

On the genus *Embolodes* MARSHALL, 1909
(Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Brachyderinae)

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ABSTRACT. *Embolodes sternalis* MARSHALL, 1909 is redescribed and figured; lectotype is designated.

Key words: Entomology, Coleoptera, Curculionidae, redescription, Afrotropical Region.

***Embolodes* MARSHALL, 1909**

Embolodes MARSHALL, 1909: 238, EMDEN: 1936: 218, 1944: 566, EMDEN and EMDEN, 1939: 242.

Type species: *Embolodes sternalis* MSHL. (by monotypy)

Body length 8.1-10.9 mm, breadth 7.4-8.7 mm, elongatedly oval (fig. 1), black or brown-black, covered with adhering, translucent, creamy-yellow scales, and fine erect scales (figs 10, 11). Head separated from rostrum by a trace of groove marked only on the sides of rostrum; median and paramedian furrows as well as costa on rostrum absent. Median furrow on frons shallow and narrow. Eyes small, moderately convex. Antennae very thin and short. Elytra strongly narrowed towards apices, rows foveolate, intervals indistinct, in female humeral tubercles, in male no tubercles. Legs long, massive (especially in male), corbels enclosed, claws connate. Genitalia as in figs 6, 12-16. Sexual dimorphism distinct: male larger with more massive legs, female with humeral tubercles on elytra.

The genus *Embolodes* MSHL. was described in the tribe *Cneorrhinini*. It is distinct in having only a trace of groove separating head and rostrum, marked only before anterior eye margin, and in the lack of some furrows and costae on rostrum (see above); in the remaining members of the tribe the transverse groove is as a rule

complete, on rostrum there is a median costa, paramedian and median furrows; sometimes on frons besides the median furrows, there are additional paramedian furrows. Only in some cases the transverse groove is completely absent (*Leurops* MARSHALL, 1919, *Fleurops* HUSTACHE, 1931, *Omotrachelus* KOLBE, 1883) or vestigial, running from the median furrow on frons for some distance towards the anterior eye margin (*Analeurops* MARSHALL, 1937, *Protostrophus* MARSHALL, 1937). Another character that distinguishes *Embolodes* is its sexual dimorphism (see above). In the tribe *Cneorrhinini* only females of *Gyponychus* PASCOE, 1870 differ from males in larger tubercles or their higher number.

Embolodes sternalis MARSHALL, 1909

Embolodes sternalis MARSHALL, 1909: 238-239; EMDEN, 1936: 218; EMDEN and EMDEN, 1939: 242.

DESCRIPTION

Male: body length 10.9 mm, breadth 8.7 mm.

Female: body length 8.1 mm, breadth 7.4 mm.

Body elongatedly oval (fig. 1), poorly convex (fig. 5), black (male) or partly brown-black (female). All body covered with loosely arranged, adhering, somewhat translucent, silky scales and sparsely arranged, somewhat erect scales (best visible on elytra close to the suture). Creamy-pink, densely arranged scales form spots on the underside of head, on sides of pronotum above fore legs, on mesosternal epimeres, near bases of hind legs, on abdomen (fig. 9) and femora. Adhering scales of various shapes: oval, round, drop-shaped etc. (figs 9, 10). Erect scales on elytra fine, poorly visible, also translucent, widened posterad, on apex bluntly rounded, or elliptical and tapered apically. Creamy-yellow, adhering scales more or less overlap tile-like, larger are 0.3 length of translucent scales, besides spots on the underside of body and on legs, are scattered on elytra. Legs densely covered with erect scales, on tibiae 2-3.5x longer than erect scales on elytra. Scales on legs 3-6x longer than wide, besides with long setae on the inner side of tibiae, tarsi with erect scales as in figs 2, 3, and with half shorter adhering scales. On antennae hair-like adhering and short, slightly erect scales (fig. 7).

Head and rostrum form an almost uniform cone, rostrum separated from head only anterior to the anterior eye margin, by a delicate transverse groove. Rostrum as long as its base is broad, in side view somewhat tapered towards the apex. Median furrow on frons shallow and narrow, running from the anterior eye margin posterad for a distance of 1.5 eye diameter. Antennae very thin, short. Scape almost straight, all flagellomeres longer than wide, flagellomeres 1-2 the longest, of equal length, flagellomere 1 widened towards apex, bent, 2 straight, cylindrical, club long, spindle-shaped (fig. 7).

