

An updated determination key  
to the African species of the genus *Amphiops* ERICHSON, 1843  
(Coleoptera, Hydrophilidae)

by Franz HEBAUER

**ABSTRACT:**

A key to the African species of the Hydrophilidae genus *Amphiops* is given and the male genitalia of all known species are figured.

**KEY WORDS:**

Hydrophilidae, Africa, key, distribution.

**INTRODUCTION**

In his revision of the genus *Amphiops* ERICHSON, d'ORCHYMONT (1941) lists 6 species occurring in Africa. Additional notes concerning taxonomy and distribution of BALFOUR-BROWNE (1939a) as well as the description of two further new species from Namibia (HEBAUER 1995) caused me to update d'ORCHYMONT's key of the African species of that genus.

**SPECIES LIST AND SYNONYMY:**

***Amphiops***

*confusus* REGIMBART, 1903: 43  
= *lateritius* FAIRMAIRE, 1903: 185  
*globus* ERICHSON, 1843: 230

= *lateritius* FAIRMAIRE, 1903: 185 ex p.?  
*lasioides* REGIMBART, 1903: 44

Tchad, Zaire, Zanzibar.

= *sphaeroidalis* KNISCH, 1924  
*namibicus* HEBAUER, 1995: 257  
*phallicus* d'ORCHYMONT, 1936: 114

= *lasioides* REGIMBART, 1903: 44 ex p.

**Type locality/further territories**

**Madagascar**, Namibia, Sierra Leone.

**Angola**, Benin, Cameroon, Congo, Gaboon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Madagasacar, Mozambique, Namibia, Natal, Rep. South Africa, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, Tanzania, Transvaal, Uganda, Zambia, Zanzibar, Zimbabwe.

**Madagascar**

**Madagascar**, Benin, Congo, Egypt, Gaboon, Gambia, Guinea, Namibia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Transvaal,

**Zanzibar**

**Namibia**

**Kalahari**, Benin, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Levant, Namibia, Sudan, Uganda.

**Madagascar**

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<i>senegalensis</i> (CASTELNAU, 1840: 59)	<b>Senegal</b> , Angola, Benin, Botswana, Cameroon, Cap Verde Isl., Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gaboon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, ?Kenya, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Rep. South Africa, Ruanda, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Tanzania, Transvaal, Uganda, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.
= <i>lucidus</i> ERICHSON, 1843: 231	<b>Madagascar</b> (nec Angola).
= <i>compressus</i> FAIRMAIRE, 1873: 334	<b>Marocco</b>
= <i>abeillei</i> GUILLEBEAU, 1896: 229	<b>Egypt</b>
= <i>lasioides</i> REGIMBART, 1903: 44 ex p.	<b>Madagascar</b>
<i>uhlgi</i> HEBAUER, 1995: 259	<b>Namibia</b> , Botswana, Zambia.
<i>wittei</i> D'ORCHYMONT, 1941: 3	<b>Congo</b>

**DETERMINATION KEY:**

- 1 Hind angles of pronotum present, though strongly rounded (fig. 1) ..... 2
- Hind angles of pronotum missing, fore angles narrowly extended forward (fig. 2). Surface extremely fine punctate. Shining black, large species. Aedeagus (fig. 3). Size 5 mm ..... ***globus* ERICHSON**
- 2 Head, pronotum and shoulders shagreened. Basal lobe of aedeagus twice as long as median lobe (fig. 4). Colour dark ferruginous. Size 5 mm. Rare species ..... ***wittei* D'ORCHYMONT**
- Head, pronotum and shoulders without shagreen. Basal lobe of aedeagus at least slightly longer than median lobe. .... 3
- 3 Elytra laterally denser, finer, less uniformly punctate. Median lobe of aedeagus with lateral lace (fig. 5, 6) ..... 4
- Elytra laterally less dense but stronger and uniformly punctate. Median lobe of aedeagus more or less narrowed from base to apex. (Fig. 7) ..... 5
- 4 Ventral piece of aedeagus hardly longer than dorsal piece, tips of parameres more obliquely converging, obliquely corded (fig. 6). Colour dark ferruginous, elytra with six more or less reduced black patches arranged in longitudinal rows, occasionally confused to complete stripes (fig. 11). Size 5 mm. Abundant ..... ***senegalensis* (CASTELNAU)**
- Ventral piece of aedeagus much longer than dorsal piece, tips of parameres horizontal converging (fig. 5). Colour piceous to castaneous, pronotum and elytra laterally coarser punctate than on disc. Sides of elytra with 3 series of larger punctures. Size 3.8 mm. Rare species ..... ***confusus* RÉGIMBART**
- 5 Elytral punctation near suture much finer than laterally. Ground colour yellow. Size 3.5 mm ..... 6
- Elytral punctation near suture hardly finer than laterally. Ground colour reddish ..... 7

