



**ONTHOPHAGUS MANKONOENSIS BALTHASAR FROM CÔTE
D'IVOIRE, A JUNIOR SYNONYM OF *ONTHOPHAGUS MOCQUERYSI*
D'ORBIGNY (COLEOPTERA: SCARABAEIDAE)**

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Abstract. The dung beetle name *Onthophagus mankonoensis* BALTHASAR, 1966, from Côte d'Ivoire is a junior synonym of *Onthophagus mocquerysi* D'ORBIGNY, 1902, described from Mali and Sierra Leone. The lectotype of *O. mocquerysi* is designated. A published record of *O. mankonoensis* from Sipilou (Côte d'Ivoire) belongs to *O. apiciosus* D'ORBIGNY, marking the westernmost limit of the distribution of this species.

■ Scarabaeidae, *Onthophagus*, dung beetle, taxonomy, synonymy, distribution, West Africa.

INTRODUCTION

In 1966, Balthasar described *Onthophagus mankonoensis* from three localities in Côte d'Ivoire. He classified it as belonging to the 19th group of d'Orbigny (1913) and compared it only with *O. atricolor* D'ORBIGNY, 1907, from East Africa. However, study of the holotype has shown that it is identical with *O. mocquerysi* D'ORBIGNY, 1902.

MATERIAL

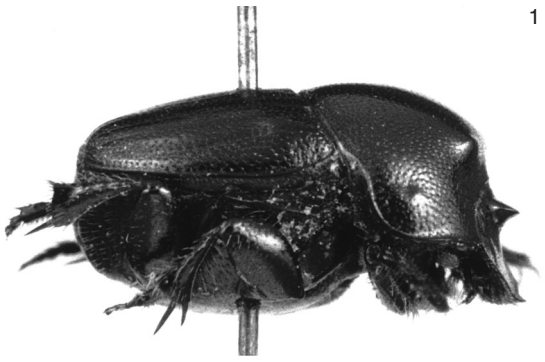
Material from the following collections was studied:

MNHN: Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Laboratoire d'Entomologie, 45, rue Buffon, F-75005 Paris, France.

NMPC: National Museum, The Natural History Museum, Department of Entomology, Kunratic 1, CZ-148 00 Praha 4, Czech Republic.

Types studied:

Lectotype of *Onthophagus mocquerysi* D'ORBIGNY, 1902 (Figs 1, 2), ♂, present designation: "Kayes / Soudan" [handwritten], "MUSEUM PARIS / Coll. H. d'ORBIGNY / 1915" [blue paper], "TYPE" [red paper], "LECTOTYPUS / *Onthophagus / mocquerysi* d'Orbigny / des. Krell 2002" [handwritten, red paper], MNHN. To give the synonymization with *O. mankonoensis* (see below) the formal proof, I hereby designate this specimen as the lectotype of *Onthophagus mocquerysi* D'ORBIGNY, 1902. It is the first specimen of two mentioned in the original description (d'Orbigny 1902: 204) and the only male of the type series. The type locality is Kayes in Mali ("Soudan français"), 14°27'N, 11°26'W.

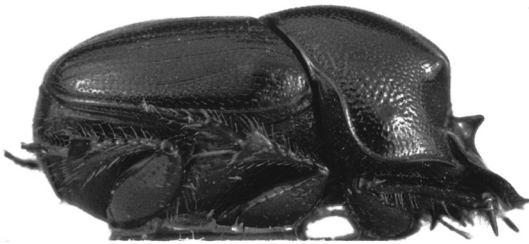


1

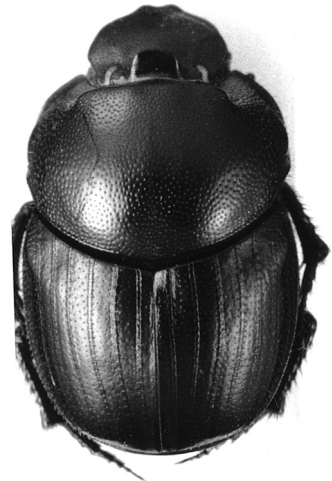


2

Figs 1–2. Lectotype of *Onthophagus mocquerysi* D'ORBIGNY: (1) from lateral, (2) from dorsal (All Photographs: NHM Photo Unit).



