The genus *Alphitobius* Stephens (Coleoptera, Tenebrionidae, Alphitobiini) in Africa and adjacent islands

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Abstract

All species of the genus *Alphitobius* Stephens, 1829 (Alphitobiini Reitter, 1917, subfamily Tenebrioninae Latreille, 1802) from Africa and adjacent islands are revised. New species: *Alphitobius capitaneus* sp. n. from Kenya. New synonyms: *Cryptops ulomoides* Solier, 1851, syn. n. of *Alphitobius diaperinus* (Panzer, 1796); *Alphitobius rufus* Ardoin, 1976, syn. n. of *Alphitobius bobohmi* Koch, 1953; *Peltoides* (*Micropeltoides*) *crypticoides* Pic, 1916, syn. n. of *Peltoides* (*Micropeltoides*) *opacus* (Gerstaecker, 1871), comb. n. Homonym: *Alphitobius ulomoides* Koch, 1953 = *Alphitobius arnoldi* nom. n. New combinations from *Alphitobius*: *Ulomoides basilewskyi* Ardoin, 1969, comb. n.; *Peltoides* (*Micropeltoides*) *opacus* (Gerstaecker, 1871), comb. n. Figures of all examined species are added and a species key is compiled.

Keywords

Tenebrionidae, Alphitobiini, *Alphitobius*, taxonomy, new species, new synonym, new combination, Africa, species key
Introduction

Two species of the genus *Alphitobius* Stephens, 1829 (Alphitobiini Reitter, 1917, subfamily Tenebrioninae Latreille, 1802), namely *A. diaperinus* (Panzer, 1796) and *A. laevigatus* (Fabricius, 1781), have a cosmopolitan synanthropic distribution. All the other species were described from mature habitats in Africa south of the Sahara, so probably this is also the native area of both synanthropic species. Gebien (1921) presented the first key of the African species, including species of the genus *Diaclina* Jacquelin du Val, 1861. Additional species were added by Koch (1953), Ardoin (1958, 1963a, 1969, 1976), Ferrer (1983), and Bremer (1985). The goal of the present paper is a taxonomic revision of the African species, including the description of a new species, the recognition of new synonymies, a new name for a homonym, the transfer of two species from *Alphitobius* to *Ulomoides* and *Peltoides* respectively, providing also figures of all examined species, and compiling of a species key as well. Unfortunately, two taxa (*A. grandis* Fairmaire, 1897 and *A. limbalis* Fairmaire, 1901) from Madagascar remained unknown to the authors.

The separation of *Alphitobius* from *Diaclina* was doubtful for a long time. Gebien (1921) separated both by the width of the genal canthus (wider than eyes in *Alphitobius*, narrower or as wide as eyes in *Diaclina*). However, some taxa described under *Alphitobius* have the canthus not broader than eyes (for example *A. lamottei* Ardoin, 1963, see also in species key of Bremer and Girard 1996). Only recently, Matthews and Bouchard (2008) defined the Alphitobiini, separated this tribe from the Diaperini, and discussed also a few differences between *Alphitobius* and *Diaclina*.

Some additional taxa were originally described under *Alphitobius*, but were assigned in the meantime to other genera, and are therefore not included herein. *Ulomoides cinctellus* (Fairmaire, 1902) (Madagascar), *Diaclina parallela* (Thomson, 1858) (Guinea), *Micropedinus pullulus* (Boheman, 1858) (Hongkong), *Menimus nitidulus* (Motschulsky, 1859) (Sri Lanka), *Menimus punctulatus* (Mortschulsky, 1859) (Sri Lanka), *Ulomoides suffusus* (Wollaston, 1867) (Cape Verde), *Uloma sulcipennis* (Thomson, 1858) (Gabon), and *Ulomoides xamiaphilus* (Carter, 1920) (Australia). *Alphitobius distinguendus* Fairmaire, 1869 turned out to be a synonym of *Cenoscelis pulla* (Erichson, 1843). Herein, we transfer one additional species from *Alphitobius* to *Ulomoides*: *U. basilewskyi* (Ardoin, 1969), comb. n., and one from *Alphitobius* to *Peltoides* (*Micropeltoides*): *P. opacus* (Gerstaecker, 1871), comb. n.

Depositories

| Code | Institution                                      |
|------|--------------------------------------------------|
| CNC  | Canadian National Collection of Insects, Ottawa, Canada |
| CRA  | Collection Dr. Rolf Aalbu, Dorado Hills, USA/California |
| CRG  | Collection Dr. Roland Grimm, Neuenbürg, Germany    |
| MNB  | Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin, Germany           |
The genus *Alphitobius* Stephens (Coleoptera, Tenebrionidae, Alphitobiini) in Africa...

The African species of *Alphitobius*

*Alphitobius acutangulus* Gebien, 1921

http://species-id.net/wiki/Alphitobius_acutangulus

Figs 12, 18

**Type specimens examined.** Senegal, no further data, holotype NHMB (sex not examined).

**New material.** Sudan, Dilling, 20.–22.III.1914, leg. Ebner, 1 ex. NHMB. – Sudan, N Darfur Prov., El Geneina, 4.–18.VI.1979, leg. I. Abuzinid, 8 ex. TMSA, 1 ex. CRG, 1 ex. MNB, 1 ex. SMNS (det. Bremer). – Burkina Faso (labelled as Ob. Volta), Pundu, Olsufiew, no further data, 4 ex. TMSA. – Chad, Massaguet, without date, leg. H. Franz, 1 ex. NHMB. – Chad, Deressia, near Lai, without date, leg. H. Franz, 1 ex. NHMB.

**Type locality.** “Senegal”.

**Distribution.** Senegal (Gebien 1921, Koch 1953); Sudan (Bremer and Girard 1996); Burkina Faso, Chad (new records).

*Alphitobius arnoldi* nom. n.