Pronotum nearly cylindrical, broadest slightly anterior to half length, anterior to the base somewhat constricted, behind the anterior margin delicately narrowed. On

the pronotal disc, on sides, posterior to half length, delicate, rounded pits, in female almost invisible. From the base to half length irregular, poorly visible median furrow (fig. 1).

Elytra oval, rounded on sides, broadest in 1/3 length from the base, strongly narrowed towards apex, especially in female, slightly convex (in female somewhat stronger). Elytra at base distinctly raised. Rows foveolate, foveae elongate, in middle with a puncture with a very thin, light seta as long as transverse adhering scale. Spaces between foveae in rows somewhat smaller or larger than fovea length. Intervals poorly visible, irregular, borders between foveae in neighbouring rows equal or smaller than fovea width. Female with a sharp tubercle near the base, on sides of elytra, between intervals 6 and 10, male with no tubercle (figs 1, 4, 5).

Scutellum in male triangular, in female strongly transverse.

Legs long, massive, especially in male; femora of fore and hind legs thickened. Fore tibiae in both sexes slightly bent outwards. Fore tibiae on apices truncate outwards, inwards widened, on apex with a row of light setae. All tibiae in male with light setae, the longest at apices of tibiae, especially on hind legs. In female setae on tibiae much shorter and sparser arranged. Tarsi as in figs 2, 3.

Prosternum process in female tubercular, well visible in lateral view (fig. 5), stronger protruding than in male.

Male and female genitalia as in figs 6, 12-16.

