

## THE TYPE SERIES OF *EUONITICELLUS PARVUS* (KRAATZ, 1895) (COLEOPTERA, SCARABAEIDAE)

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**Abstract:** An account is given of the type series of *Euoniticellus parvus* (Kraatz, 1895) in the Deutsches Entomologisches Institut, Müncheberg. The reasons why the designation of a lectotype is not necessary are explained. Comments are made on *Euoniticellus zumpti*, the only species with which *E. parvus* may be confused. Geographic distribution of both species is summarized.

**Key words:** Oniticellini, *Euoniticellus parvus*, type series, *Euoniticellus zumpti*.

### La serie típica de *Euoniticellus parvus* (Kraatz, 1895) (Coleoptera, Scarabaeidae)

**Resumen:** Se revisa la serie típica de *Euoniticellus parvus* (Kraatz, 1895) depositada en el Deutsches Entomologisches Institut, Müncheberg. Se explican las razones por las que la designación de un lectotipo no es necesaria. Se presentan comentarios sobre *Euoniticellus zumpti*, la única especie con la que *E. parvus* puede ser confundida y se resumen la distribución geográfica de ambas especies.

**Palabras clave:** Oniticellini, *Euoniticellus parvus*, serie tipo, *Euoniticellus zumpti*.

Kraatz (1895) described *Oniticellus setifer* (currently *Tiniocellus setifer*) and *Oniticellus parvus* (currently *Euoniticellus parvus*) on material collected by Leopold Conradt in Bismarckburg (Togo) in 1892-1893. Together with the syntypes of *Oniticellus setifer*, whose loan I asked for in the ambit of a revision of the genus *Tiniocellus* Péringuey, 1901, I received from the Deutsches Entomologisches Institut, Müncheberg, the syntypes of *Oniticellus parvus*. As nothing has ever been published on these types, Janssens (1953) merely stating “Type: Deutsche Entomologische Institut, Berlin-Dahlem”, I use the opportunity so offered to do so.

Kraatz (1895) described *Oniticellus parvus* as follows:

«2. *Oniticellus parvus*: Fusco-piceus, opacus, capite parce punctulato, maris basi cornuto, thorace crebre subtiliter reticulato lateribus antice flavis, medio canaliculato, canalicula apice evanescenti, elytris brunneo-variegatis, pygidio lateribus testaceis, pilosulo, pectore abdomineque laevibus, pectoris lateribus pedibusque flavo-testaceis. – Long. 3½ – 4 mill.

Pechbraun, matt. Der Kopf fast glatt, an den Seiten mit einer deutlich vorspringenden Ecke versehen, vor derselben fast halbkreisförmig gerundet, oben in der Mitte mit einem halbkreisförmig erhabenen Leistchen versehen, vor derselben, nicht weit vom Vorderrande des Hallsschildes, mit einem Höckerchen, welches den ♀ fehlt, bei denen auch das Leistchen fehlt. Der Thorax ist etwas breiter und wenig kürzer als die Fld., von der gewöhnlichen Form, in der Mitte leicht angewölbt, mit sehr deutlicher Mittelfurche, die vorn verschwindet, deutlich rauh punktiert, die Seiten vorn gelblich. Die Fld. sind ziemlich flach, mit länglichen gelben Sprenkeln, fein längsgefurcht. Das Pygidium ist an den Seiten gelb, in der Mitte grünlich. Die Unterseite ist kaum punktiert, ziemlich glänzend, die Seiten der Brust und die Beine hellgelb.

Einige Ex. von Bismarckbug (Togo).»

[2. *Oniticellus parvus*: Pitch-black, dull, head sparingly punctulated, its base horned in the male, thorax densely finely reticulate yellow laterally and anteriorly, canaliculated medially, canaliculus evanescent towards apex, elytra variegated in brown, pygidium testaceous laterally, pilose, chest and abdomen smooth, lateral parts of chest and legs yellowish testaceous. – Length 3½ - 4 mm.

Pitch brown, dull. Head almost smooth, with a distinct protruding corner on the sides, forwards of it nearly semicircular, above in the middle with a semicircularly elevated crest, not wider than the fore edge of the pronotum, in front of the latter with a little protuberance, absent in the female in which also the crest is lacking. The thorax is somewhat wider and not much shorter than the elytra, is of the usual shape, slightly convex in the middle, with a very distinct middle groove that fades away forwards, clearly roughly punctate, the sides yellowish. The elytra are practically flat, with elongate yellow speckles, finely striated. The pygidium is yellow on the sides, greenish in the middle. The underside is scarcely punctulated, fairly shining, the sides of the chest and the legs light yellow.

A few specimens from Bismarckburg (Togo).]

Even though it is evident from the original description that Kraatz saw both male(s) and female(s), all three syntypes are males identifiable as follows (length measured from tip of clypeus to tip of elytra; slashes separating lines of text on labels):

– Male, pinned, the last four segments of left middle tarsus missing, length = 4.0 mm, with the following labels:

- 1) small, light blue, handwritten: ♂
- 2) beige, printed: Togo / Conradt.
- 3) red, printed: Syntypus.
- 4) large, folded, light blue, handwritten: *Oniticellus* / *parvus* Krtz / Togo 95.

5) beige, printed: Coll. Kraatz.

6) white, printed: coll. DEI / Müncheberg.

7) white, printed: *Oniticellus parvus* / Kraatz, 1895  
- Syntypus / (currently *Euoniticellus parvus*) / T.Branco  
det. 2008.

