

# New species of the genus *Xenocryptus* Arrow from Africa (Coleoptera: Languriidae)

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*Xenocryptus africanus* spec. nov. is described from South Africa.

## Introduction

The genus *Xenocryptus* Arrow, 1929 has been hitherto known only from Australia. Arrow (1929) included it in the family Cryptophagidae Kirby, 1837, though he also remarked its similarity to the families Languriidae Crotch, 1873 (genus *Pharaxonotha* Reitter, 1875) and Erotylidae Latreille, 1802. Leschen & Wegrzynowicz (1998) consider it a member of the tribe Xenoscelini Ganglbauer, 1899 (Languriidae: Xenoscelinae). Among the unidentified material from the Natural History Museum in London I found a new species collected in Africa.

## Abbreviations

The following abbreviations have been used in the description:

HL - length of head (from the anterior margin of epistome to the line connecting hind margins of eyes);

HW - maximum (with eyes) width of head;

PL - length of pronotum along midline (between anterior and posterior margins);

PW - maximum width of pronotum;

EL - length of elytra along the suture (from the anterior margin of scutellum to elytral apices);

EW - maximum width of elytra;

Length of the body = PL + EL.

*Xenocryptus africanus* spec. nov.

(figs 1-12)

Material.— Holotype, ♂, Natural History Museum, London, "S. Africa, R. E. Turner, Brit. Mus. 1923-140", "Queenstown, Cape Province 3, 500 ft. 16.i-10.ii.1923". Paratypes (6 ♂♂), same data as holotype [3 ♂♂, Natural History Museum, London; 1 ♂, Nationaal Naturhistorisch Museum, Leiden; 2 ♂♂, Muzeum i Instytut Zoologii PAN, Warszawa, with Typus no. 2426 and 2427].

Diagnosis.— Similar to Australian *X. tenebrioides* Arrow, but differs by its paler colouration, the narrower, parallel-sided and flattened body, the finer microsculpture, and having the punctures in the elytral striae much finer than those on the head and the pronotum.

Description.— Length 4.34-4.79 mm. Body (fig. 1) pale yellowish-brown, distinctly flattened dorso-ventrally. Dorsal side moderately shining, covered with very short and sparse, inconspicuous setae.

Head (fig. 2) large, markedly elongated in front of eyes (HL = 0.65-0.75 mm.; HW = 1.05-1.15 mm.; HW/PW = 0.63-0.68). Surface with coarse, dense punctures and distinct reticulate micro-sculpture between them. Periocular furrows very conspicuous, close to eyes, anteriorly almost reaching margin of epistome. Anterior margin of epistome straightly truncated. Eyes ovate, slightly protruding, coarsely faceted. Antennae (fig. 3) short, strongly pilose, club poorly defined, loose, 3-jointed, very slightly flattened; last antennomere almost circular.

Pronotum (fig. 4) slightly transverse (PL = 1.15-1.30 mm.; PW = 1.55-1.75 mm.; PL/PW = 0.71-0.76), about as wide as elytral base (EW/PW = 1.16-1.24). All margins distinctly bordered. Anterior angles slightly protruding, rounded. Punctuation similar to that of head, but sparser. Microsculpture distinct, reticulate. Prosternal process (fig. 5) widened behind procoxae. Scutellum transverse, small. Mesosternum very short. Elytra elongate (EL = 3.19-3.54 mm.; EW = 1.85-2.05 mm.; EL/EW = 1.66-1.76), nearly parallel-sided. Base distinctly bordered. Lateral margins explanate. Epipleura narrow. Elytral punctures arranged in regular rows; punctures distinctly finer than on head and pronotum. Perisutural striae conspicuous in apical half of elytra. Metasternum long. Hind wings well developed.

Legs short, robust. Femora markedly swollen. Tibiae short, much shorter than femora, triangularly widened to apices. Tarsi rather short, three basal joints very wide, fourth shortened.

Abdomen (fig. 6): last abdominal ventrite coarsely punctured.

Male genitalia: median lobe (fig. 7) short, curved, with long median strut. Ninth tergite and proctiger as in fig. 8; ninth sternite as in fig. 9; paramers as in fig. 10; basal piece of tegmen as in fig. 11. Female: spermatheca as in fig. 12.

