A new Coenochilus from southern Africa (Coleoptera: Cetoniidae)

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ABSTRACT. — *Coenochilus latus* sp. nov. from Zimbabwe Rhodesia is described and illustrated.

INTRODUCTION

Coenochilus Schaum is the largest genus in the cetoniine tribe Cremastocheilini. It is a "difficult" group of between 60 and 70 closely related species, ranging from China and Indonesia to Senegal and South Africa. Several species have been found in nests of ants or termites, and it seems likely that all *Coenochilus* have inquilinous habits. Most of the material studied so far, however, was collected at light. *Coenochilus* are rather uniform in general appearance, all being slender, very elongate, and entirely black or brown. Among recent unidentified accessions in the British Museum (Natural History) a *Coenochilus*-like specimen from Zimbabwe Rhodesia was found, which, at first sight, differed from the known species by being unusually plump and broad. Subsequent study revealed further unusual features, and confirmed our first impression that the specimen represented an undescribed species. By using Schein's key (1954) *Coenochilus impressus* Moser is reached, which, although possibly related, differs from the new species in a number of characters.

Coenochilus latus sp. nov. (figs. 1-7)

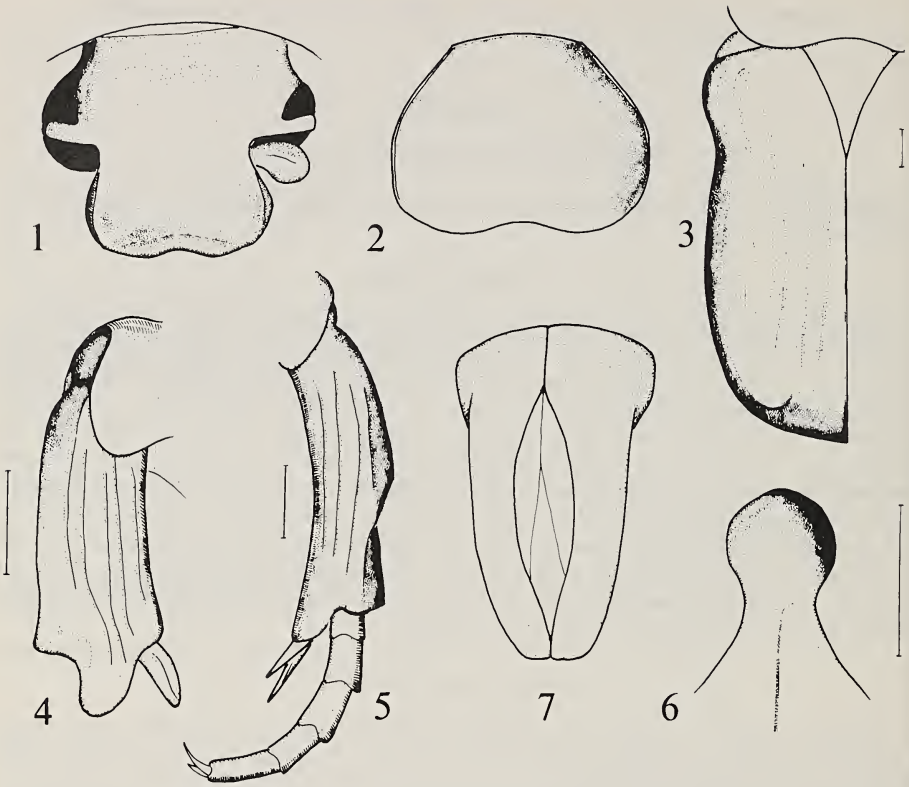
Holotype (male). — Approximate length 19, width 8, height 6 mm. Entirely black, shiny. Pilosity pale-yellow, confined to ventral side and legs. Habitus similar to that of other *Coenochilus*, but body much broader.

Cephalic contours, fig. 1. General surface of head evenly convex; anterior margin broadly though slightly thickened; vertex with shallow transverse impression; lateral ridges of clypeal disc very distinct; clypeus and frons transversely rugulate-punctate; vertex abundantly punctate. Maximum width of head 3.5, of clypeus 2.4 mm.

