

**TRICHODES AUDOUINI-DUBREUILI REYMOND—REDISCOVERY AND
REDESCRIPTION OF AN OBSCURE SPECIES (COLEOPTERA: CLERIDAE)**

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Abstract

Trichodes audouini-dubreuilii, poorly described by Reymond (1956), from Morocco is redescribed and figured from one male specimen recently discovered in the Moroccan Anti-Atlas.

The genus *Trichodes* Herbst, 1792 is one of the best-collected clerid genera due to its attractive and conspicuous colours and elytral markings. All species are flower visitors, more or less easy to catch and therefore are popular collecting and study objects. Eighty-one species have been described, most of which occur in the Palaearctic (70; pers. data); 10 species are recorded from the Ethiopian region (Corporaal 1950); and 11 species are known from North America (Foster 1976). The most recent faunistic work for Moroccan Cleridae was published by Kocher (1956), who recorded seven *Trichodes* species. In the same year Reymond (1956) recorded four beetles new to the Moroccan fauna, among these *Trichodes audouini-dubreuilii*, which he described based only on the coloration of the body¹.

Although, he stated his intention to make a detailed description later, his only other communication on the subject came one year later, when he (Reymond 1957) presented nothing more than a drawing of the species.

Reymond's original type specimens had been collected at the end of April 1952, in the vicinity of d'Hassi-Zguilma and the summits of Djebel Mra, both localities near l'Oued Mird. In May of 2000—48 years after the first collection of this species—Jean-Michel Maldès sent me one specimen of this beautiful and remarkable species, which he had just caught in the Moroccan Anti-Atlas.

Redescription

Trichodes audouini-dubreuilii Reymond, 1956

(Figs. 1–6)

Body length 9.0 mm. Body compact to elongate; with dense, light pilosity.

Head including eyes broader than apex of pronotum; black, glossy, diffusely and finely punctate; with dense, long erect, light brown to whitish pilosity. Mandibles large, blackish brown, glossy. Antennae, labrum, and palpi light yellowish brown. Labrum long, glossy, broadly V-shaped emarginate. Terminal segments of labial palpi large securiform; terminal segments of maxillary palpi

¹ Since it proved to be impossible to locate the type material of *Trichodes audouini-dubreuilii*, I ignored this species within my monograph on the "Cleridae of the Western Palaearctic" (Gerstmeier 1998).

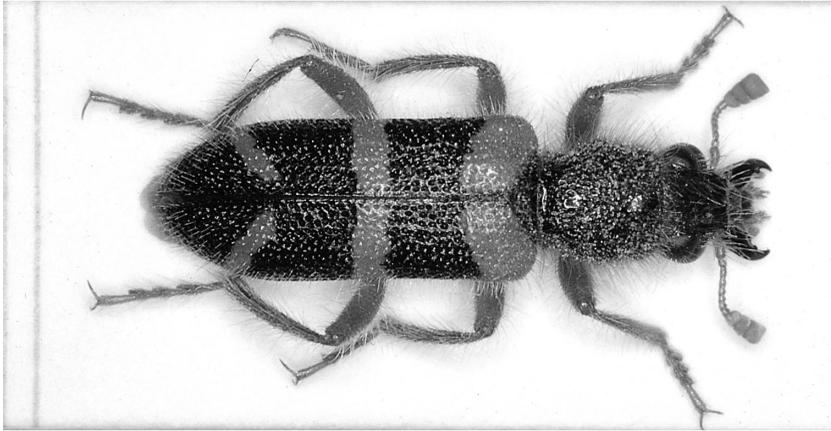


Fig. 1. Habitus, *Trichodes audouini-dubreuili* Reymond, 1956.

spatulate, slightly dilated apically. Antennae short, reaching more or less to middle of pronotum when laid alongside; with thick, compact, three-segmented club.