Figs 4, 19

*Alphitobius ulomoides* Koch, 1953 (homonym, not *Cryptops ulomoides* Solier, 1851, syn. n.)

**Type specimens examined.** Zimbabwe (labelled as S Rhodesia), Bulawayo, leg. G. Arnold, holotype TMSA (sex not examined).

**New material.** Somalia, Car–Car Mts., IX.1959, leg. C. Koch, 2 ex. TMSA (det. Ferrer). – Somalia, Gardo, 810 m, 22.X.1957, leg. G. Scortecci, 1 ex. TMSA. – Kenya, Wittu, Lamu, Wangi, without date, leg. G. Denhardt, 1 ex. ZSM, 3 ex. MNB (det. Bremer). – Tanzania, Mgorogoro Prov. 10 km N Mikumi, 11.I.2007, leg. F. Kantner, 1 ex. SMNS.

**Type locality.** “Bulawayo”.

**Remarks.** *Cryptops ulomoides* Solier, 1851 from Chile is a junior synonym of *Alphitobius diaperinus* (Panzer, 1796) (see below). Thus *A. ulomoides* Koch, 1953 is a homonym and must have a new name, *arnoldi* nom. n.
Etymology. The new name is derived in honor of George Arnold (1881–1963), former curator in the “Rhodesia Museum” (now Natural History Museum of Zimbabwe, Bulawayo), specialist of African Hymenoptera, and collector of the holotype.

Distribution. Zimbabwe, Congo (Koch 1953); Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania (new records).
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Alphitobius capitaneus sp. n.
http://zoobank.org/C18D8875-7C0A-46B4-8195-313B8DE1A2BE
http://species-id.net/wiki/Alphitobius_capitaneus
Figs 16, 20

Type specimens. Holotype male: Kenya, Samburu Nature Reserve, Samburu River Lodge, 28.III.1988, leg. R. Grimm, CRG.

Diagnosis. Alphitobius capitaneus sp. n. is distinguished from its congeners by size and shape of body. A similar body shape, especially the shape of pronotum has A. lamottei Ardoin, 1963, but this species is smaller (body length ≤ 7.0 mm) and differs by the reddish colour, by much finer punctuation of dorsal surface, by longer and less distinct serrate antennae with basal antennomeres more elongated, and by the somewhat more stretched and apically narrowed apicale of aedeagus.

Description. Body length 8.8 mm, width at widest point behind middle of elytra 3.6 mm. Elongate, blackish brown, matt; borders of pronotum, lateral borders of elytra, sutural interval, and scutellum paler reddish brown. Complete dorsal surface with very fine and dense punctuation, punctures bearing a minute seta. Head sub-trapezoidal; outline continuous, not interrupted between clypeus and frons; apical margin of epistome shallowly emarginate in the middle; fronto-clypeal suture complete and linearly impressed. Eyes large, constricted by genal canthus, dorsal part smaller than ventral part. Genal canthus hardly projecting beyond contours of eyes, with the outlines nearly continuous with the outlines of the latter. Tempora strongly narrowed towards neck. Antennae thickened, not reaching the base of pronotum, with the seven distal antennomeres forming a kind of club; 2nd antennomere wider than long; 3rd elongate, one and a half times as long as wide; 4th only slightly, 5th to 10th distinctly wider than long and distinctly serrate; distal antennomere rounded, as wide as long. Pronotum transverse, width/length ratio 1.7; transverse convex, widest at base, shallowly arcuate narrowing to apex. Anterior margin shallowly emarginate, basal margin bisinuate, all margins finely bordered; lateral margins separated from discal convexity by a narrow submarginal depression. Anterior and posterior corners rectangular. Propleura densely covered with small seta bearing tubercles, only along outer margins nearly smooth. Prosternum rugosely punctured, prosternal apophysis bent down behind procoxae. Elytra convex, elongate oval with subparallel sides and densely punctured striae; scutellar striole absent; intervals much broader than striae, nearly flat on disc, becoming more and more convex laterally and distally; lateral margins in dorsal view visible nearly over entire length, only concealed around apex; base as wide as base of pronotum; humeral angles obtuse, distinct. Scutellum large, triangular. Mesoventrite roughly punctured, with shiny median carina in basal part; triangular apophysis raised upwards and excavate. Metaventrite shiny, with fine median sulcus, finely punctured on disc, somewhat more coarsely punctured laterally. Abdominal ventrites with very dense and fine punctuation throughout, basally and laterally longitudinally wrinkled. Tibiae gradually and faintly dilated towards apex, without modifications. Aedeagus as in Fig. 20.

Etymology. Capitaneus (Latin) means conspicuous by greatness, refers in this case to the body size.
**Alphitobius crenatus** (Klug, 1834)

http://species-id.net/wiki/Alphitobius_crenatus

Figs 1, 21

*Phaleria crenata* Klug, 1834

*Cataphronetis luctuosa* Fairmaire, 1869, syn.

**New material.** Madagascar, no further data, 2 ex. TMSA. – Madagascar, Ambatongy, no further data, 1 ex. SMNS. – S Madagascar, Midongy, no further data, 3 ex. SMNS. – C Madagascar, Katsepy (Majunga), 24.–31.XII.1997, leg. P. Pacholátko, 1 ex. SMNS. – Madagascar, Antananarivo Dist., Moramanga, 12.II.1995, leg. I. Jeniš, 1 ex. ZSM. – Madagascar, Toliaro Prov., Andohahela NP, Forêt d’Ambohibory, 300 m, 16.–20.I.2002, leg. Fisher, Grifswold et al., 1 ex. CRA. – Madagascar, Toliaro Prov., Cap Sainte Marie, 200 m, 11.–15.II.2002, leg. Fisher, Grifswold et al., 3 ex. CRA. – Madagascar, Toliaro Prov., Forêt de Tsingy, 70 m, 6.–10.III.2002, leg. Fisher, Grifswold et al., 1 ex. CRA. – Madagascar, Toliaro Prov., Tsimanampetsotsa NP, 25 m, 18.–22.III.2002, leg. Fisher, Grifswold et al., 1 ex. CRA.

