

***Afrocerophytum vix* Costa, Vanin et Rosa, 2014 (Coleoptera: Cerophytidae)
newly recorded from Ghana**

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Abstract – The cerophytid genus *Afrocerophytum* Costa, Vanin et Rosa, 2014 with its only species *A. vix* Costa, Vanin et Rosa, 2014 was described from the tropical Africa based on one male and three female specimens from Ivory Coast, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon. Here, we report two additional males from Ghana, which are deposited in the Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest. With 7 figures.

Key words – Afrotropical region, biodiversity hotspot, distribution, endemism, rare click-beetles

INTRODUCTION

The elateroid family Cerophytidae contains 23 extant species classified in four genera – the Holarctic *Cerophytum* Latreille, 1809 (4 species), the Neotropical *Brachycerophytum* Costa, Vanin, Lawrence et Ide, 2003 (2 species), *Phytocerus* Costa, Vanin, Lawrence et Ide, 2003 (16 species), and the monotypic *Afrocerophytum* Costa, Vanin et Rosa, 2014 from Africa (COSTA *et al.* 2003, 2014, KUNDRATA & JÄCH 2017). The latter genus was originally described based on a single male from Ivory Coast and three females from Equatorial Guinea and Gabon representing one species, *Afrocerophytum vix* Costa, Vanin et Rosa, 2014. Here, we provide new records of this species from Ghana based on two male specimens deposited in the Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The genitalia were dissected after treatment in hot 10% KOH. Diagnostic characters were photographed using a digital camera attached to a stereoscopic

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microscope Olympus SZX12. Label data are cited verbatim. The examined material is deposited in the Hungarian Natural History Museum (HNHM).

RESULTS

Afrocerophytum vix Costa, Vanin et Rosa, 2014 (Figs 1–7)

Afrocerophytum vix COSTA, VANIN et ROSA, 2014: 252; KUNDRATA & JÄCH (2017): 374.

Material examined. – Male, “Ghana: Ashanti region, Kwadaso, 320 m, N 6 42 – W1 39, Dr. S. Endrödy-Younga”, “Nr. 315, mercury vapour, 27. II. 1969”; Male, “Ghana: Ashanti region, Kwadaso, 320 m, N 6 42 – W1 39, Dr. S. Endrödy-Younga”, “Nr. 326, mercury vapour, 17. III. 1969”.

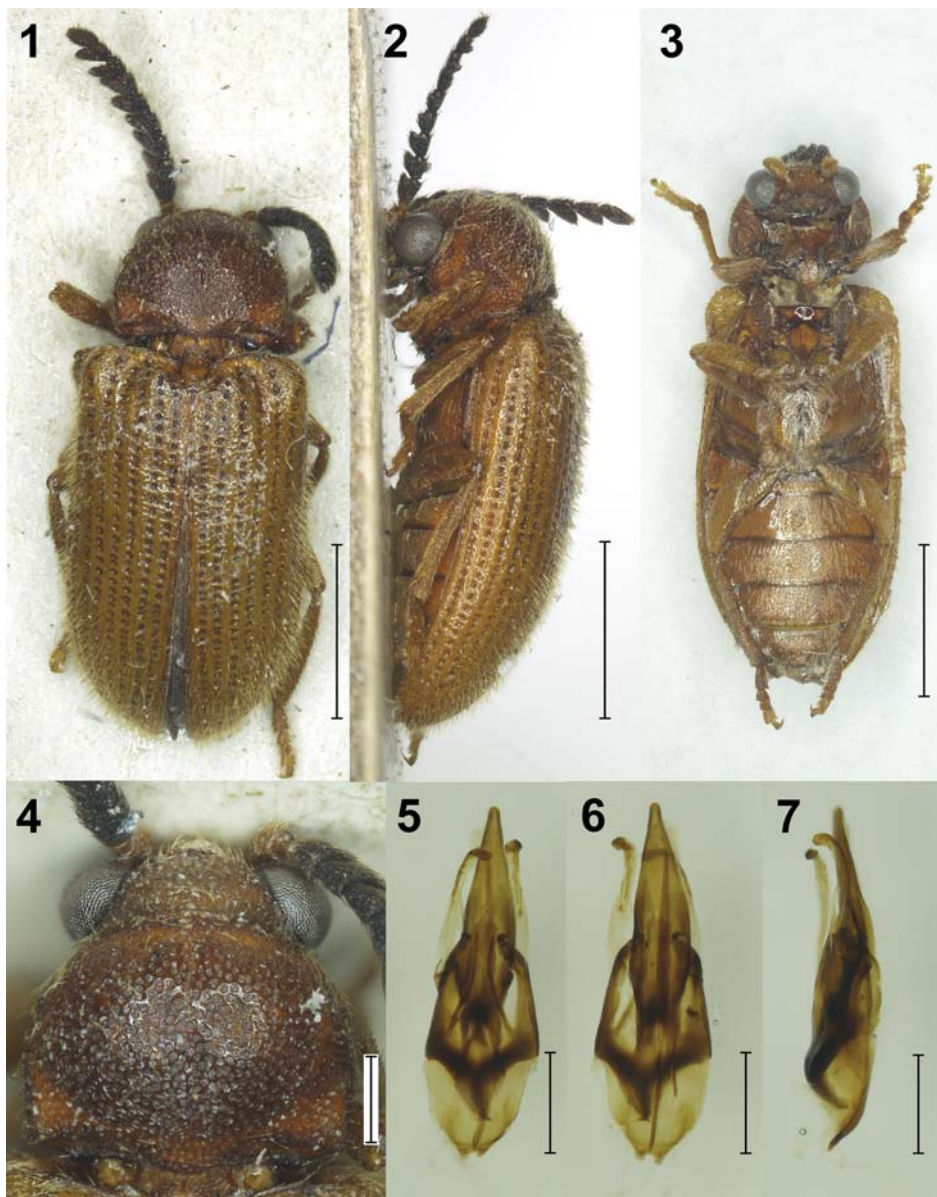
Distribution – Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Ivory Coast. **New record for Ghana.**

DISCUSSION

The Gulf of Guinea forest region in tropical Africa is a biodiversity hotspot of global importance (MYERS *et al.* 2000), and it is home of many endemic elatroid beetle taxa including *Afrocerophytum* (e.g., GIRARD 2003, BOCAKOVA 2014, COSTA *et al.* 2014, KUNDRATA & BOCAK 2017). According to the current state of knowledge, *A. vix* has disjunct distribution, with three males known from the Upper Guinean forest (Ivory Coast, Ghana) and three females from the Lower Guinean forests (Equatorial Guinea, Gabon). Based on the similar morphology of males and females as well as the historical distribution of the tropical forests in the Gulf of Guinea, COSTA *et al.* (2014) placed all specimens to a single species. The males reported here from Ghana are conspecific with the holotype from Ivory Coast based on the external morphology and the shape of genitalia (Figs 1–7; COSTA *et al.* 2014). The finding of additional material, especially males, from the Lower Guinean forest region would help us to understand the diversity of this rarely collected beetle lineage.

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Figs 1–7. *Afrocerophytum vix* Costa, Vanin et Rosa, 2014 from Ghana (males): 1 = habitus, dorsal, 2 = habitus, lateral, 3 = habitus, ventral, 4 = pronotum, dorsal, 5 = aedeagus, dorsal, 6 = aedeagus, ventral, 7 = aedeagus, lateral. Scale bars = 2.0 mm (Figs 1–3), 0.5 mm (Figs 4–7)

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