Revision of the genus *Aipeiopsis* Péringuey (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Melolonthinae)  

by  

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The genus *Aipeiopsis* Péringuey is revised. Four species are currently recognized in the genus: *A. hirsuta* Péringuey, *A. hirticollis* (Waterhouse), *A. echinaticeps* sp. nov., and *A. elachista* sp. nov.  

INTRODUCTION  

The genus *Aipeiopsis* was described by Péringuey (1904) to include *A. hirsuta* Péringuey and *Cyclomera hirticollis* Waterhouse. Despite Péringuey’s transfer of *C. hirticollis* to *Aipeiopsis*, Dalla Torre (1913) continued to list this species in the genus *Cyclomera* Klug.  

This revision is part of a study of the Afrotropical Pachydemini sensu Dalla Torre (1913).  

The following abbreviations are used to denote the location of study material:  

AVEC – A. V. Evans, University of Pretoria.  
BMNH – British Museum (Natural History), London.  
HFHC – H. F. Howden, Carleton University, Ottawa.  
NCI – National Collection of Insects, Pretoria.  
SMWN – State Museum, Windhoek.  

Genus *Aipeiopsis* Péringuey  

*Aipeiopsis* Péringuey, 1904: 160, Dalla Torre 1913: 313.  

Type-species: *Aipeiopsis hirsuta* Péringuey, present designation.  

Diagnosis: Head with reduced labrum; mentum twice as long as wide; pre-mentum subequal in width to mentum; labial palps 2-segmented, proximal segments contiguous on ventral surface; antennae 10-segmented with 3-segmented club; head with clypeus nearly vertical, clypeal suture carinate; frons spinose anteriorly; ocular carinae absent; abdominal sternal sutures distinct, sternites slightly constricted medially; propygidium fused to fifth visible sternite; protibiae tridentate, spurs absent; inner protarsal and outer meso- and metatibial claws toothed, remaining claws simple; meso-
and metatibiae setigerously carinate; metafemora ovate; metatibiae greatly expanded apically, corbulae produced.

I have examined only one female of the genus, collected in ZIMBABWE, Atlantic, 16 mi. W. Salisbury, 1/6–II–1976, M. B. Fenton (HFHC). Without an associated male I am reluctant to assign this individual to a species, but the clypeal and maxillary palp characters differ from the known species. This specimen differs from the males examined in the following respects: body more globose overall; antennal club shorter than pedicel; elytra not covering the propygidium; metathoracic wings greatly reduced.

*Aipeiopsis* is known to occur in southern Angola, Botswana, northern Cape Province, along the Zambesi River in Zambia, and western Zimbabwe.

In southern Africa, *Aipeiopsis* Peringuey is most similar to *Cyclomera* Klug and *Perictyopa* Brenke, but may be readily distinguished by the 10-segmented antennae with a 3-segmented club, reduced labrum, narrow mentum, 2-segmented labial palpi, nearly vertical clypeus, toothed claws, and the absence of protibial spurs. *Aipeiopsis* may be distinguished from the central African *Phalangosoma* Quedenfeldt by 10-segmented antennae, contiguous basal segments of the labial palpi, toothed claws, the setigerously carinate meso- and metatibiae, and the fusion of the propygidium to the fifth visible abdominal sternite. From the central African *Scaphorina* Quedenfeldt, *Aipeiopsis* is distinguished by the carinate clypeal suture, toothed claws, and the single setigerous meso- and metatibial carina.

**Key to the males of species of the genus *Aipeiopsis* Peringuey**

1 Clypeus rectangular (Figs 10, 11); first metatarsal segment longer than the longest apical metatibial spur ........................................ 3
   — Clypeus elliptical (Figs 8, 9); first metatarsal segment equal in length to the longest apical metatibial spur ........................................ 2
2 Species 11,0–13,0 mm long; inner protarsal claws as in Fig. 12; clypeus without carina (Fig. 8) .........................., .............................. A. elachista sp. nov.
   — Species 18,0–19,0 mm long; inner protarsal claws as in Fig. 13; clypeus with carina (Fig. 9)
   ................... .......................... A. hirsuta Peringuey

3 Distal segment of maxillary palp pyriform (Fig. 6); species 13,0–17,0 mm long .......................... A. echinaticeps sp. nov.
   — Distal segment of maxillary palp elongate (Fig. 7); species 19,0–28,0 mm long .......................... A. hirticollis (Waterhouse)

**Aipeiopsis elachista** sp. nov., Figs 4, 8, 12, 16

Description: 11,0–13,0 mm long. *Head* with clypeus elliptical, glabrous, impunctate, shining, without carina just below suture (Fig. 8); frons coarsely, setigerously punctate, vestiture intermixed with short spinose setae and long fine setae; labrum fused to clypeus, without suture; terminal segment of maxillary palp as in Fig. 4; antennal segment 7 not lamellate. *Pronotum* densely clothed in long, rufousflavous setae, more so beneath posterior margin and around scutellum. *Elytra* with surface clothed in short, recumbent, fine, flavous setae; striae not indicated. *Pygidium* triangular, length equal to basal width, surface alutaceous with scattered setigerous punctures, setae long, flavous, recumbent. *Legs* with inner protarsal claws toothed as in Fig. 12; first metatarsal segment longer than the longest apical metatibial spur. *Male genitalia* as in Fig. 16.
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Material examined. Holotype male: ANGOLA, Cahama, 15 km NE, at 16.18S-14.28E, 4/6-XII-1974, H24482 (SMWN no. TI169); 4 paratype males, same data as holotype (AVEC, SMWN).