**Type locality.** “Madagascar” (*crenata*), “Nossi-Bé” (*luctuosa*).

**Distribution.** Madagascar (type locality), eastern Africa, Comores, Seychelles, Aldabra Islands (Koch 1953).

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**Alphitobius diaperinus** (Panzer, 1796)

http://species-id.net/wiki/Alphitobius_diaperinus

Figs 15, 22

*Tenebrio diaperinus* Panzer, 1796

*Tenebrio ovatus* Herbst, 1799, syn.

*Uloma opatroides* Brullé, 1838, syn.

*Cryptops ulomoides* Solier, 1851, syn. n. (not homonym *Alphitobius ulomoides* Koch, 1953, *arnoldi* nom. n.)

*Crypticus longipennis* Walker, 1858, syn.

*Phaleria rufipes* Walker, 1858, syn.

*Proselytus caffer* Fåhraeus, 1870, syn.

**Type specimens examined.** Chile (labelled as Chili), Valparaiso, Gay 15-43, 1 syntype of *Cryptops ulomoides* Solier, 1851, MNHN, designated herewith as lectotype.

**New material.** Somalia, Genale, 1935, leg. R. Ciferri, 3 ex. TMSA. – Sudan, Mt. Sangha, no further data, leg. Škulina, 1 ex. NMP. – Sudan, Wad Medani, 21.XII.1952, leg. W. Büttiker, 1 ex. TMSA. – Ghana, Ashanti Region, Kumasi, Nhiasu, 16.V.1987, leg. S. Endrödy-Younga, 1 ex. TMSA. – Nigeria, Ile-Ife, 7.VII.1988, leg. F.-T. Krell, 10 ex. SMNS. – Liberia, Bong Town, 23.III.1988, leg.
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Type locality. “Germanica” (diaperinus); “Valparaiso” (ulomoides).

Synonymy. Examination of the syntype of Cryptops ulomoides Solier, 1851, shows a complete correspondence with Alphitobius diaperinus. The genus Cryptops was considered as synonym of Alphitobius since a long time (for example in the world catalogue of Gebien 1940), but the species ulomoides Solier, 1851 was not formally synonymised with diaperinus Panzer, 1796, so far. In consequence, Alphitobius ulomoides Koch, 1953 is a homonym and needs a new name, arnoldi nom. n. (see above).

Distribution. Cosmopolitan.
Alphitobius grandis Fairmaire, 1897
http://species-id.net/wiki/Alphitobius_grandis

Remarks. Material of this taxon is unknown to the authors. The type is said to be 9 mm long (Fairmaire 1897), the antennae are relatively short (“assez courtes et robustes”), the anterior corners of the pronotum are rectangular (“presque droit”), and the elytra have weak striae with large punctures (“stries assez peu profondes, mais fortement ponctués”).

Type locality. “Madagascar”.

Distribution. Madagascar.

Alphitobius hobohmi Koch, 1953
http://species-id.net/wiki/Alphitobius_hobohmi
Figs 5, 23

Alphitobius rufus Ardoin, 1976, syn. n.

Type specimens examined. Namibia (labelled as SWA), Abachaus, XII.1946, leg. G. Hobohm, holotype, 1 paratype hobohmi TMSA (sex not examined). – Tanzania, Mts. Uluguru, Morogoro Campus Fac. Agriculture, 600 m, V./VI.1971, leg. J. Debecker. ♀ holotype rufus MRAC.

New material. Ethiopia, Hararge Prov., Bisidimo, 1500 m, V.–VII.1984, leg. V. Meyer, 2 ex. ZSM. – Kenya, Meru Distr., Materi (Mitunguu), 800 m, 8.IV.1987, leg. R. Mourglia, 1 ex. SMNS (rufus det. Bremer). – Kenya, Meru Distr., Mojwa, 1300 m, 3.IV.1987, leg. R. Mourglia, 1 ex. ZSM (rufus det. Bremer). – Tanzania, Moschi, no further data, 1 ex. ZSM. – Tanzania, Manyara Lake, XII.1961, leg. H. & B. Frey, 1 ex. NHMB. – Namibia, Windhuk, 1906, leg. F. Kunze, 1 ex. MB (det. Ferrer). – Angola, Blé Prov., Chissamba Mission Station, 1440 m, 9.XI.2011, leg. R. Müller, 1 ex. TMSA. – Angola, Huila Prov., 15 km SW Cacula, 1550 m, 4.–6.XI.2011, leg. R. Müller & P. Schüle, 1 ex. TMSA, 3 ex. SMNS. – Angola, Huila Prov., 15 km S Caluquembe, 1620 m, 6.XI.2011, leg. R. Müller, 1 ex. TMSA. – Angola, Huila Prov., 3.5 km SW Negola, 8.XII.2012, leg. P. Schüle, 2 ex. SMNS, 2 ex. CRG. – South Africa, Limpopo, Naboomspruit, Torino Ranch, 15.1.1990, leg. S. Endrödy-Younga, 1 ex. TMSA. – South Africa, Limpopo, 10 km N Modimolle (Nylstroom), 1300 m, 10.XII.2008, leg. R. Müller, 1 ex. TMSA. – South Africa, Free State, Bothaville, Vaal River, 16.1.2003, leg. M. Snižek, 1 ex. SMNS. – South Africa, KwaZulu-Natal, SW Magudu, 4.–5.1.2009, leg. R. Müller & P. Schüle, 2 ex. SMNS, 2 ex. TMSA. – South Africa, KwaZulu-Natal, Ndumo NR, 100 m, 10.XII.2010, leg. R. Müller, 1 ex. TMSA.