Pronotal contours, fig. 2. General surface of pronotum evenly convex; lateral margin finely ridged; basal pair of impressions almost completely effaced; entire pronotum evenly, densely punctate; punctures very distinct, subannulate (magnification ×75), their density (pronotal centre) 23 ± 2/0.25 sq. mm, their diameters ca. 0.05 mm. Median length of pronotum 5.3, maximum width 6.8 mm. Scutellum (fig. 3) abundantly punctate.

Elytral contours, fig. 3. Elytral disc deeply striate, intervals strongly convex; posthumeral emargination deep; striae 1 and 2 (from suture) complete, geminate; 3 and 4 (coming from deep intrahumeral impression) incomplete, consisting of fine, elongate-elliptic, more or less confluent striolae; 5 and 6 very short, largely incomplete (in the aforesaid sense); elytral base and lateral declivity abundantly punctate; apical declivity with fine, braided striolation; rest finely, sparsely punctate. Sutural length of elytra (from scutellar apex) 7.8, maximum length 10.5, humeral width (combined) 8.0 mm.

Antennal scapus large, slightly inflated. Mentum thickened in front, declivity concave. Preprosternal apophysis well-developed, lamelliform, tapering, with shortly rounded apex (in profile). Entire pectus, except middle of meso- and metasternum, striolate-setose; metasternal groove distinct. Middle coxae separated by short but very distinct mesometasternal protrusion (fig. 6), the apex of which is just visible in profile. Abdominal venter medially very distinctly broadly impressed; surface of sternites densely punctate; punctation medially fine; laterally coarser, very dense, setose. Propygidium exposed, finely striolate, glabrous; spiracles slightly produced, conical. Pygidium indistinct in dorsal view, transverse, slightly, evenly convex, with



Figs. 1-7. *Coenochilus latus*, holotype. Contours of: 1, head; 2, pronotum; 3, left elytron and scutellum; 4, right fore tibia; 5, left hind tibia and tarsus; 6, mesometasternal protrusion (ventral view); 7, aedeagus. — Scale lines = 1 mm. 1, 5, same scale; 2, 3, same scale; 6, 7, same scale.

indication of midline ridge; entire pygidial surface with braided and arcuate striolae; area on each side of midline setose; anal border distinctly marginate.

Fore tibia (fig. 4) bidentate; derm longitudinally grooved; underside densely setose; terminal spur robust, reaching tarsal segment 4. Anterior side of fore femora, posterior side of middle femora, inner side of middle and hind tibiae, all densely setose; rest of legs more or less abundantly setose. Middle and hind tibiae (fig. 5) with broad "fossorial" crest on outer side, which is lined with stiff setae; surface on middle and hind tibiae longitudinally grooved due to confluent, seta-bearing punctures; terminal spurs all long, with shortly rounded apex. Tarsi all very short (fig. 5), with large, sickle-shaped claws.

Aedeagus, fig. 7.

Identification. — *Coenochilus latus* can immediately be distinguished from all its congeners by the very broad bode, the swollen anterior margin of the clypeus, and by the peculiar shape of the middle and hind tibiae. Further characteristic (i.e. in *Coenochilus* infrequent) features of *latus* are the virtual lack of impressions on the pronotal base, the strongly cordiform dorsal outline of the pronotum, the very deep striation of the elytra, the broad mesometasternal protrusion, the midline ridge on the pygidium, and the short tarsi. The thickened anterior part of the mentum would place *latus* in *Xenogenius* Kolbe, a subgenus abandoned by Schein (1954).

Coenochilus latus shares some of the features just mentioned with *impressus* Moser and *emarginatus* Westwood, for instance, the wide separation of the middle coxae by the

mesometasternal protrusion. In the three primary features mentioned further above, however, these species are different from *latus*.

Material examined. — Holotype only, from "S. Rhodesia/Marandellas 11.1962/18°10'S. 31°36'E./J.S. Weir, M.V. light./B.M. 1963-18", British Museum (Natural History).

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