SHORT COMMUNICATION

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Re-encountering *Chemsakiellus taurus* (Coleoptera, Cerambycidae, Lamiinae), a little-known longhorn beetle, in Namibia

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ABSTRACT We report two new encounters with *Chemsakiellus taurus* Villiers, 1982, a longhorn beetle, from Namibia. Until the beginning of 2022, this remarkable longhorn beetle was only known from the holotype. A shortened and translated summary of the French publication is given, complemented with a colour photo, a landscape photo of the locality and a map showing the three known localities in Namibia.

KEYWORDS *Chemsakiellus taurus;* faunistic; longhorn beetle; Namibia; rediscovery

BACKGROUND

The longhorn beetle *Chemsakiellus taurus*, Villiers, 1982, has hitherto only been recorded as a holotype deposited in the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris. The genus is similar to the genera *Dinocephalus* Peringuey, *Charies*thes Chevrolat and *Rhaphidopsis* Gerstaecker, and indeed *Chemsakiellus* is more closely related to *Plagiomus* Quedenfeldt. All these genera are ranked in the tribe Tragocephalini Thomson, which is primarily known from the Ethiopian zoogeographic region, with about 274 species. Most members are known for their colourful and bright appearance, and many genera are characterised by more or less developed horns on the front of the males. One member of that group is *Chemsakiellus taurus* Villiers, 1982 from Namibia. The original description of *C. taurus* was written in French. Here we present a shortened and translated summary:

Head short, with a fine, longitudinal groove in the middle. The tubercles which carry the antennae are of medium height; eyes deeply emarginate, superior lobe strongly reduced; antennae slightly more than twice as long as body, antennomere 3 very long and thin, much longer than antennomere 4; frons with a large, slightly curved horn on each side, forward and upward directed.

Pronotum transverse, disc convex, very slightly dilated in front and sinuate in the middle, apex and base with a very slight transverse impression; prosternum with an evenly curved process. Scutellum semicircular, twice as wide as long. Elytra narrow, slightly converging towards apex. Legs short.

The only specimen was found in: "Sud-Ouest: 40 km à l'Est de Gobabeb, 26-II-1979, R. Wharton coll., holotype mâle au Muséum de Paris."

Length (minus horns): 12.5 mm

OBSERVATION

A colour photo of the holotype was presented by Adlbauer (2001), and a black and white photo (by K.A.) of the head, showing the horns, was published by Svacha and Lawrence (2014).

During a trip to Namibia in 2022, R.G. encountered a specimen of this longhorn beetle (Figure 1). It was beaten from bushes situated near the base of the rock formations of Spitzkoppe (Figure 2).

The collecting data are as follows: Namibia, Erongo Region, Spitzkoppe, S21°49.883' E15°09.826', 1 078 m, 28 March 2022, R. Gerstmeier leg. #11 (National Commission on Research, Science and Technology, Windhoek, Namibia: Permit Number RPIV00012018). This specimen (length 9.5 mm, minus horns) is deposited at the National Museum of Namibia, Windhoek, Namibia. The collecting locality is presented in Figure 3. Unfortunately, it was not possible to determine the bush species.

Another specimen is known from a post by Riana Bate on the Cerambycoidea Forum (https://www.cerambycoidea.com/forum/topic.asp?TOPIC_ID=29376; 28 February 2022). The specimen, a hornless female, was found in the Namib Naukluft Park (length 14 mm). The collection date and other details are not known to the authors.

Figure 1 *Chemsakiellus taurus*, from Spitzkoppe, Namibia (Photo: R.G.).

Figure 2 Rock formation at Spitzkoppe, where our specimen of *Chemsakiellus taurus* was found (Photo: R.G.).

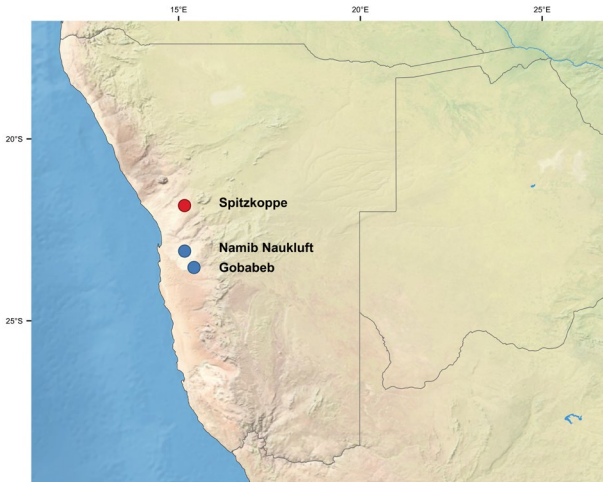

Figure 3 Locations of *Chemsakiellus taurus* in Namibia. The red dot indicates the location from the Namibia trip of R.G. in 2022, while the blue dots represent the Gobabeb and Namib Naukluft type localities, reported by Riana Bate.

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