



***Amaurosoma obenbergeri* sp. nov., a new species of the family Scathophagidae (Insecta: Diptera) from the Czech Republic¹**

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Abstract. *Amaurosoma obenbergeri* sp. nov. is described from the Czech Republic based on specimens previously misidentified as *Amaurosoma longicorne* (von Roser, 1840) by Šifner (2008). Differential diagnosis of this species is given and important diagnostic characters are figured.

Key words. Diptera, Scathophagidae, *Amaurosoma*, taxonomy, new species, description, Czech Republic.

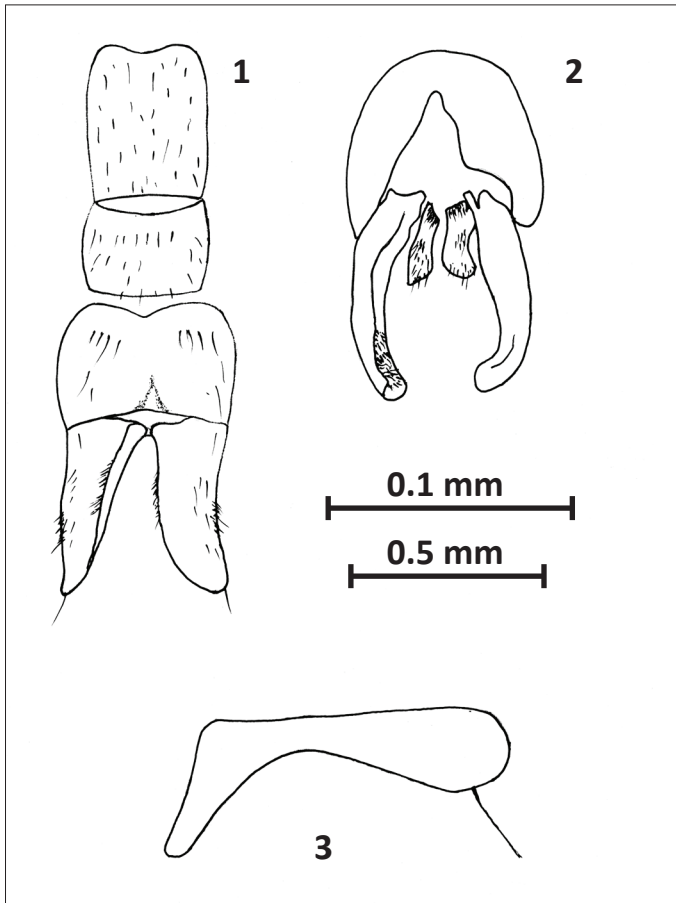
INTRODUCTION

The species *Cordylura longicornis* von Roser, 1840 was described from Germany, probably environs of Württemberg (von Roser 1840). Nowadays, the number of types of *C. longicornis* is unclear and their depository is unknown. The Roser's collection is kept in Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde in Stuttgart, Germany, but there are no types of the Scathophagidae described by Roser there (Ozerov 2010). It is evident from Becker's (1894) text that he had both sexes at hand and probably also voucher specimens from Admont, Austria, and Silesia (presently southwestern Poland); this fact is confirmed as well by further Becker's (1903) text. Also during my study of Strobl's collection in Admont I did not discover any types of this species (Šifner 1975, Šifner in Morge 1976).

The species was first redescribed on the basis of a male from the Czech Republic by Šifner (2008), who confirmed that it belongs in the genus *Amaurosoma* Becker, 1894 (see also Becker 1894, 1903). The same species was again redescribed by Ozerov (2010) on the basis of two males and one female from Karelia (Russia), who placed it in the genus *Nanna* Strobl, 1894 with the emphasis on two characters: the shining stripes and spots on the thorax. These characters were used by Becker (1894) and Hackman (1956) for the differentiation of some species of the genus *Amnaurosoma*^{2,1)}

1 urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:4A7B2CE6-F81E-420D-AD08-08D6C4BD20ED

2 The stripes and spots are variable characters and are undetectable in specimens preserved in liquids (including alcohol). In my opinion, from a taxonomic point of view, these characters cannot be used under such conditions.



Figs. 1-3: *Amaurosoma obenbergeri* sp. nov., male, holotype. 1 – abdominal sternites 5 to 3; 2 – surstyli and cerci; 3 – praegonite. Scale bars: 0.5 mm (Figs. 1–2); 0.1 mm (Fig. 3) (original from Šifner 2008).