Type localities. “Abachaus, Otjiwarongo” (hobohmi), “Morogoro” (rufus).

Synonymy. The Type specimens examined of A. hobohmi and A. rufus, as well as several non-type specimens from Namibia and adjacent Angola (near type locality of hobohmi), and from Tanzania and Kenya (near type locality of rufus) show no distinct external differences. The aedeagi of type specimens can not be compared, because the holotype of rufus is a female. Nevertheless, A. rufus is considered as a junior synonym of A. hobohmi.
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Figures 5–8. Dorsal view of African species of the genus *Alphitobius*. 5 *A. hobohmi*, non-type Angola, SMNS 6 *A. leleupi*, paratype, TMSA 7 *A. rugosulus*, non-type Tanzania, SMNS 8 *A. viator*, non-type RSA, SMNS. Scale: 2 mm.
Remarks. In some localities (for example Modimolle and Magudu) *A. hobohmi* was collected together with *A. viator*.

Distribution. Namibia (Koch 1953, Ferrer 2004); Tanzania, Kenya (Ardoin 1976); Ethiopia, Angola, South Africa (new records).

*Alphitobius karrooensis* Koch, 1953
http://species-id.net/wiki/Alphitobius_karrooensis
Figs 13, 24

Type specimens examined. Eastern Cape, Willowmore, 20.III.1919, leg. H. Brauns, holotype, 3 paratypes TMSA.

New material. Tanzania, Tabora, leg. Holtz, 1 ex. MNB (det. Bremer as *A. leleupi*). – Zambia, Western Prov., 3.8 km E Namushakende, 1100 m, 29.XI.2010, leg. F. Génier, 1 ex. CNC. – Zambia, Western Prov., 7 km S Mukokwa, 1100 m, 1.XII.2010, leg. F. Génier, 1 ex. CNC, 1 ex. SMNS. – Botswana, Okavango, Thamalakane, XII.1973, leg. P. Reavel, 1 ex. CRG. – Botswana, Chizwina, Francistown-Mosetse, 5.V.1995, leg. J. Harrison, 1 ex. SMNS. – Namibia (labelled as S. W. Africa), 3 miles NE Waterberg, 1420 m, 21.XII.1966, leg. E. S. Ross & K. Lorenzen, 1 ex. CRA. – Namibia (labelled as S. W. Africa), Okahandja, Farm Okaundua, 21.—29.XI.1933, leg. W. Krieg, 1 ex. NHMB. – South Africa, Northwest Prov., Bloemhof, 24.IV.1961, leg. F. Zumpt, 2 ex. NHMB. – South Africa, Kalahari Gemsbok Park, Nossob River, V.1956, TMSA Expedition, 12 ex. TMSA, 2 ex. SMNS. – South Africa, Kalahari Gemsbok Park, Mata-Mata, 18.XII.1974, leg. S. Endrödy-Younga, 1 ex. TMSA. – South Africa, Limpopo, Waterberg, Geelhoutbush Farm, 3.X.1995, leg. S. Endrödy-Younga & C. Bellamy, 2 ex. TMSA. – South Africa, Northern Cape, Garies, 14.XI.1948, leg. C. Koch, 1 ex. TMSA. – South Africa, Northern Cape, Witsand NR, 1160 m, 5.II.2012, leg. R. Müller, 1 ex. TMSA. – South Africa, Eastern Cape, Willowmore, I.1954, leg. F. Zumpt, 7 ex. NHMB, 2 ex. SMNS.

Type locality. “Willowmore”.

Distribution. South Africa (Koch 1953); Tanzania, Zambia, Botswana, Namibia (new records).

*Alphitobius kochi* Ardoin, 1958
http://species-id.net/wiki/Alphitobius_kochi
Figs 9, 25

Type specimens examined. Cameroon, N’Kongsamba, XI.1956, leg. J. Cantaloube, 4 paratypes TMSA, 2 paratypes NHMB, 1 paratype MNB, 1 paratype ZSM.

New material. Cameroon, Bambui, 9 miles NE Bamenda, 1450 m, 29.X.1966, leg. E. S. Ross & K. Lorenzen, 1 ex. CRA. – Cameroon, Doala, 10 m, 20.X.1966, leg. E. S. Ross & K. Lorenzen, 7 ex. CRA, 2 ex. SMNS, 1 ex. CRG. – Ivory Coast, 10
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Figures 9–13. Dorsal view of African species of the genus *Alphitobius*. 9. *A. kochi*, non-type Togo, SMNS
10. *A. lucasorum*, paratype, TMSA
11. *A. parallelipennis*, non-type Angola, SMNS
12. *A. acutangulus*, non-type Sudan, SMNS
13. *A. karrooensis*, non-type RSA, TMSA. Scale: 2 mm.

miles SE Touba, 420 m, 20.VIII.1966, leg. E. S. Ross & K. Lorenzen, 12 ex. CRA, 2 ex. SMNS. – Liberia, Cari Suakoko, 17.III.1988, leg. F.-T. Krell, 1 ex. SMNS. – Togo/Ghana, border area, Brou fou, 27.X.1984, leg. K. Erber, 1 ex. SMNS.

