

NOTA / NOTE

New records of Staphylinidae (Coleoptera) from São Tomé and Príncipe (Western Africa).

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Abstract: New records of some species of rove beetles belonging to the subfamilies Osoriinae Erichson, 1839 and Staphylininae Latreille, 1802 from São Tomé and Príncipe in Western Africa are reported for the first time.

Key words: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Osoriinae, *Afrosorius*, Staphylininae, Philonthina, *Philonthus*, São Tomé and Príncipe, Western Africa, Faunistics.

Resumen: Nuevos registros de Staphylinidae (Coleoptera) de Santo Tomé y Príncipe (África Occidental). Se citan por primera vez para Santo Tomé y Príncipe (África Occidental) varias especies de estafilínidos pertenecientes a las subfamilias Osoriinae Erichson, 1839 y Staphylininae Latreille, 1802.

Palabras clave: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Osoriinae, *Afrosorius*, Staphylininae, Philonthina, *Philonthus*, Santo Tomé y Príncipe, África Occidental, Faunística.

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Introduction

During a short stop in São Tomé and Príncipe in 1958, I had the opportunity to visit some attractive places on the islands and collect some rove beetles, which are actually in my collection.

The islands of São Tomé and Príncipe form Africa's second smallest country. They are situated in the Gulf of Guinea about 300 kilometers off the northwest coast of Gabon. Both islands are part of the Cameroon volcanic mountain line (Map 1).

São Tomé is 50 km long and about 30 km wide and is the more mountainous of the two islands with the Pico de São Tomé reaching 2142 m and the Pico Cão Grande in the south reaching 663 m. Príncipe is about 30 km long and 6 km wide with the Pico do Príncipe with 948 m high.

The climate, at sea level, is tropical, hot and humid with the average temperatures of about 26°C. The rain season runs from October to May.

São Tomé and Príncipe are divided into two Provinces: São Tomé and the Príncipe. The first one is further divided into six Districts (Map 2): Água Grande (1), Cantagalo (2), Cané (3), Lembá (4), Lobata (5) and Mé-Zóchi (6). Príncipe with only one, Pagué (7).

After an intensive research for bibliography on the fauna of S. Tomé and Príncipe (Eppelsheim, 1885, 1895; Kolbe, 1889; Fauvel, 1907; Bernhauer & Paulian, 1947; Cameron, 1950; Fagel, 1955, 1958, 1959a, 1959b, 1969; and others), I realized that little or nothing was done concerning the family Staphylinidae Latreille, 1802. After coming across two articles (Kavanaugh, 2005; Penny, 2005) about the California Academy of Sciences Gulf of Guinea Expedition, I decided to publish my own data.



Map 1.- S. Tomé and Príncipe situation in Gulf of Guinea (from <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/atlas>).

Map 2.- Map of São Tomé and Príncipe (from <http://www.saotome.st>), modified by the author to show Districts and locations.

Materials

I have 9 specimens belonging to two subfamilies: Osoriinae Erichson, 1839, tribe Osoriini Erichson, 1839, with the genus *Afrosorius* Fagel, 1958 and Staphylininae Latreille, 1802, tribe Staphylinini Latreille, 1802, subtribe Philonthina Kirby, 1837 with the genus *Philonthus* Stephens, 1829.

The map of the Country (Map 2) shows the localities where the material was collected.

Results

Family Staphylinidae Latreille 1802

Subfamily Osoriinae Erichson 1839

Tribe Osoriini Erichson 1839

Genus *Afrosorius* Fagel, 1958

The genus *Afrosorius* Fagel, 1958 is represented by 20 species in the Ethiopian Region (Herman, 2001) with the type species *Osorius assiniensis* Fauvel, 1903 fixed by original designation. Originally most of the Osoriinae species were located on the genus *Osorius* Guérin-Méneville, 1829.

After some exhaustive and detailed studies on the Osoriinae of Africa, Fagel (1958) separated the "complex osorien" with the description of *Afrosorius* and others for species of Ethiopian Region.

This genus includes insects of robust to medium structure with black to pitch black color, shiny, pronotum gradually narrowing to the base, elytra longer or the same length of the pronotum and the lateral margins totally visible from the top with discal and terminal sutures well defined. Currently this genus is represented in S. Tomé and Príncipe by two species (Herman, 2001), *Afrosorius curtispennis* Fagel, 1958 from S. Tomé, Monte Café, Esperança (1300 m) and *Afrosorius viettei* Fagel, 1958 from S. Tomé, south of Lagoa Amélia (1500 m). These are the only two species of the "complex osorien" with the elytra shorter than the pronotum.

In this paper I am adding two new species for the Island of S. Tomé. The specimens were collected in litter mixed with spongy and decomposed wood.

1. *Afrosorius assiniensis* (Fauvel, 1903)

Material: São Tomé and Príncipe, São Tomé, Água Grande, Pantufo, 0°18'52"N, 6°44'38"E, VII-20-1958, 2 ex.

Distribution: Equatorial Guinea, Ivory Coast, Cameroon (Herman, 2001).

2. *Afrosorius strigifrons* (H. Kolbe, 1889)

Material: São Tomé and Príncipe, São Tomé, Lobata, Guadalupe, 0°21'33"N, 6°33'6"E, VII-20-1958, 1 ex.

Distribution: Biokó, Cameroon, Congo, Rwanda, Uganda, Sudan (Herman, 2001).

Subfamily Staphylininae Latreille, 1802

Tribe Staphylinini Latreille, 1802

Subtribe Philontina Kirby, 1837

Genus *Philonthus* Stephens, 1829

The genus *Philonthus* Stephens, 1829 is the largest genus of the subtribe Philonthina Kirby, 1837 currently containing more than 1250 species, which occur in all zoogeographical regions (Herman, 2001). It is represented in the Afrotropical region by approximately 300 known species (Hromádka, 2009). The type species for the genus is *Staphylinus splendens* Fabricius, 1793, fixed by subsequent designation by Curtis (1836).

This genus is represented for S. Tomé by one species, *Philonthus cruentus* Bernhauer, 1915, from Água Izé (200-700 m) (Herman, 2001). In this paper two additional new species for the Island of S. Tomé are reported. All specimens were collected in decomposed leaves and grass.

3. *Philonthus longicornis* Stephens, 1832

Material: São Tomé and Príncipe, São Tomé, Lobata, Santo Amaro, 0°36'N, 6°69'E VII-20-1958, 2 ex.

Distribution: Cosmopolitan (Herman, 2001).

4. *Philonthus peregrinus* Fauvel, 1866

Material: São Tomé and Príncipe, São Tomé, Água Grande, Pantufo 0°18'52"N, 6°44'38"E, VII-20-1958, 4 ex.

Distribution: Senegal, Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast, Benin, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Kenia, Tanzania, Congo, Namibia, South Africa, Comoros, Madagascar, Mascarene Islands, India, Nepal (Herman, 2001).

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