3

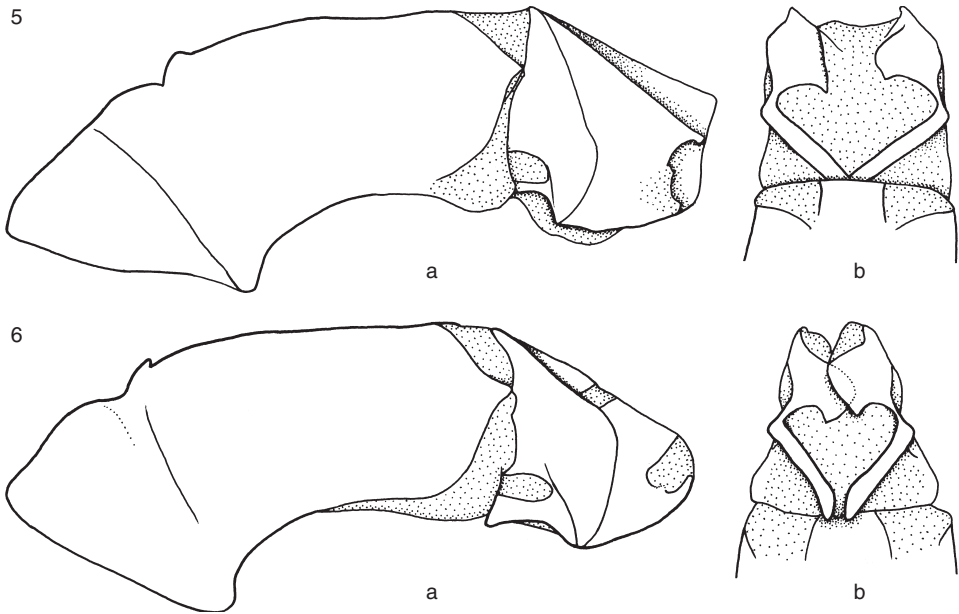


4

Figs 3–4. Holotype of *Onthophagus mankonoensis* BALTHASAR: (3) from lateral, (4) from dorsal.

Paralectotype of *Onthophagus mocquerysi* D'ORBIGNY, 1902, ♂, present designation: “Sierra Leone / Freetown / A. Mocquerys / 1889”, “Mocquerysi / n.sp. d’Orb.”, “H. d’Orbigny / Onth. Afr. 1902”, “ex coll. R. Oberthur 1952” [blue paper], “PARALECTOTYPUS / Onthophagus ♂ / mocquerysi d’Orbigny / des. Krell 2002” [handwritten, red paper], MNHN. This is the second specimen of two mentioned in the original description.

Holotype of *Onthophagus mankonoensis* BALTHASAR, 1966 (Figs 3, 4): “Côte d’Ivoire / Mankono” [handwritten], “Onthophagus / mankonoensis / n.sp. Balthasar / ♂ Holotypus 65” [apart from “Holotypus” handwritten], “Mus. Nat. Pragae / Inv. 65876” [red paper], “B-100” [handwritten], “Onthophagus ♂ / mocquerysi d’Orb. / det.Krell 2002” [handwritten], NMPC.



Figs 5–6. (5a) Aedeagus of the lectotype of *Onthophagus mocquerysi* D’ORBIGNY from lateral, (5b) parameres from ventral; (6a) aedeagus of the holotype of *Onthophagus mankonoensis* BALTHASAR from lateral, (6b) parameres from ventral.

RESULTS

Just as in his original description of *Onthophagus stehliki* BALTHASAR (cf. Krell et Cambefort 2000), Balthasar (1966) understated the extent of metallic shine of the pronotum in his newly described species *Onthophagus mankonoensis*. The pronotum of the holotype of *O. mankonoensis* is distinctly bronze metallic, not only “mit sehr schwachem Bronzeschimmer” (= with very weak bronze shimmer) (Balthasar 1966: 245). Since Balthasar did not recognize the distinct metallic shine, he followed number 31 in d’Orbigny’s (1913: 338) key (“Insectes entièrement noirs, rarement avec la tête et le prothorax légèrement bronzé.”) instead of alternative number 46 (l.c.: 342, “nettement métallique”). Therefore, he compared *O. mankonoensis* only with the totally black species *O. atricolor* D’ORBIGNY. However, the holotype of *O. mankonoensis* (Figs 3, 4) resembles closely the lectotype of *O. mocquerysi* D’ORBIGNY, 1902 (Figs 1, 2). The aedeagi of both types are similar as well (Figs 5, 6) (The difference in the apical form of the parameres is caused by different deformations of the membranous part. In the type of *O. mocquerysi*, the parameres are more retracted in the phallobase than in the holotype of *O. mankonoensis*). Therefore I propose the following synonymy:

Onthophagus mocquerysi D’ORBIGNY, 1902
 = *Onthophagus mankonoensis* BALTHASAR, 1966 (syn. nov.)

O. mocquerysi was called *O. mankonoensis* by Krell et al. (1996, 1997 and 1998) and consequently by Kon et al. (1998). The beetles named *O. mocquerysi* by Krell et al. (1996) and *O. cf. mocquerysi* by Krell et al. (1998) actually belong to a new species the

description of which is in preparation. A specimen from Sipilou (ca. 7°55'N, 8°05'W) (in MNHN) that was recorded as *O. mankonoensis* by Cambefort (1984: 129, 138; 1991: 399) belongs to *O. apiciosus* D'ORBIGNY, 1902, and represents the westernmost record of this widespread species.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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