**Type locality.** “N’Kongsamba”.

**Distribution.** Cameroon (type locality), Ivory Coast (Ardoin 1969, Bremer and Girard 1996); Liberia, Togo, Ghana (new records).
Alphitobius laevigatus (Fabricius, 1781)

http://species-id.net/wiki/Alphitobius_laevigatus

Figs 14, 26

Opatrum laevigatus Fabricius, 1781
Tenebrio mauritanicus Fabricius, 1792, syn.
Helops picipes Panzer, 1794, syn.
Helops piceus Olivier, 1795, syn.
Alphitobius granivorus Mulsant & Godart, 1868, syn.
Cataphronetis striatulus Fairmaire, 1869, syn.
Microphyes rufipes MacLeay, 1873, syn.
Alphitobius ruficolor Pic, 1925, syn.

New material. Somalia, Eil (Nogal), III./IV.1938, leg. S. Venzo, 1 ex. TMSA. – Niger, Maradi, 5.–7.VIII.1981, leg. R. Grimm, 1 ex. CRG. – Niger, Niamey, 9.–14.VIII.1989, leg. R. Grimm, 2 ex CRG. – Ghana, Ashanti Region, Kumasi, Nhiau, 16.V.1967, leg. S. Endrödy-Younga, 1 ex. TMSA. – Cameroon, Longji, 1905, leg. H. Paschen, 1 ex. MNB. – Cameroon, Sasse-Buea, IV.–V.1951, collector unknown, 1 ex. CRA. – Congo, Oubanguí-Chari, no further data, leg. Škulina, 1 ex. NMP. – Kenya, no further data, leg. Škulina, 1 ex. NMP. – Tanzania, Daressalam, Pangani, about 1930, leg. R. Regner, 6 ex. MNB. – Tanzania, Pangani to Tanga, VI.1891, leg. Conradt, 2 ex. MNB. – Tanzania, Massa to Tanga, 14.VII.–6.VIII.1891, leg. Conradt, 3 ex. MNB. – Madagascar, Fanjantssoa Prov., Ranamafona, 29.XI.–2.XII.1995, leg. I. Jeniš, 1 ex. CRG. – Madagascar, Ambovombe Distr., Faux Camp, I.1956, leg. C. Koch, 2 ex. TMSA. – Namibia, Fish River Canyon, Ai-Ais, 250 m, 19.XI.1993, leg. M. Uhlig, 1 ex. MNB. – South Africa, Limpopo, Krüger NP, Skukuza, 29.I.1994, leg. S. Endrödy-Younga, 1 ex. TMSA. – South Africa, Limpopo, Krüger NP, Skukuza, 8.–22.XII.2009, leg. J. Harrison, 2 ex. TMSA. – South Africa, Limpopo, Krüger NP, Skukuza, VIII.1992, leg. L. Braack, 10 ex. TMSA. – South Africa, Gauteng, Pretoria, 28.XI.1999, leg. B. Dombrowsky, 1 ex. TMSA. – South Africa, Cape Town, 1965, leg. Dickson, 2 ex. TMSA.

Type locality. “Noua Zelandia”.

Distribution. Cosmopolitan.

Alphitobius lamottei Ardoin, 1963

http://species-id.net/wiki/Alphitobius_lamottei

Fig. 2

New material. Ivory Coast, Bingerville, V.1962, leg. J. Decelle, 1 ex. NHMB. – Guinea, Gbakoré, XII.1983, leg. C. Girard, 2 ex. TMSA (det. Bremer). – Guinea, Mt. Nimba, Keoulenta, 12.I.1984, leg. C. Girard & M. Lamotte, 1 ex. TMSA (det. Bremer). – The Gambia, Kabanta Forest Park, 19.VII.2000, leg. R. Grimm, 1 ex. CRG. – Central African Republic, 35 km E Ndele, 450 m, 18.V.2009, leg. J. Halada, 1 ex. SMNS.
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Figures 14–17. Dorsal view of African species of the genus *Alphitobius*. 14 *A. laevigatus*, non-type Germany, SMNS 15 *A. diaperinus*, non-type Germany, SMNS 16 *A. capitaneus* sp. n., holotype, CRG 17 *A. limbalis*, doubtful cotype, NHMB. Scale: 2 mm.
Type locality. “Mt. Nimba”.

Distribution. Guinea (type locality); Senegal (Ardoin 1963a); Ivory Coast (Ardoin 1969, Bremer and Girard 1996); The Gambia (Grimm 2002); Central African Republic (new record).

Alphitobius leleupi Koch, 1953
http://species-id.net/wiki/Alphitobius_leleupi
Figs 6, 27

Type specimens examined. Congo, Massif de Kundelungu, 14.XII.1949, leg. N. Leleup, 29 paratypes TMSA, 2 paratypes SMNS, 1 paratype CRG, 1 paratype ZSM.

New material. Congo, 57 miles N Popokabaka, 3.VIII.1957, leg. E. S. Ross & R. E. Leech, 2 ex. CRA, 1 ex. SMNS.

Type locality. “Kundelungu”.

Remarks. Among the type series in TMSA, the missing holotype of A. paralleli-pennis was found, see remarks under that species.

Distribution. Congo, Kenya (Koch 1953).
**Alphitobius limbalis** Fairmaire, 1901
http://species-id.net/wiki/Alphitobius_limbalis
Fig. 17

**Type specimens examined.** Without any data, 1 female “cotype” NHMB (Gebien collection).

**Remarks.** It seems doubtful to the authors, if the above listed female (body length 6 mm) without any data is really a type specimen. Other material of this taxon is unknown to the authors. The species is said to be similar to *A. luctuosus* (synonym of *Alphitobius crenatus* (Klug, 1833) (Fairmaire 1901), but is characterised by larger body size (6 mm), rounder pronotum and larger punctures in elytral striae.