Immature stages.— Unknown.

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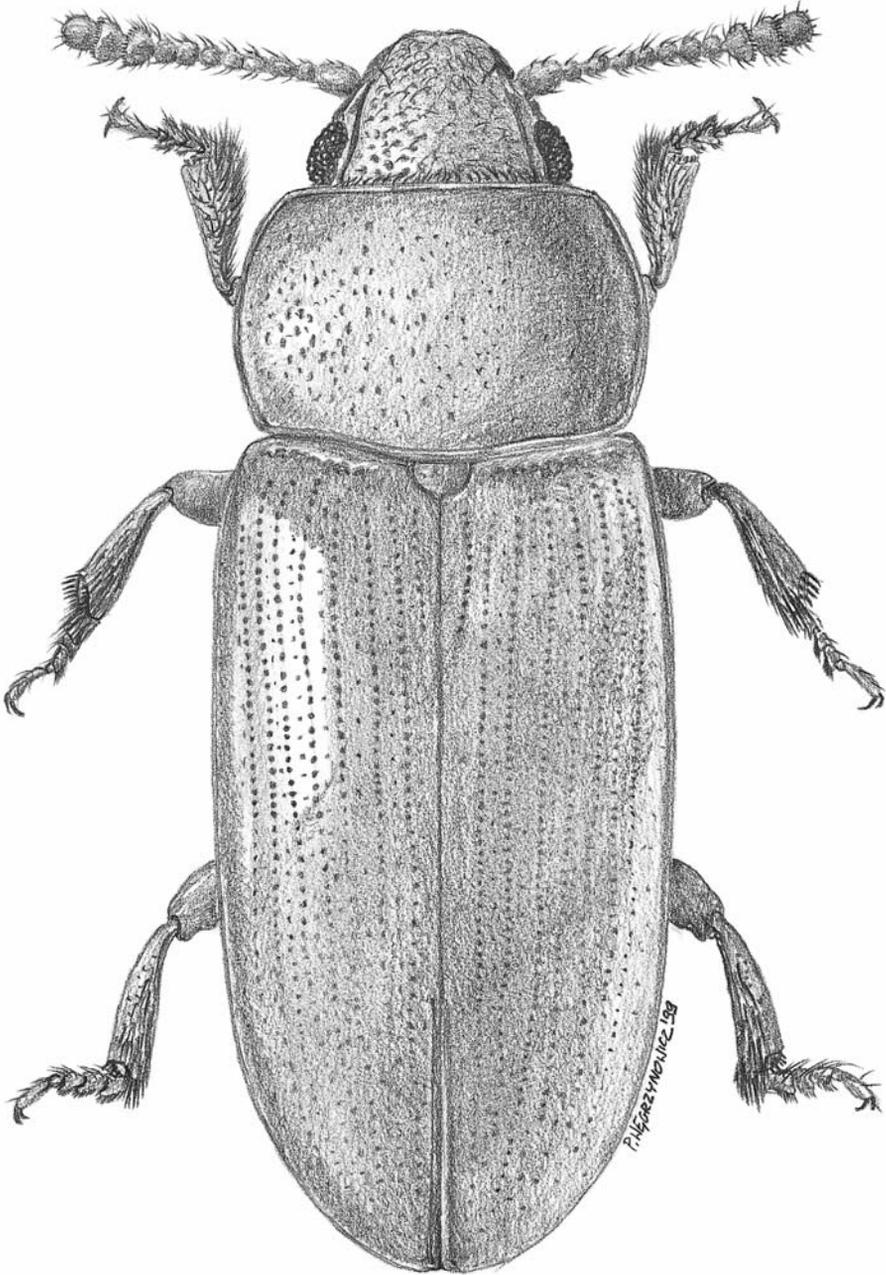
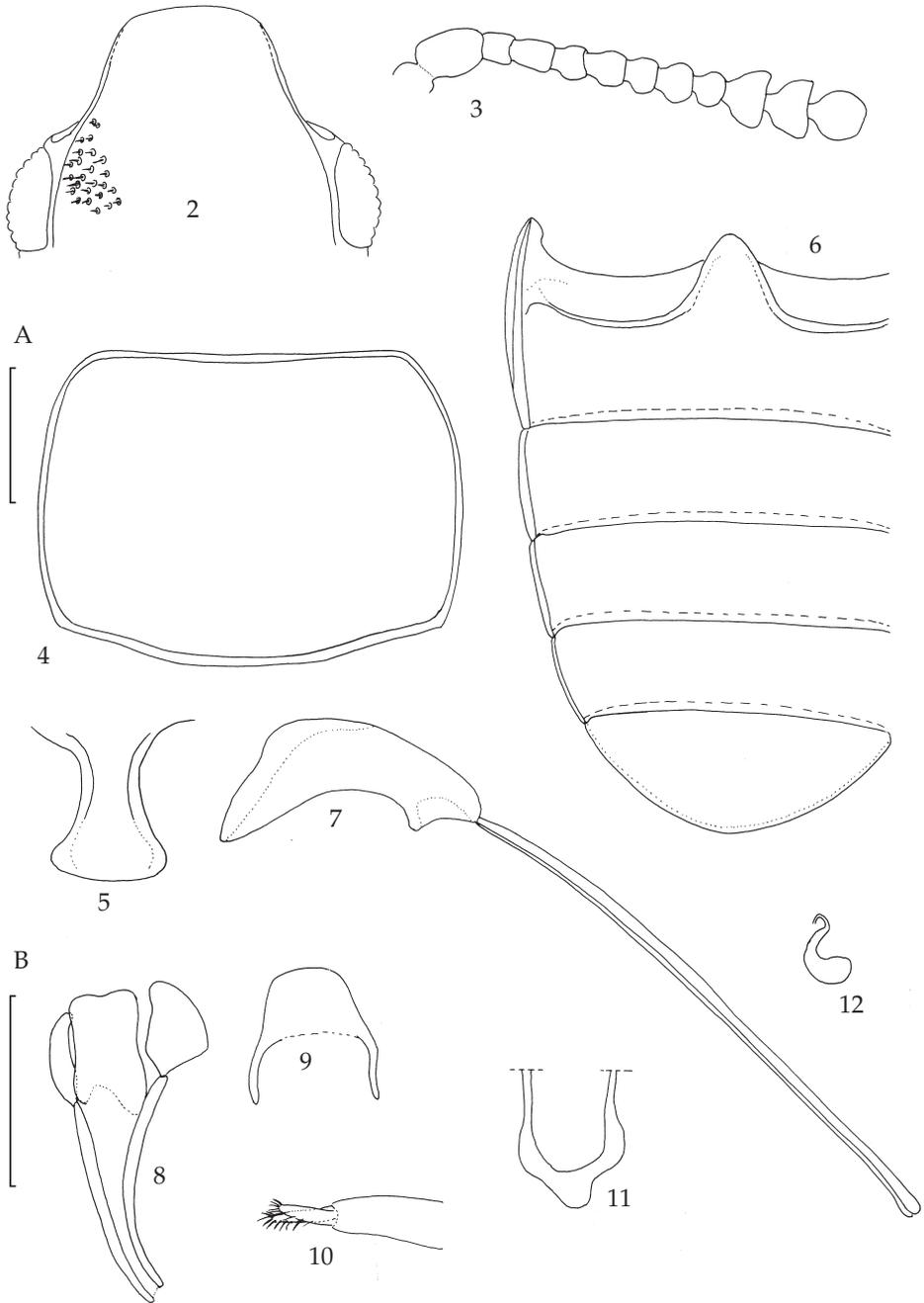


Fig. 1, *Xenocryptus africanus* spec. nov., dorsal view.



Figs 2-12, *Xenocryptus africanus* spec. nov. 2, head, dorsal aspect, with details of punctation; 3, antenna; 4, pronotum; 5, prosternal process; 6, abdomen; 7, median lobe, lateral aspect; 8, ninth tergite with proctiger; 9, ninth sternite; 10, paramers, lateral aspect; 11, basal piece of tegmen, dorsal aspect; 12, spermatheca. Scale bar = 0.5 mm, A for figs 2-6, B for figs 7-12.