

# Studies in Afrotropical Cleomenini (Coleoptera, Cerambycidae, Cerambycinae) VI. Review of the genus *Hexarrhopala* Gahan, 1890 with a discussion on generic limits vs. the genus *Apiogaster* Perroud, 1855

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A review of the genus *Hexarrhopala* Gahan, 1890 with its three known species *H. apicalis* Gahan, 1890, *H. gahani* Aurivillius, 1913 and *H. rufipennis* Aurivillius, 1916 is given. Colour images of the species are published for the first time. The relationship between *Hexarrhopala* and its generic relative, *Apiogaster* Perroud, 1855, is discussed.

Key words: Coleoptera, Cerambycidae, Sestyrini, *Hexarrhopala*, *Apiogaster*, Africa.

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## Introduction

Gahan described the genus *Hexarrhopala* with *H. apicalis* Gahan, 1890 from Nyassa as the type species. He related this new genus to *Apiogaster* Perroud, 1855, differing i.a. by the carinate prothorax (Gahan 1890 p. 309). Any reference to the shape of the scutellum – a key character distinguishing *Apiogaster* from other genera (cf. Adlbauer 2003) – were, however, not made.

Two more species of this genus were subsequently described: *H. gahani* Aurivillius, 1913 from southeastern coastal Tanzania and *H. rufipennis* Aurivillius, 1916 from the Southern Highlands in south-central Tanzania. Apart from a brief reference on *H. apicalis* by Kolbe (1897), and in the Aurivillius' Catalogue (1912), none of the species has ever been mentioned in later publications. Moreover, apart from line drawings of *H. apicalis* and *H. rufipennis* accompanying their original descriptions no pictures have been published. Enquiries to the most relevant

museums hosting Afrotropical Cerambycidae show that material of this genus and these species other than types are virtually non-existent.

The present paper aims to put some more light on these elusive species: updated information on distribution and a key to the species are given below.

Further, during this study it has become evident that the borderline between the two related genera *Hexarrhopala* Gahan, 1890 and *Apiogaster* Perroud, 1855 is not always easy to draw. A discussion on intergrading characters will be given below.

Collections acronyms. ABS = Coll. Anders Bjørnstad, Skien, Norway; NHM = Natural History Museum, London, U.K.; TMSA = Ditsong: National Museum of Natural History (ex. Transvaal Museum), Pretoria, Republic of South Africa; USNM = Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC, USA; ZSM = Zoologische Staatssammlung, München, Germany