**Type locality.** “Bélumbé”.

**Distribution.** Madagascar.

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**Alphitobius lucasorum** Bremer, 1985
http://species-id.net/wiki/Alphitobius_lucasorum
Figs 10, 28

**Type specimens examined.** Sudan, N Darfur Prov., El Geneina, 7.–15.VI.1978, leg. I. Abuzinid, 1 paratype SMNS, 1 paratype TMSA, 1 paratype ZSM. – Ghana, Northern Prov., Nyankpala, 15 km W Tamale, 1.–30.IV.1970, leg. S. Endrödy-Younga, 2 paratypes TMSA.

**Type locality.** “El Geneina”.

**Distribution.** Cameroon, Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal, Sudan (type locality) (Bremer and Girard 1996); Chad (Bremer 1985).

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**Alphitobius niger** Ferrer, 1983
http://species-id.net/wiki/Alphitobius_niger

**Type specimens examined.** None, see remarks.

**Remarks.** Unfortunately, this species was overlooked during the study, and was added here only during the review process. The species is said to be similar to *A. ulomoides*, for diagnosis and figures see Ferrer (1983). Genal canthus projecting outwards beyond contours of eyes, pronotum widest near base, aedeagus with acute apicale, body length 8 mm.

**Type locality.** “Lake Manyara”.

**Distribution.** Tanzania (type locality).
**Alphitobius parallelipennis** Koch, 1953
http://species-id.net/wiki/Alphitobius_parallelipennis
Figs 11, 29

**Type specimens examined.** Congo, Lulua, Tshibamba, XII.1931, leg. G. F. Overlaet, holotype MRAC. – Congo, Elisabethville, 7.XI.1923, leg. C. Seydel, 1 paratype TMSA.

**New material.** Angola, Huila Prov., 75 km N Kaconda, 1640 m, 10.XI.2011, leg. R. Müller, 1 ex. TMSA. – Angola, Huila Prov., 10 km S Kacula, 1560 m, 12.–13. XI.2011, leg. R. Müller & P. Schüle, 1 ex. TMSA, 1 ex. SMNS. – Angola, Huila Prov., 15–20 km S Caluquembe, 6.–7.XI.2011, leg. R. Müller & P. Schüle, 2 ex. TMSA, 2 ex. SMNS. – Angola, Huila Prov., 3.5 km SW Negola, 8.XII.2012, leg. P. Schüle, 2 ex. SMNS. – Zambia, 150 km S Kasemba, 11.XI.2002, leg. F. Wachtel, 11 ex. CRG. – Zambia, 40 km NE Livingstone, Mbala Camp, 14.XI.2002, leg. F. Wachtel, 1 ex. CRG. – Zambia, 10 km S Kacula, 1560 m, 12.–13. XI.2011, leg. R. Müller & P. Schüle, 1 ex. TMSA, 1 ex. SMNS. – Zambia, Northern Prov., Chipona Falls, 30 km S Chinsali, 5.–6. XII.2002, leg. F. & L. Kantner, 1 ex. SMNS. – Zambia, Copperbelt Prov., NW Kapiri Mposhi, 8.XII.2002, leg. F. & L. Kantner, 1 ex. SMNS. – Zambia, Central Prov., 25 km NE Lilemone, 1250 m, 5.XII.2010, leg. F. Génier, 6 ex. CNC. – South Africa, Limpopo, Krüger NP, 19.–20.X.1961, leg. Vári & Rorke, 1 ex. TMSA. – South Africa, Limpopo (labelled as Transvaal), Manyele Game Reserve, 18.XI.1987, leg. T. van Vliet, 1 ex. TMSA.

**Type locality.** “Lulua, Tshibamba”.

**Remarks.** Bremer (1985) already assumed, that some specimens of the type series of *A. leleupi* and *A. parallelipennis* in TMSA are mislabelled, and that the actual depository of the holotype of *A. parallelipennis* seems unknown, at least it is not present in MRAC as published in the original description. De Meyer (VII.2013 in an email to the senior author) confirmed, that the holotype is lacking in MRAC with the remark “non renvoyé par Koch”. During the last visit of the senior author in TMSA, the mixture of locality and type labels could be confirmed, and also corrected. The holotype of *A. parallelipennis* could be recognised without any doubts among the type series of *A. leleupi*, although mislabelled, and was transferred with correct secondary labels from TMSA to MRAC.

**Distribution.** Congo (Koch 1953); Angola, Zambia, northeastern South Africa (new records).

**Alphitobius rugosulus** Koch, 1953
http://species-id.net/wiki/Alphitobius_rugosulus
Figs 7, 30

**Type specimens examined.** None, not in TMSA.

**New material.** Ethiopia, Oromia, 6.5 km SE Chichilla, 1550 m, 17.V.2012, leg. F. Wachtel, 1 ex. CRG. – Tanzania, Dodoma Prov., 15 km N Dodoma, 1550 m,
The genus *Alphitobius* Stephens (*Coleoptera, Tenebrionidae, Alphitobiini*) *in Africa*...

Type locality. “Campi Simba”.

Distribution. Kenya (Koch 1953); Ethiopia, Tanzania (new records).

*Alphitobius viator* Mulsant & Godart, 1868
http://species-id.net/wiki/Alphitobius_viator
Figs 8, 31

*Uloma rufula* Fairmaire, 1883, syn.

