

A new species of *Protostrophus* MARSHALL from South Africa
(Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Brachyderinae)

JAROSŁAW KANIA

Zoological Institute, University of Wrocław, Sienkiewicza 21, 50-335 Wrocław

ABSTRACT. *Protostrophus merkli* sp. n. is described from Transvaal in South Africa.

One hundred and fifty seven species of the genus *Protostrophus* MARSHALL, 1919 have been recorded from South Africa till now. The majority are distributed in the Republic of South Africa, a few are known from Lesotho, Swaziland, Namibia, Angola, Mozambique, Zambia and Zair (SCHALKWYK, 1968, 1972). In the collection of the Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest, Hungary (HNHM), there are specimens of *Protostrophus* MSHL. representing a new species.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Dr. O. MERKL (HNHM) for the loan of specimens, and to Dr. C. H. C. LYAL (British Museum (Natural History)) for the loan of the holotype of *Protostrophus crinitus* MARSHALL, 1927.

***Protostrophus merkli* sp. n.**

ETYMOLOGY

Dedicated to Dr. O. MERKL, the curator of the *Coleoptera* collection in the HNHM.

DIAGNOSIS

P. merkli sp. n. (fig. 1) is closely allied to *Protostrophus crinitus* MARSHALL, 1927. Both species are characterized by the following combination of characters: mesoepimera separating the elytra and the mesepisterna, prothorax convex, with a very slight

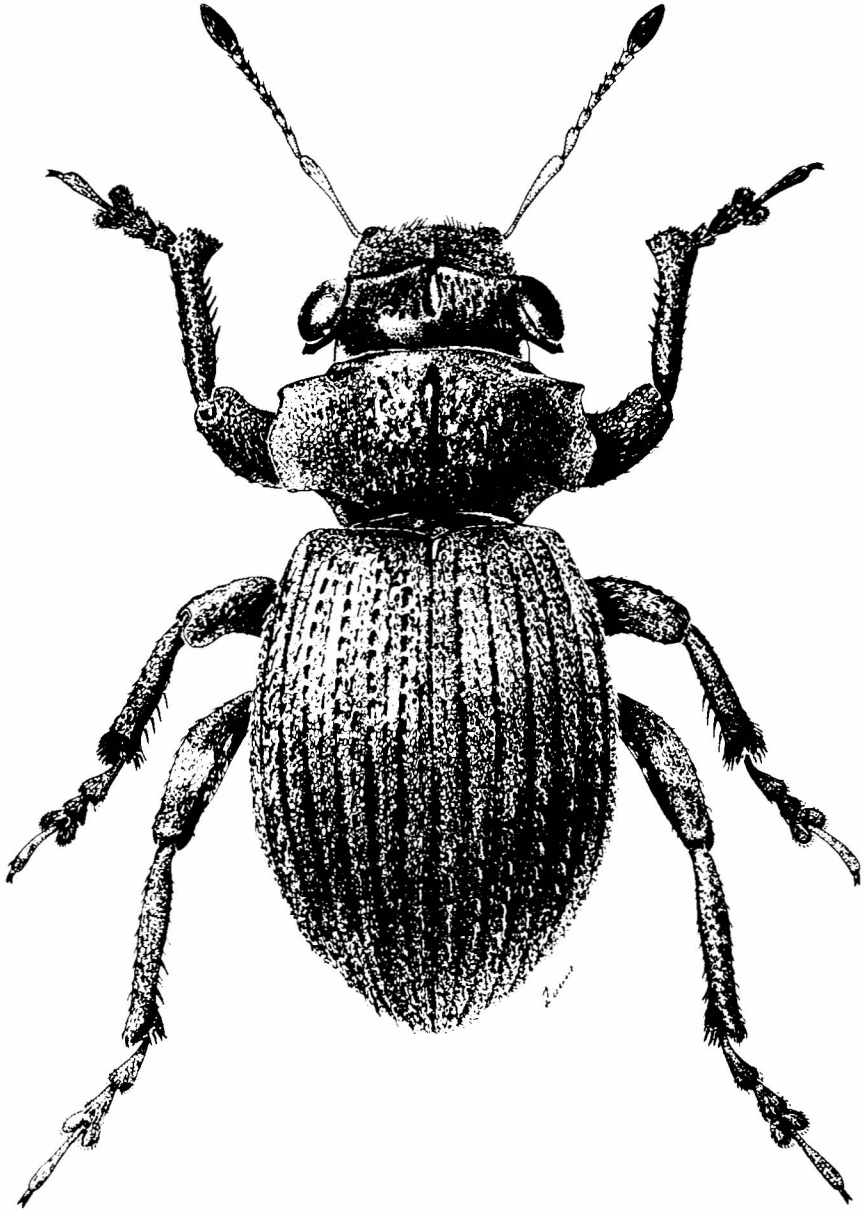
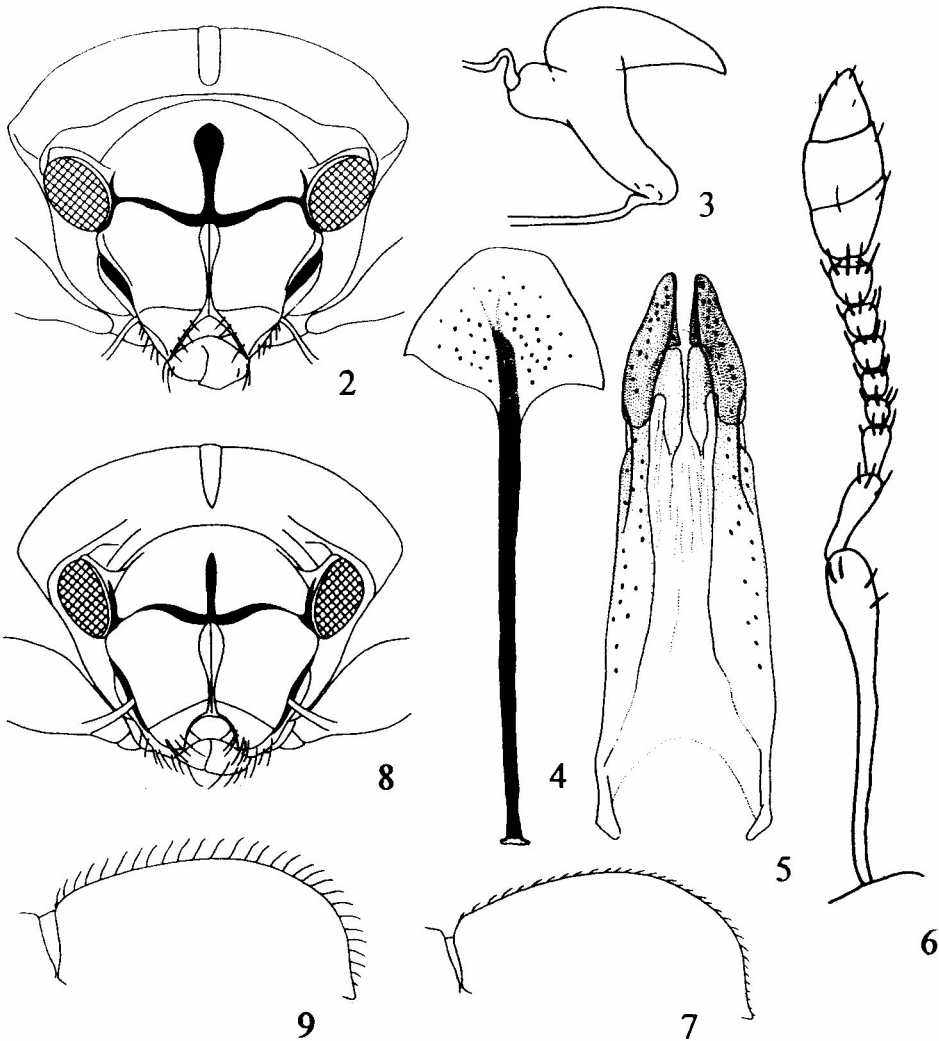