– Male, pinned, the tip of clypeus and the fore angle of left gena broken off, and the last four segments of middle and hind tarsi missing, length = 4.3 mm, with the following labels:

1) small, light blue, handwritten: ♂

2) beige, printed: Togo / Conradt.

3) red, printed: Syntypus.

4) beige, printed: Coll. Kraatz.

5) white, printed: coll. DEI / Müncheberg.

6) white, printed: *Oniticellus parvus* / Kraatz, 1895  
- Syntypus / (currently *Euoniticellus parvus*) / T.Branco  
det. 2008.

– Male, glued to a mounting card with the symbol ♂ handwritten on it, the last four segments of left hind tarsi missing, length = 3.6 mm, with the following labels:

1) beige, printed: Togo / Conradt.

2) red, printed: Syntypus.

3) beige, printed: Coll. Kraatz.

4) white, printed: coll. DEI / Müncheberg.

5) white, printed: *Oniticellus parvus* / Kraatz, 1895  
- Syntypus / (currently *Euoniticellus parvus*) / T.Branco  
det. 2008.

Apart from body size, the only variation shown by the syntypes is the colour pattern of the elytra, the dark markings differing slightly from one syntype to the other. They all match Kraatz's original description. Their heads correspond well to the illustration published by Janssens (1953: fig. 34). In these circumstances, the designation of a lectotype would serve no useful purpose.

According to Horn & Kahle (1935), the material collected by Conradt in Bismarckburg is partly in the Deutsches Entomologisches Institut, through Kraatz, and partly in the Museum für Naturkunde an der Humboldt-Universität, Berlin. In fact, I have also received on loan the specimens deposited in Berlin. These are five males and five females bearing printed blue labels: "Togo / Bismarckburg / date / L. Conradt S.". The dates are: 1 ♂, 15-21.xi.92; 2 ♂, 1 ♀, 23.xi-2.xii.92; 1 ♀, 3-10.xii.92; 1 ♀, 11-16.xii.92; 1 ♂, 1 ♀, 17-23.xii.92; 1 ♀, 1.v-23.vi.93; 1 ♂, 27.vii-10.viii.93. There is no evidence that Kraatz did ever see these specimens, hence, they cannot be considered as belonging to the type series.

Like the syntypes, these specimens do not show any significant variation, their differences being only in body size (length = 3.6 - 4.0 mm) and slightly in the dark markings on the elytra. The heads of the females agree well with the illustration published by Janssens (1953: fig. 35).

Because of its clypeus produced medially in a short dentiform process, general colour pattern and small body size, *E. parvus* can be confused only with *E. zumpti* Janssens, 1953.

Janssens (1953) described *Euoniticellus zumpti* on a single male from Hluhluwe (Natal, RSA). I have seen it from Hluhluwe and also from Umfolozi (Natal, RSA) and Skukuza (Transvaal, RSA). Davis & Dewhurst (1993) listed it amongst the Scarabaeidae collected during their survey of an area between latitudes 4°N and 4°S, comprising much of Kenya and the north-central region of Tanzania.

*Euoniticellus parvus* (Kraatz, 1895) seems most common in West Africa, from Guinea-Bissau to Niger and Togo: Guinea-Bissau (Ferreira, 1972); Guinea-Conakry (Janssens, 1953; Cambefort, 1971); Sierra Leone (Boucomont, 1921); Ivory Coast (Janssens, 1953; Cambefort, 1984); Ghana (Endrödi, 1973, 1976), Niger (Rougon & Rougon, 1978), and, of course, Togo (Kraatz, 1895). In addition, Janssens (1953) recorded it from eastern Democratic Republic of Congo: Faradje, some 60 km from the border with Sudan, and Uvira on the shore of Lake Tanganyika, and Ferreira (1972) recorded it from Tanzania: Dar-es-Salaam. Besides the specimens from Togo, I have seen the following material from Guinea-Bissau, collected by António Zuzarte and Artur Serrano: 2 ♀, Bolanha do Porto de João Landin, cow dung, 21.xi.1983; 8 ♂ and 3 ♀, road from Gabu to Ché-Ché, horse and cow dung, 1.xii.1983; 1 ♀, Mansoa, cow dung, 2.xii.1983.

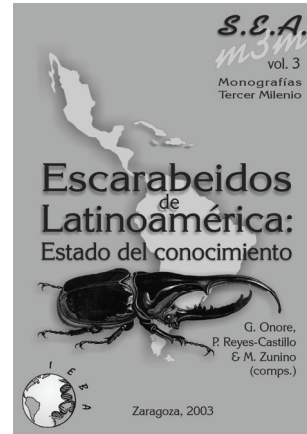
*E. parvus* and *E. zumpti* closely resemble each other. Females are virtually indistinguishable. Males can be separated by the shape of the frontoclypeal carina and of the tubercle on the vertex as shown in Janssens' 1953 figures 34 (*E. parvus*) and 36 (*E. zumpti*). The aedeagi are almost identical but, as pointed out by Cambefort (1996), aedeagi in the genus *Euoniticellus* Janssens, 1953 are far too homogeneous to be of much help in discriminating between species. *E. zumpti* appears to be on average slightly larger than *E. parvus*, the body length of the 19 individuals that I have examined (Hluhluwe, Umfolozi and Skukuza) varying from 3.9 to 5.0 mm as against 3.3 to 4.4 mm in 27 specimens of *E. parvus* (Togo and Guinea-Bissau).

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