**New material.** Ethiopia, Ambo, 3.XI.1990, leg. L. Medvedev, 1 ex. SMNS. – Sudan, North Dafur, El Geneina, 10.VII.1978, leg. I. Abuzinid, 1 ex. ZSM (det. Kaszab). – Ivory Coast, Bingerville, 1962–1964, leg. J. Decelle, 6 ex. MRAC (det. Ardoin). – Ivory Coast, Kafolo/Comoé, 21.IV.1988, leg. F.-T. Krell, 1 ex. SMNS. – Burkina Faso (labelled as Haute Volta), Ouagadougou, no date, leg. Škulina, 1 ex. NMP. – Guinea, N’Zerekoré, 1.–15.XI.1951, leg. S. H. Olsen, 4 ex. NHMB. – Guinea Bissau, Bolama, VI.–XII.1899, leg. L. Fea, 1 ex. NHMB. – Congo, Tshiobo, N’Goy, 3.–4.VII.1926, leg. A. Collart, 2 ex. TMSA, 1 ex. SMNS. – Central African Republic, Uam, Bosum, IV.–VI.1914, leg. Tessmann, 11 ex. MNB. – Central African Republic, 40 km SW Bandoro, 530 m, 14.IV.2010, leg. Halada, 1 ex. SMNS. – Cameroon, Jaunde, X.1914, leg. Tessmann, 1 ex. MNB. – Kenya (labelled as Afr. or.), Ikutha, no further dates, 7 ex. MNB. – Kenya, Mt. Elgon, eastern slope, 2200 m, 23.–27.III.1988, leg. H. J. Bremer, 1 ex. ZSM. – Tanzania, 2 miles SE Mkomazi, 1500 ft. (460 m), 7.I.1970, leg. M. E. Irwin & E. S. Ross, 1 ex. CRA. – Malawi, Salima, 5.–6.I.2002, leg. J. Bezděk, 1 ex. SMNS. – Zambia (labelled as N Rhodesia), Lochinvar, near Monze, 13.–26.X.1962, leg. F. Zumpt, 3 ex. NHMB. – Zambia, Northern Prov., Chipona Falls, 30 km S Chinsali, 5.–6.XII.2002, leg. F. Kantner, 1 ex. SMNS. – Zambia, 150 km S Kasempa, 11.XI.2002, leg. F. Wachtel, 1 ex. CRG. – Zimbabwe, 60 km N Bulawayo, Maraposa Road, 3.XI.1998, leg. M. Snižek, 1 ex. ZSM. – Botswana, 10 km N Martin’s Drift, 7.I.2010, leg. P. Schüle, 1 ex. SMNS. – Angola, Sá da Bandeira, 2.X.1949, leg. B. Malkin, 1 ex. CRA. – Angola, Huambo Prov., 75 km N Caconda near Cuima, 10.–11.XI.2011, leg. P. Schüle, 1 ex. SMNS. – South Africa, Limpopo, Manyeleti Game Reserve, 17.–19.XI.1987, leg. T. van Viegen, 2 ex. TMSA. – South Africa, Limpopo, Naboomspruit, Torino Ranch, 15.I.1990, leg. S. Endrödy-Younga, 1 ex. TMSA. – South Africa, Limpopo, Kruger NP, Skukuza Research Camp, 1.–16.XII.2010, leg. J. Harrison, 1 ex. TMSA. – South Africa, Limpopo, Amatola, Scott Farm, 26.I.1998, leg. R. Müller, 1 ex. TMSA. – South Africa, Limpopo, Thabazimbi, 16.XI.2002, leg. F. Wachtel, 4 ex. CRG. – South Africa, Limpopo, N Mapouane (Potgietersrus), Thabaphaspha Farm, 1400 m, 13.–14.XII.2003, leg. R. Müller & W. Schawaller, 1 ex. SMNS, 1 ex. TMSA. – South Africa, Limpopo, Mapungubwe, Little Muck NR, 500 m, 6.–9.XII.2008, leg. W. Schawaller, 1 ex. SMNS. – South Africa, Limpopo, 10 km N Modimolle (Nylstroom), Kuthaba Bush Lodge, 1300 m,
10.–13.XII.2008, leg. W. Schawaller, 2 ex. SMNS. – South Africa, Limpopo, Waterberg, Geelhoutbosch Farm, 15.XII.1997, leg. C. L. Bellamy, 1 ex. TMSA. – South Africa, Limpopo, 15 km NE Klaserie, Guernsey Farm, 18.–30.XII.1985, leg. S. & J. Peck, 1 ex. TMSA. – South Africa, Mpumalanga, Booyssendal Farm, 25.X.2000, leg. TMSA staff, 1 ex. TMSA. – South Africa, Gauteng, Tswaing, 17.II.2003, leg. TMSA staff, 1 ex. TMSA. – South Africa, Free State, Bothaville, 15.II.1898, leg. H. Brauns, 5 ex. TMSA. – South Africa, KwaZulu-Natal, SW Magudu, 4.–5.I.2009, leg. P. Schüle, 3 ex. SMNS.

Type locality. “Marseille, importée” (viator), “Abyssinie” (rufula).

Remarks. We could not clear, if rufula Fairmaire, 1883 is a synonym of viator Mulsant & Godart, 1868 (as listed in all catalogues), or of hobohmi Koch, 1953 (with rufus Ardoin, 1976, syn. n.). In some localities (for example Modimolle and Magudu) A. viator was collected together with A. hobohmi.

Distribution. Tropical and southern Africa, the holotype was imported to Marseille in southern France (Mulsant and Godart 1868).

Key to the species of African Alphitobius

Unfortunately, the taxonomic status of Alphitobius grandis Fairmaire, 1897 and Alphitobius limbalis Fairmaire, 1901 from Madagascar could not be enlightened by the authors, thus both taxa are not included herein. Also not included is Alphitobius niger Ferrer, 1983, which was overlooked during the study and included herein only during the review process. Compare also Figs 1–17.