Ozerov (2010: 5) stated: “It is possible that species described by Šifner as *A. longirostris* [sic!; correctly *A. longicorne*] (see Šifner 2008: 104) is *Nanna articulata* (Becker, 1894)”. I think this opinion is erroneous. *Amaurosoma articulatum* is characterised e.g. by male abdominal sternite 4 oval and indented proximally, cerci wide, and praegonite slightly arched with one lateroapical bristle (see all Šifner 2003: 54). *Amaurosoma longicorne* sensu Šifner (2008) differs e.g. in abdominal sternite 4 very short and more or less square, cerci short, and praegonite with one subapical bristle (see Šifner 2008: 54). Considering the evidence above, I accept the opinion by Ozerov (2010) about the identity of *Nanna longicornis* (von Roser, 1840), and admit my misidentification of the species in my earlier paper (Šifner 2008). For this reason I describe the formerly misidentified specimen as a new species, *Amaurosoma obenbergeri* sp. nov.

Material and methods

The locality is accompanied by grid mapping code according to Pruner & Mika (1996). The information data given on particular locality or identification label are divided by

double slash (/). The type is deposited in author's private collection (FSPC) and will be deposited in the collection of National Museum, Praha, Czech Republic.

Taxonomy

Amaurosoma obenbergeri sp. nov.

(Figs. 1-3)

= *Amaurosoma longicorne* (von Roser, 1840) (misidentification): Šifner (2008: 104) (redescription).

TYPE LOCALITY. Czech Republic, Bohemia mer., Malšice (6653).

HOLOTYPE. ♂, CZ 6653 Malšice, 4.x.1976, Jan Máca leg. // *Amaurosoma longicorne* Ros., det F. Šifner // *Amaurosoma obenbergeri* sp. nov., det. F. Šifner // Holotype, des. by Šifner 2016 [red label]’.

DESCRIPTION. **Male.** Body length 5 mm, primary colouration black. *Head* dark, orbits, parafacialia, frontal vitta and hind portion of head black, face, genae and narrow strip in front of frontal vittae yellow, three pairs of frontal setae, two pairs of orbital setae, scape, pedicel and entire antennae including bare arista black, aristonere 3 long, three times as long as basally wide, second aristonere only slightly prolonged. Palpi yellow with yellow hairs, vibrissal calus with one vibrissa, and genae in hind portion with yellow hairs. *Thorax.* Acrostichal bristles sparse, three distinct katepisternal bristles, two scutellar bristles, other chetotaxy standard, wings hyaline, all veins distinct. All legs yellow, meso- and metafemora slightly darkened dorsoapically, precoxae distinctly and conspicuously yellow. *Abdomen.* Sternite 4 short and wider than long, sternite 3 rectangular and proximally with a little incision, lobes of sternite 5 long, straight, only apically slightly narrowed, basal inner portion of lobes distinctly enlarged and with short bristles at its medial edges (Fig. 1). Surstyli slightly arched, with short and fine bristles on inner side, cerci short (Fig. 2), praegonite straight and narrow, slightly broadened apically with one subapical bristle (Fig. 3). **Female** unknown.

DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS. *Amaurosoma obenbergeri* sp. nov. differs from the nearest species, *A. inerme* Becker, 1894, by the following characters: aristonere 3 distinctly long, praegonite apically broadened with one subapical bristle, abdominal sternite very short, and abdominal sternite 3 long with a proximal incision.

ETYMOLOGY. I dedicate this species to the memory of eminent Czech entomologist, specialist in Buprestidae and my teacher, Professor Jan Obenberger (National Museum and later Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic).

DISTRIBUTION. Czech Republic: Bohemia.

NOTE. I have expressed my opinion on the use of the names *Amaurosoma* Becker, 1894 and *Nanna* Strobl, 1894 in the past (Šifner 2003). This problem was originally caused by the late Vockeroth (1965) who in later years had some doubts which he expressed in a letter to me (Vockeroth, in litt. 2005) from which I quote: ‘I decided several years ago I was mistaken when I replaced some Becker’s names with trouble; I am now trying to decide whether I was in fact incorrect in doing so, and what effect, if any, Michelsen’s paper has on usage. If I reach a conclusion I will let you know’. The problem of

Amaurosoma and *Nanna* will certainly require reconsideration in the future to remove the current instability in their usage.

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