

***Sisyphus bornemisszanus* sp. n. from South Africa  
(Coleoptera, Scarabaeidae)**

by S. ENDRÖDI, Budapest

**Abstract** — Description of the new species *Sisyphus bornemisszanus* from South Africa on the basis of 33 specimens. With 4 figures.

My son, Dr. ENDRÖDY-YOUNGA of the Transvaal Museum, Pretoria and my friend, Dr. G. F. BORNEMISSZA (presently in Tasmania with CSIRO, Tasmanian Regional Laboratory in Stowell) sent me a series from a species of *Sisyphus*, which he collected in South Africa (Natal). The species was till now unknown. I describe the species below and give the name in honour of the excellent collector, Dr. G. F. BORNEMISSZA.

***Sisyphus bornemisszanus* sp. n. (Figs 1—2)**

Black, dull, only mouth parties, shaft of antennae and tarsi reddish brown. Apex of clypeus broadly and rather deeply emarginated, both sides of emargination with a rather sharp dent, outside of the dent, before middle of outmargin of head with a moderately deep emargination, the projected dent behind of the last rounded, the rest of sides of head curved. Surface almost flat, without clearly visible trace of edges. Punctuation rather fine and sparse, punctures transversal. Sides of head with black bristles. Pronotum much (almost twice) broader than long, on apex rather deeply emarginated. Sides strongly curved, posteriorly narrowed. The claearly developed and curved carina arriving about at middle of outmargin of pronotum, therefore this species belongs to subgenus *Sisyphus* s. str. Basis very finely bordered, with very dense and short black bristles. Surface simply convex, without knots of bristles, the latter almost evenly distributed, rather long, bent and dense. Elytra short, with clearly visible furrows, intervals, with knots of bent and dense black bristles, these on sides somewhat more numerous than on disc. Between of black knots with single bristles. Ground of surface finely granulated. Pygidium long, semioval, with a weak edge along middle. Anterior tibiae tridentate, middle and posterior ones moderately curved. Femora simple, without dent or visible protrusion beneath, only middle femora rarely with a small, simple or double denticle. Trochanteres normally short. Inside of posterior tibiae with numerous denticles and with the normal bristles. Basal joint of posterior tarsi about as long as two next joints together and as the claw joint. Claws horned. Aedeagus (Fig. 1) very simple, paramera shortly triangular, lightly impressed above, apex not inclined, sides almost straight.

Female very similar to male, the carina on sides of pronotum mostly somewhat stronger and more curved.

The new species is related closest to *S. muricatus* OLIVIER, which has also only on elytra tufts of black bristles, the bristles are on pronotum almost evenly distributed, but carinae on head mostly more developed, dents also on outmargins of head sharp, emargination on sides.

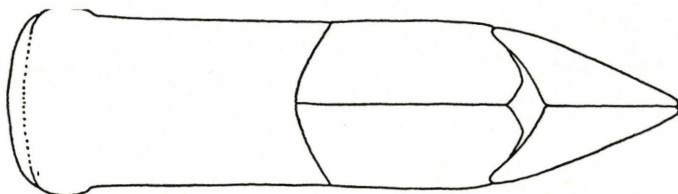


Fig. 1. Aedeagus of *Sisyphus bornemisszanus* sp. n. from above



of pronotum very strong and deep, posterior femora with a dent beneath, posterior tibiae much stronger curved, etc. (Fig. 3), than in new species (Fig. 2). *S. fasciculatus* BOHEMAN (Fig. 4) and also the East- and Central-African *S. alveatus* BOUCOMONT are easily distinguishable by the black tufts of bristles also on pronotum.

**Holotype** and 2 paratypes: S. Afr., Zululand, St. Lucia, 28.22 S—32.25 E, 7. 12. 1975 E-Y: 957, groundtrap 11 days, leg. ENDRŐDY-YOUNGA. — **Allotype** ♀ and 1 paratype: S. Afr., Zululand, Lake St. Lucia, 28.22 S—32.25 E, 7. 12. 1975, E-Y: 957, groundtrap 11 days, leg. ENDRŐDY-YOUNGA. — 1 paratype: S. Afr., Zululand, Missions-rock for. h. 28.20 S—32.29 E, 9. 12. 1975, E-Y: 963, hyppo dung, leg. ENDRŐDY-YOUNGA. 1 paratype: S. Afr., Zululand Missionsrock for. h. 28.16 S—32.29 E, 7. 12. 1975, E-Y: 957, groundtrap 10 days, leg. ENDRŐDY-YOUNGA. 3 paratypes: S. Afr., Zululand, Mfabeni dunes, 28.08 S—32.28 E, E-Y: 981, groundtraps 3 days, leg. ENDRŐDY-YOUNGA. 21 paratypes: South Africa, St. Lucia Estuary, Natal, 22. VIII. 1971, leg. G. F. BORNEMISSZA. 3 paratypes: St. Lucia Estuary, Natal, 26. X. 78, leg. G. F. BORNEMISSZA.

