (MZUF). The specimen label data is cited in its original form, without any additions or corrections.

New species description

Elgonidium bartolozzii sp. nov. (Figs 1-3)

Holotypus ♂ MZUF, No. 16022: TANZANIA: border Iringa-Morogoro prov., 12-15.VII.2004, Udzungwa Scarp, forest nr Masisiwe, 1700-1800 m, 08°20'32" S 35°58'03"E A. Sforzi & Bartolozzi legit (n° Mag. 2695) [printed]. Additional labels are: ♂ [printed, label light blue] / HOLOTYPUS [printed, label red with black border] / ELGONIDIUM bartolozzii sp. nov. det. D.Telnov, 2011 [printed].

Derivatio nominis: Patronymic. This species is named after the first collector and well-known Brentidae and Lucanidae specialist, Dr. Luca Bartolozzi (MZUF).

Measurements: Total body length 2.22 mm, maximum width in anterior third of elytra 0.66 mm; head 0.52 mm long, maximum width 0.35 mm; pronotum 0.60 mm long, maximum width of anterior lobe 0.40 mm, minimum width in lateral constriction area 0.12 mm, maximum width of posterior lobe 0.31 mm; elytra 1.10 mm long, 0.66 mm together broad.

Colouration: Uniformly pale brown, elytra slightly darker.

Forehead and mouthparts yellow. Antennae, palps and legs dark yellow, femora at least basally dark brown. Underside brown to yellowish-brown.

Description: Head strongly elongate, glossy, without visible punctures. Eyes lacking, completely atrophied. Pubescence very short and fine, yellowish. Antennae long and robust, with antennomeres 8-11 strongly widened and forming distinct club. 2nd antennomere equal or almost equal in length with scape. Antennomeres 2-4 elongate, 5-7 short and 7th nearly spherical, antennomeres 8-10 very broad and short, strongly transverse Terminal antennomere bluntly conical, as broad as preceding, nearly as long as antennomeres 9-10 combined. Pronotum glossy, dorsally slightly convex on anterior lobe. Anterior margin broadly rounded, sides strongly constricted toward lateral constriction and widened again posteriorly toward base. Anterior lobe clearly broader than posterior one and the head. Lateral constriction very deep, abruptly notched and with dentate margins. Dorsally with broad and very shallow impression in area of constriction (in lateral view). Disc with fine longitudinal carina beginning in posterior half of anterior lobe and ending in lateral constriction. Punctures on disc small, sparse but clearly visible at magnification x80. Pubescence denser and much longer

than on head, with several erect setae especially on sides. Scutellum very small, triangular. Elytra elongate, glossy, flattened dorsally. Humeri completely rounded, absent. Punctures quite large and dense in basal half, intervening spaces as large to slightly punctures. larger than Apically punctures become much smaller and finer. Pubescence yellowish, long, suberect, quite dense, with several erect setae on disc and sides Sutural striae not indicated. Epipleurae broad and almost reaching elytral apices. Hind wings completely atrophied. Last visible sternite of males broadly rounded on apical margin (Fig. 2). Last visible tergite of males broadly rounded on apical margin. Aedeagus as on Fig. 3.

Sexual dimorphism: The female is currently unknown.

Differential diagnosis: Due to the dorso-medially carinate anterior lobe of the pronotum and dentate margins of the lateral constriction of the pronotum (these teeth are clearly visible in dorsal view), the new species is closely related with *E. aberdareum* TELNOV, 2008 (Kenya: Aberdare range). However, the new species differs in having a wider anterior pronotal lobe and in having the 8th antennomere strongly transverse (indistinctly transverse in *E. aberdareum*), and the teeth of the lateral constriction of the pronotum are more distinct in *E. bartolozzii* sp. nov. than in *E. aberdareum* (Fig. 4). Maximum width of the anterior lobe of pronotum is more than three times of the width of lateral constriction in *E. bartolozzii* sp. nov., but only two times in *E. aberdareum*.

Ecology: Collected at altitudes of 1700-1800 m by sifting soil and litter.

Updated identification key to *Elgonidium* BASILEWSKY, 1954

Current key in general follows Telnov (2008) but is supplemented by a new species.

1 Eyes small but distinct and convex *E. oculatum* Telnov - Eyes lacking or with only 1-4 facets visible 2 Lateral constriction of pronotum abruptly notched, margins denticulate. Teeth are visible from above. Disc of pronotum with fine longitudinal carina occupying posterior third of anterior lobe before lateral - Lateral constriction of pronotum without teeth visible from above. Disc of pronotum without long longitudinal carinae. If present, carina is very short and situated directly 3 Lateral constriction of pronotum very narrow, 3-4 times narrower than maximum width of anterior pronotal lobe. Antennomere 8 strongly transverse in males*E. bartolozzii* sp. nov. - Lateral constriction of pronotum about 2 times narrower than maximum width of anterior pronotal lobe. Antennomere 8 slightly transverse in males *E. aberdareum* TELNOV 4 Scape of antennae 3 times longer than broad. Posterior lobe of pronotum nearly of same width as anterior lobe *E. laevigatum* BUCK - Scape of antennae 2 times longer than broad. Posterior lobe of pronotum distinctly 5 Punctures on dorsum of pronotum, especially on posterior lobe, fine but distinct. Body larger, 3.0 mm. Eyes with 3-4 facets *E. leleupi* Basilewsky - Punctures on dorsum of pronotum almost invisible (except for few large punctures sometimes present in area of lateral constriction) and very sparse. Body smaller, 1.9-2.5 mm. Eyes with 1-2 facets or fully 6 Lateral constriction of pronotum deep, anterior lobe of pronotum more than 2x wider than constriction. Disc of pronotum without or with short longitudinal carina situated directly before lateral constriction *E. mountkenyanum* TELNOV - Lateral constriction of pronotum less deep, anterior lobe of pronotum 1.8x wider than constriction. Disc of pronotum without longitudinal carinae7 7 Lateral constriction of pronotum continuing dorsally, visible from above as thin transverse carina. Comparatively smaller species, 1.881.97 mm. Elytra comparatively shorter
E. mahnerti BONADONA
Lateral constriction of pronotum does not continue dorsally in form of transverse carina. Comparatively larger species, 1.9-2.3 mm. Elytra comparatively stronger elongate
E. elongatum BONADONA

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References

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Figure 1. Elgonidium bartolozzii sp.Figure 4. Elgonidium aberdareumnov., holotype ♂ MZUF: pronotum
(dorsal view).TELNOV, 2008, holotype ♂: pronotum
(dorsal view).





Figure 2. *Elgonidium bartolozzii* sp. nov., holotype ♂ MZUF: last visible sternite (ventral view).

Figure 3. *Elgonidium bartolozzii* sp. nov., holotype \Im MZUF: aedeagus.