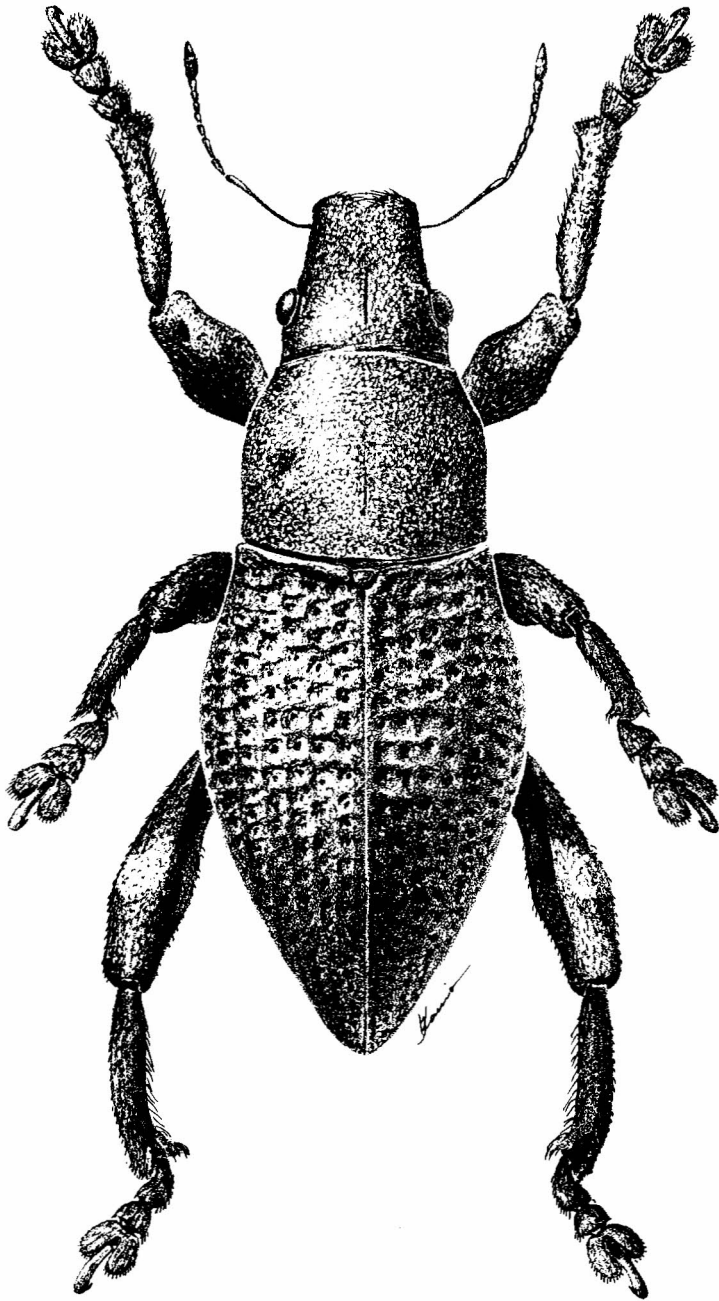
TYPE MATERIAL EXAMINED

Lectotype male (present designation): "Holotypus" [black print and box, orange background]; "MUSEE DU CONGO, Dr Sheffield NEAVE, MPIKA XII.07" [black print on white background]; "*Embolodes, sternalis*, MSHL., TYPE. [male symbol]" [handwritten, black ink on white background]; "R. DET., A, 325, [male symbol]" ["A" and symbol handwritten, black ink, the rest black print on white background]; [genitalia in glycerin], (MRAC).

Paratype female: "Allotypus" [as above]; [collection and determination label (female symbol) as in holotype]; "R. DET., 2306, A" ["A" handwritten, the rest black print on white background]; [genitalia in glycerin], (MRAC).