Holotype, allotype and 6 paratypes deposited in Transvaal Museum in Pretoria; 1 paratype in Plant Protection Research. Institute in Pretoria; 4 paratypes in Dung Beetle Unit in Pretoria; 7 paratypes in Hungarian Natural History Museum in Budapest; and 13 paratypes in collection of DR. G. F. BORNEMISSZA in Tasmania.

Besides the above-assigned types handed over to me by DR. BORNEMISSZA the following collection records are from specimens not seen by myself: St. Lucia Estuary, 15. May 1975, 23. May 1978, 23. August 1978, 2. November 1976, all these leg. G. F. BORNEMISSZA; 24. January 1979, leg. G. F. BORNEMISSZA and H. H. ASCHENBORN; Sordwana Bay, Natal, 15. October 1979, leg. G. F. BORNEMISSZA and H. H. ASCHENBORN; Cape Vidal, Natal, 29. October 1978, leg. G. F. BORNEMISSZA; Richard's Bay, Natal, 28. January, 1979, leg. H. H. ASCHENBORN.

The new species is recorded so far only from the narrow coastal strip of Natal and is active during most part of the year. As all *Sisyphus* species it is strictly diurnal, is restricted to the coastal sand dune forests of aeolian origin where the canopy is closed and the forest floor is open, i. e. not obstructed by shrubs or tall sedges. *S. bornemisszanus* is attracted to a wide variety of dung, the first specimens of 22 August 1971 were collected on droppings of bush pigs, *Potamochoerus porcus* (LINNÉ). Of the herbivores, the beetles were found on the dung of reed bucks; among the omnivores: on the faeces of humans and droppings of vervet monkeys. At St. Lucia where collections were conducted for several years, this beetle was regularly caught in traps baited with cow dung (information by Dr. G. F. BORNEMISSZA).

### References

- ARROW, G. J. (1927): Notes on the Coleopterous Genus *Sisyphus* (Scarabaeidae). — *Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.*, (9) **19**: 456–465.  
 FERREIRA, M. C. (1972): Os Escarabídeos de África (Sul do Sáara) I. — *Revta Ent. Mocamb.*, **11**: 5–1088.  
 HAAF, E. (1955): Über die Gattung *Sisyphus* Latr. (Col. Scarab.). — *Ent. Arb. Mus. Georg Frey*, **6**: 341–381.  
 PASCHALIDIS, KAREN M. (1974): The identity of two species in the genus *Sisyphus* (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae). — *J. ent. Soc. sth. Afr.*, **37**: 299–303.  
 PÉRINGUEY, L. (1901): Descriptive Catalogue of the Coleoptera of South Africa (Lucanidae and Scarabaeidae). — *Trans. S. Afr. phil. Soc.*, **12**: 1–920.

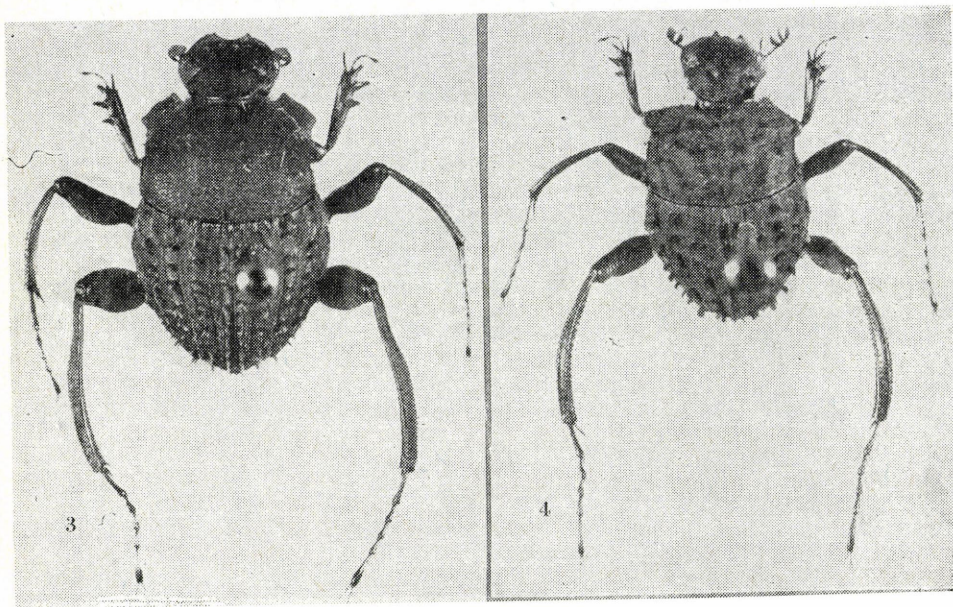
Author's address: DR. SEBŐ ENDRŐDI  
 Zoological Department  
 Hungarian Natural History Museum  
 Budapest, Baross utca 13  
 H-1088





Fig. 2. *Sisyphus bornemisszanus* sp. n., habitus. (Photo by Dept. of Entomology, C. S. I. R. O., Canberra)





Figs 3-4. 3 = *Sisyphus muricatus* OLIVIER, habitus. — 4 = *S. fasciculatus* BOHEMAN, habitus. (Photo by Dept. of Entomology, C. S. I. R. O., Canberra)