Remarks: *A. elachista* is the smallest species in the genus. In addition, *A. elachista* may be distinguished from *A. echinaticeps* and *A. hirticollis* by the elliptical clypeal margin. *A. elachista* is distinguished from *A. hirsuta* by the impunctate clypeus, lack of clypeal carina, and the strongly hooked inner protarsal claw with a very broad tooth.

*Aipeiopsis hirsuta* Péringuey, Figs 5, 9, 13, 17

*Aipeiopsis hirsuta* Péringuey 1904: 160.

Description: 18,0–19,0 mm long. Head with clypeus elliptical, glabrous, shallowly punctate, shining, with arcuate carina just below clypeal suture (Fig. 9); frons...
coarsely, setigerously punctate, vestiture intermixed with short spinose setae and long, fine setae; labrum fused to clypeus, without suture; terminal segment of maxillary palp as in Fig. 5; antennal segment 7 not lamellate. Pronotum densely clothed in long, rufous flavous setae, more so beneath posterior margin and around scutellum. Elytra with surface clothed in short, recumbent, flaveous setae; striae vaguely evident. Pygidium triangular, length equal to basal width, surface alutaceous with scattered setigerous punctures, setae long, flavous, recumbent. Legs with inner protarsal claws toothed as in Fig. 13; first metatarsal segment longer than the longest apical metatibial spur. Male genitalia as in Fig. 17.

Material examined. Holotype male: Zambesi, (Fry) (SAM).
Additional material examined: 10 (AVEC, SAM, TM), ZAMBIA: Livingstone. ZIMBABWE: Victoria Falls. SWA/NAMIBIA: Omega, SE 22/18Cd.
Months collected: January, February.

Aipeiopsis echinaticeps sp. nov., Figs 3, 6, 10, 14, 18

Description: 13.0–17.0 mm long. Head with clypeus rectangular, glabrous, shallowly punctate, shining, with arcuate carina just below clypeal suture (Fig. 10); frons coarsely, setigerously punctate, vestiture intermixed with short spinose setae anteriorly and long fine setae posteriorly; labrum fused to clypeus, suture evident; terminal segment of maxillary palp as in Fig. 6; antennal segments 6 and 7 compressed, produced (Fig. 3), subequal to each other in length, or with 6 slightly shorter. Pronotum densely clothed in pale flavous setae, equally so beneath posterior margin and around scutellum. Elytra with surface clothed with recumbent, pale, flavous setae; striae indistinct. Pygidium triangular, length equal to basal width, surface alutaceous with scattered setigerous punctures, setae long, flavous, recumbent. Legs with inner protarsal claws toothed as in Fig. 14; first metatarsal segment subequal to the length of the longest apical metatibial spur. Male genitalia as in Fig. 18.


Remarks: A. echinaticeps is readily distinguished from its congeners by its smaller size, rectangular clypeal margin, pyriform distal segment of the maxillary palp, compressed and produced antennal segments 6 and 7, and by the male genitalia.

Aipeiopsis hirticollis (Waterhouse), Figs 1, 2, 7, 11, 15, 19

Cyclomera hirticollis Waterhouse, 1875: 406.

Aipeiopsis hirticollis, Péringuey 1904: 162.

Description: 19.0—28.0 mm long. Head with clypeus rectangular, glabrous (Fig. 11), shallowly punctate, shining, frons coarsely setigerously punctate, setae spinose anteriorly, finely pilose posteriorly; labrum fused to clypeus, suture evident; terminal segment of maxillary palp as in Fig. 7; antennal segments 6 and 7 compressed, lamellate, 6 always longer than 7 (Fig. 2). Pronotum densely clothed in flavous setae, more so beneath posterior margin and around scutellum. Elytra with entire surface clothed in recumbent pale flavous setae; striae distinct. Pygidium triangular, length greater than the basal width; surface alutaceous with scattered setigerous punctures, setae long, fulvous, recumbent. Legs with inner protarsal claws toothed as in Fig. 15; first metatarsal segment subequal to the length of the apical metatibial spur. Male genitalia as in Fig. 19.

MATERIAL EXAMINED: Holotype male: Lake Ngami (BMNH).


Months collected: September through May.

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REFERENCES


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