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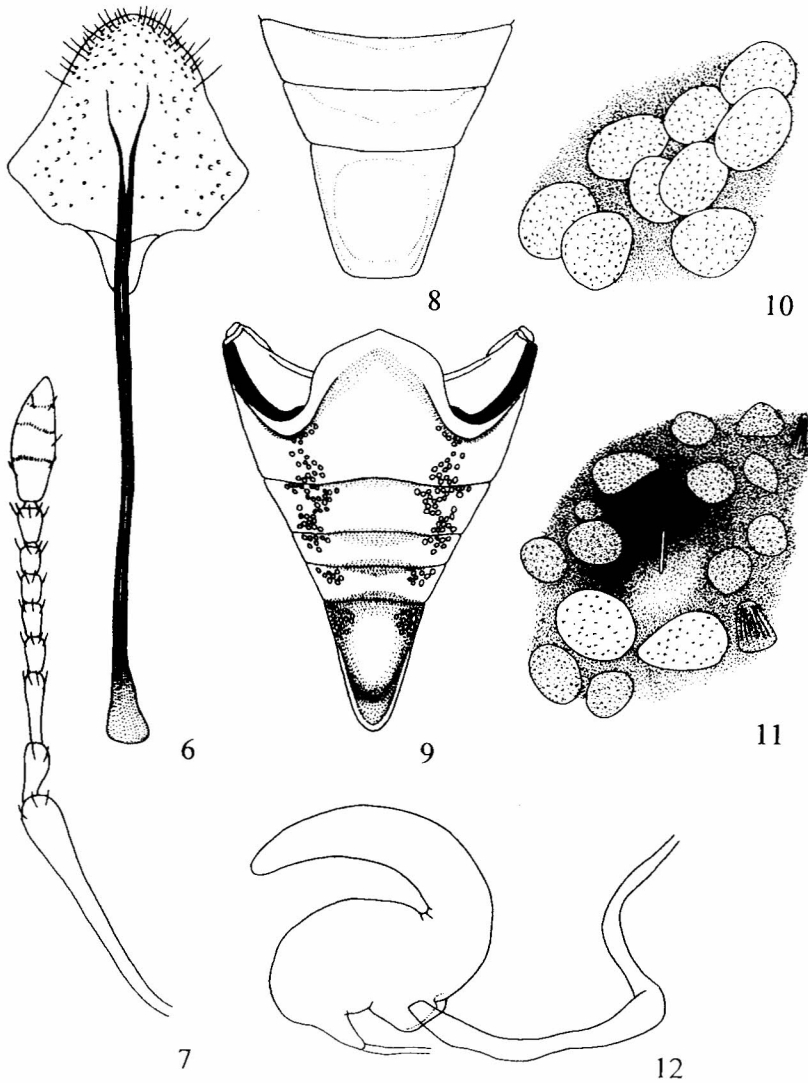
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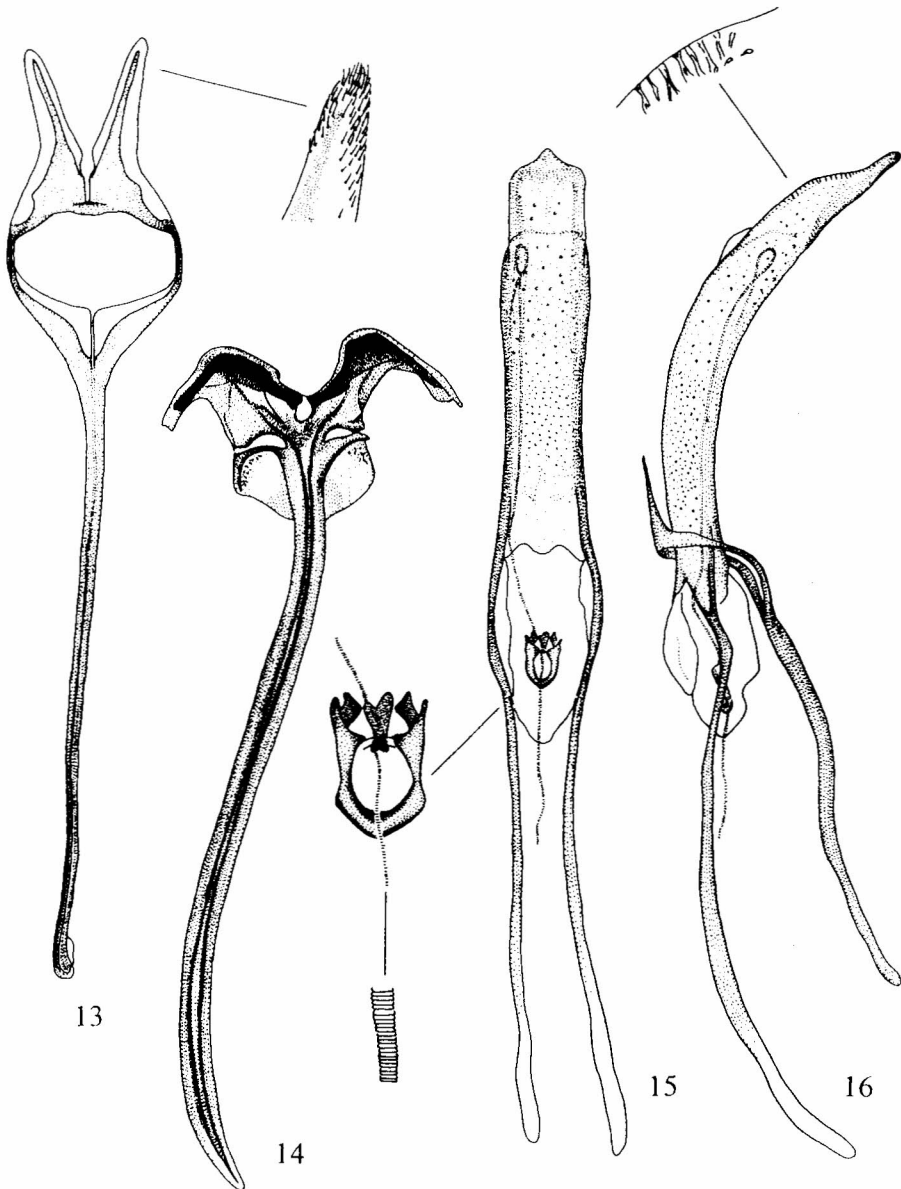
1. *Embolodes sternalis*, male



2-5. *Embolodes sternalis*: 2 - fore tarsus in dorsal view, 3 - fore tarsus in lateral view, 4 - elytra in dorsal view, female, 5 - body in dorsal view, female



6-12. *Embolodes sternalis*: 6 - genital sclerite, female, 7 - antenna, 8, 9 - abdominal sternites, 8 - male, 9 - female, 10 - scales of pronotum, 11 - scales of elytra, 12 - spermatheca



13-16. *Embolodes sternalis*: 13 - tegmen, 14 - spiculum gastrale, 15, 16 - aedeagus