1 Genal canthus not distinctly projecting outwards beyond contours of eyes.... 2
– Genal canthus projecting outwards beyond contours of eyes.......................5

2 Body length 8.8 mm, pronotum widest in posterior third... capitaneus sp. n.
– Body length ≤ 7.0 mm, pronotum widest near posterior angles ................3

3 Lateral margins of pronotum distinctly rounded towards anterior angles (Fig. 2) .................................................................lamottei
– Lateral margins of pronotum nearly straight or slightly sinuate narrowing towards anterior angles, thus shape of pronotum conical (Figs 4, 5) ............4

4 Lateral margins of pronotum nearly straight, pronotal disc with punctures of similar size .................................................................arnoldi nom. n.
– Lateral margins of pronotum slightly sinuate, pronotal disc with large and small punctures of different size ...........................................hobohmi

5 Lateral margins of pronotum rounded towards posterior angles, pronotum widest in the middle or shortly behind the middle..............................6
– Lateral margins of pronotum subparallel, pronotum widest near base ......10

6 Elytra without distinct punctural rows, only laterally with traces of punctural rows, elytra with fine microsetation.......................................acutangulus
– Elytra completely with distinct punctural rows, elytra bare or with fine microsetation.................................................................7
The genus *Alphitobius* Stephens (Coleoptera, Tenebrionidae, Alphitobiini) in Africa...

1. All elytral intervals distinctly convex, nearly keel-like (Figs 7, 9), elytra with fine microsetation .......................................................................................
2. All elytral intervals flat or only external intervals slightly convex, but not keel-like, elytra bare............................................................................................
3. Body length 3–4 mm, apicale of aedeagus with rounded tip (Fig. 25)...
4. Body length above 5 mm, apicale of aedeagus with triangular acute tip (Fig. 3).....................................................................................
5. Internal punctural rows of elytra not impressed, last 5 antennomeres forming a separated club .................................................................
6. All punctural rows of elytra impressed, last 5 antennomeres not separated from the remaining basal ones ..........................................................
7. Body length 3–4 mm, apicale of aedeagus with rounded tip (Fig. 25)..
8. Body length above 5 mm, apicale of aedeagus with triangular acute tip (Fig. 3).....................................................................................
9. Internal punctural rows of elytra not impressed, last 5 antennomeres forming a separated club .................................................................
10. Body length 3–4 mm, apicale of aedeagus with rounded tip (Fig. 25)...

New combinations

*Ulomoides basilewskyi* (Ardoin, 1969), comb. n.
http://species-id.net/wiki/Ulomoides_basilewskyi
Figs 3, 32

*Alphitobius basilewskyi* Ardoin, 1969

**Type specimens examined.** Ivory Coast, Bingerville, VI.1962, leg. J. Decelle, male holotype MRAC. – Same locality and collector as holotype, but IV.1962–III.1963, 3 paratypes MRAC.

**Type locality.** “Bingerville”.
Remarks. Ulomoides basilewskyi (Ardoin, 1969) possesses distinctly crenulated outer margin of all tibiae (see Ardoin 1969), which is characteristic for some species of Ulomoides Blackburn, 1888 (Hinton 1947, under Martianus Fairmaire, 1893), but not for Alphitobius. In the structure of tibiae, the shape of body, eyes, and antennae U. basilewskyi resembles U. dermestoides (Chevrolat, 1878). The striking long apicale of the aedeagus (Fig. 32) resembles those of some Ulomoides, but differs distinctly from those of the Alphitobius species (Figs 18–31).

Distribution. Ivory Coast.

Peltoides (Micropeltoides) opacus (Gerstaecker, 1871), comb. n.

http://species-id.net/wiki/Peltoides_opacus

Alphitobius opacus Gerstaecker, 1871
Diaclina opaca (Gerstaecker, 1871) sensu Gebien (1940)
Peltoides (Micropeltoides) crypticoides Pic, 1916, syn. n.

Type specimens examined. Ugano, leg. v. d. Decken, no. 56752, no further data, holotype of opacus MNB. – Fort Crampel, no further data, holotype of crypticoides MNHN.

New material. Benin, Kokora, 52 km N Save, 21.VI.2001, leg. F. & L. Kantner, 1 ex. SMNS. – Uganda, Bwamba Forest, 2500 ft. (760 m), III.1948, leg. J. G. Williams, 1 ex. SMNS. – Angola, Huila Province, 20 km S Caluquembe, 6.–7.XI.2011, leg. P. Schüle, 1 ex. SMNS. – Guinea (labelled as French Guinea), Region Kindia, Ségueia, 10.V.1951, leg. J. Bechyné, 4 ex. NHMB, 1 ex. CRG. – SE Cameroon, Lolodorf, leg. L. Conradt, 1895, 1 ex. NHMB. – Tanzania (labelled as Deutsch Ostafrika), [residual label unreadable], 1 ex. NHMB. – Zambia, Ikengele, Nchila Reserve, 6.XI.2002, leg. F. Wachtel, 1 ex. CRG.

Type localities. “Ugano-Berge” (opacus), “Fort Crampel (Kaga Bandora)” (crypticoides).

Remarks. The examination of the type of Alphitobius opacus Gerstaecker, 1871 shows, that the original assignment to Alphitobius is wrong and that this species must be transferred to the genus Peltoides Laporte, 1832, subgenus Micropeltoides Pic, 1916, because of entirely different body shape, different shape of antennomeres, and different shape of male genitalia with the base of basale not asymmetrical as in Alphitobiini. The type of Peltoides (Micropeltoides) crypticoides Pic, 1916 fully coincide with opacus, and is thus a junior synonym.

Distribution. Tanzania (type locality opacus), Central African Republic (type locality of crypticoides); Senegal (Ardoin 1963b), Ivory Coast (Ardoin 1969), Mali, The Gambia (Grimm 2002, all under P. (M.) crypticoides); Benin, Cameroon, Guinea, Uganda, Angola, Zambia (new records).

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The genus *Alphitobius* Stephens (*Coleoptera, Tenebrionidae, Alphitobiini*) in Africa...

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