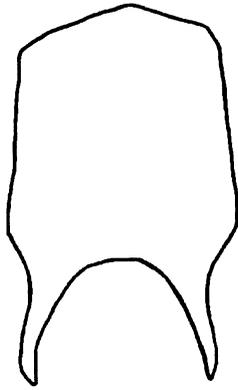
Pronotum only slightly longer than broad (length 1.99 mm, width 1.90 mm); constricted in front and at base, more strongly constricted posteriorly; black, glossy anterior to the transverse impression, glossy to dull behind the transverse impression; anterior to the transverse impression diffusely and finely punctate, posteriorly coarsely and densely punctate; diameter of punctures larger than intervals, intervals with fine microsculpture; surface with very dense, long and erect pilosity, light yellowish brown to whitish.

Scutellum black, broadly tongue-shaped.

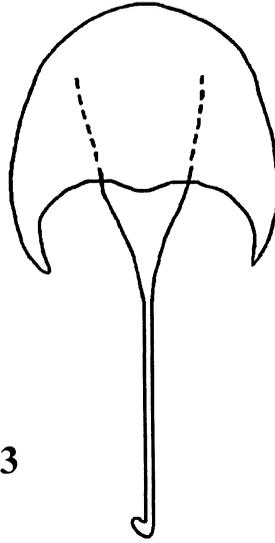
Elytra almost 2.5 times as long as broad (length 5.88 mm; width 2.43 mm), subparallel, only constricted at apex. Elytral ground color bright orange brown, interrupted by dark blue glossy fasciae in three areas as follows: a broad area on the shoulder; a narrow, almost straight transverse fascia medially and a narrow, oblique transverse fascia at posterior third, not reaching the lateral margin nor the (similarly dark blue) suture (Fig. 1). Anterior elytral dark band not reaching the lateral margin, the two posterior bands reaching the lateral margin. Terminal part of elytra dehiscent; sutural angle slightly but conspicuously emarginate and pointed. Punctures within the area of the ground color shallow, diameter of punctures slightly larger than intervals. The area of the dark blue bands deeply, coarsely and more or less irregularly punctate, diameter of punctures mostly conspicuously larger than intervals; intervals with a very fine microsculpture. The elytra, especially at the lateral margin, are covered with dense, erect, light brown to whitish pilosity.

Legs dark orange brown, hind tibiae slightly curved, with two short, straight spurs distally; with a light yellowish brown to whitish pilosity.

Ventral surface black, with very long, dense, whitish pubescence. Metasternum distally rounded, smooth, glossy, with only occasional fine punctures. Abdominal sterna bordered laterally with orange, terminal abdominal sternum and pygidium (Figs. 2–3) entirely orange; tergites orange brown; sternum VII slightly emarginate distally. Aedeagus as shown in Figs. 4–6.



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3



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5



6



Fig. 8. Landscape photograph of the Anti-Atlas region between Tagmoute and Tisgui-Ida-ou-Ballou (by Philippe Pone).l).

These two specimens are also recorded in Joly et al. (1954), where one can find the citation of location as “Zguilma” and “Ikhf-n’Ouzreg.” For locations see Figure 7.

Tectonically the Anti-Atlas belongs to the African plate and is one of the oldest mountains in the world; its folds were raised at the beginning of the Palaeozoic. Numerous wadis (Oueds) divide the semiarid landscape, which is characterized by a typical vegetation consisting of occasional copse (*Argania*, *Pistacia*), as well as *Rhamnus*, *Kleinia*, *Euphorbia* and savanna (*Stipa*), with transition to desert vegetation. It is the typical floral region of the Hamadas, lowlands whose surfaces are composed of sharp-edged boulders and coarse pieces of rock (Fig. 8).

Acknowledgments

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Jean-Michel Maldès and Philippe Pone, who kindly made available the specimen discussed in this paper as well as information about its locality, including the landscape photograph reproduced herein. Jacques Rifkind helped with revising the English translation and Marianne Müller made the photograph of *Trichodes audouini-dubreuili*.

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