Fig. 1. *Protostrophus merkli* sp. n.

emargination (or constriction) at the basal sub-margin, sides of prothorax explanate on their whole length, shoulders of elytra convex (or angled), setae on intervals of elytra long, sub-erect, gena without a linear impression. The new species differs from *P. crinitus* also in deep and dilated posterad median sulcus (shallow and not dilated in *P. crinitus*), black club of antenna (dark brown in *P. crinitus*), oblique squamiform setae of the elytra (erect spiniform in *P. crinitus*), which are 2-2,5 times shorter than in *P. crinitus* (figs. 7, 9), more slender body and longer legs.



Figs. 2-7. *Protostrophus merkli*, 8-9. *P. crinitus*: 2, 8 - head, 3 - spermatheca, 4 - genital sclerite, 5 - ovipositor, 6 - antenna, 7, 9 - elytral setation in lateral view

DESCRIPTION

Body length 4.4-4.5 mm; width 2.3 mm.

Body black, antennae, except black club, and tarsi brown. Scales round on head and prothorax, ovate on elytra, cream-green and light-coppery; green scales in the middle of hind femora form a transverse band, green scales on elytra, especially on both sides and in front form indistinct spots. Frons separated from rostrum by bisinuate, transverse sulcus, widest in the middle. Median sulcus in the middle of frons deep and strongly dilated backwards (figs. 2, 8). Median carina on the rostrum sharp, at apex branched and enclosed by triangular epinotum. Sides of rostrum sinuate. Antennal scrobe invisible from above, slightly dilated and curved in the middle. Eyes ovate, strongly arched in posterior half, hind margin of eyes flattened. Head behind eyes deeply emarginate. Antennae slender, scape curved, club elongate ovate (fig. 6). Pronotum broad and convex, sides explanate, emarginate and constricted at the anterior and posterior margins of prothorax, posterior emargination deeper than anterior one. Median carina of pronotum moderately convex, not extending to anterior and posterior margins of pronotum. Pronotal puncturation distinct, punctures almost round, shallow, tend to form elongate rows, distance between punctures 0.9-2.0 times wider than puncture diameter; each puncture armed with a long seta, strongly inclined backwards. Elytra ovate, regularly rounded on sides, with maximum width in the middle, top moderately convex. Punctures in rows oval, about 2.5 times longer than each scale of elytral interval, with small, hardly visible scale. Distance between punctures about twice shorter than puncture length. Rows of punctures widest at basal part of disc, then gradually narrower posterad. Intervals moderately convex, each with row of squamiform setae strongly inclined backwards, which are slightly shorter than interval width. Legs long, slim, tibiae straight, with long and sharp spines, apex of anterior tibia only slightly dilated externally and more dilated internally, anterior margin irregularly rounded with a row of short, strong spines. Tarsi narrow, elongate.

Female genitalia as in figs. 3-5.

TYPE MATERIAL

Holotype female: "S. Africa, Transvaal, Nylsvley, netted, 16. I. 1978., Leg.: Dr. S. ENDRÓDI" (HNHM). Paratype (female), same data as the holotype (author's coll.).

REFERENCES

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