- 6 Head double sized punctate, punctures on pronotum much finer than on elytra. Tips of parameres apically straight (fig. 10). Elytra and pronotum with distinct dark patches. Size 3.5 mm ..... ***namibicus*** HEBAUER
- Head simple sized punctate, punctures on pronotum of about the same strength as on elytra. Tips of parameres apically bent inwards (fig. 9). Elytra with dark patches, pronotum generally clear. Size 3.5 mm ..... ***uhligi*** HEBAUER
- 7 Parameres without a tooth at inner side, dorsally obliquely rifflled, tips only slightly converging (fig. 7). Size 3-4 mm ..... ***lasioides*** RÉGIMBART
- Parameres with a strong tooth at inner side, dorsally simply striolate, tips strongly converging (fig. 8). Size 4 mm ..... ***phallicus*** D' ORCHYOMONT

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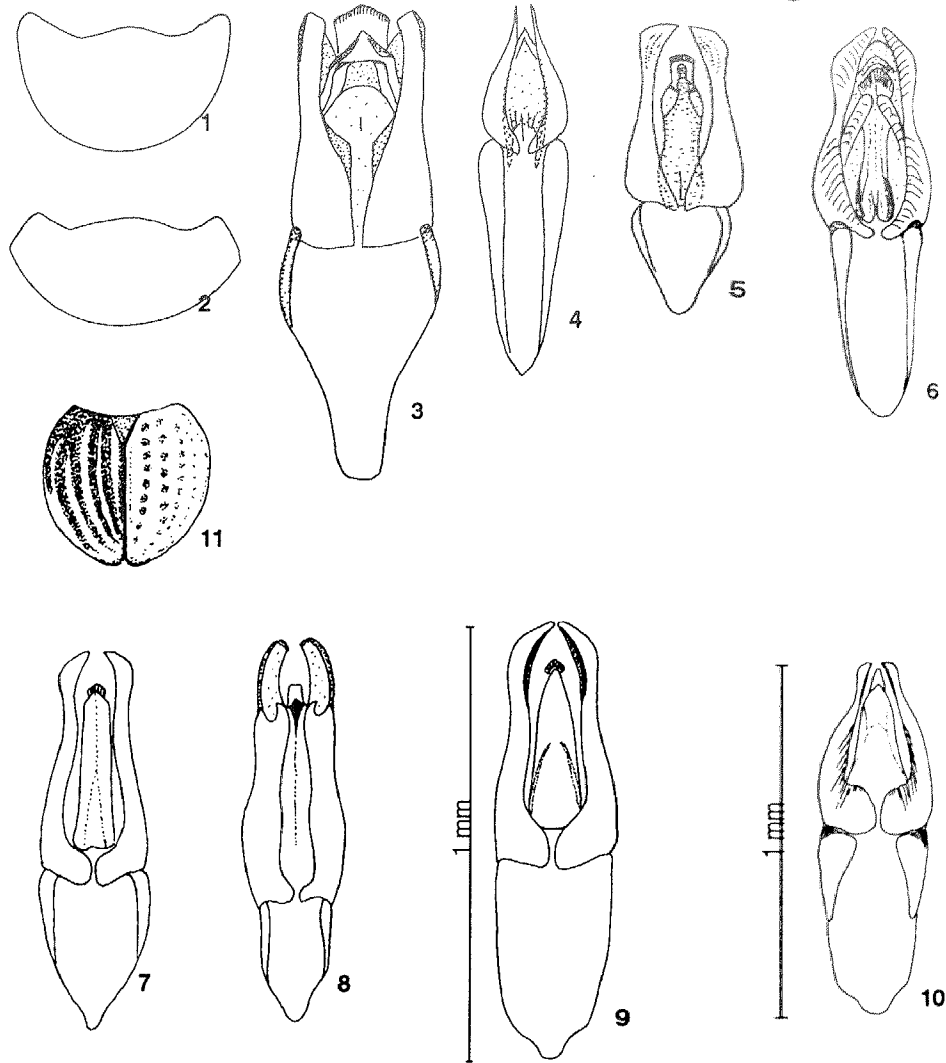


Fig. 1. *Amphiops*, pronotum, type A. Fig. 2. *Amphiops*, pronotum, type B.  
Fig. 3. *Amphiops globus* ERICHSON (Cameroon), aedeagus, dorsal view (1.3 mm).  
Fig. 4. *Amphiops wittei* D'ORCHYMONT, aedeagus, dorsal view (after D'ORCHYMONT, 1941). Fig. 5. *Amphiops confusus* RÉGIMBART (Angola); aedeagus, dorsal view (0.7 mm). Fig. 6. *Amphiops senegalensis* (CASTELNAU), (Senegal), aedeagus, dorsal view (1.6 mm). Fig. 7. *Amphiops lasioides* RÉGIMBART, (Gambia), aedeagus, dorsal view (1.0 mm). Fig. 8. *Amphiops phallicus* D'ORCHYMONT, (Gambia), aedeagus, dorsal view (1.5 mm). Fig. 9. *Amphiops uhligi* HEBAUER, 1996 (holotype), aedeagus, dorsal view (1.0 mm). Fig. 10. *Amphiops namibicus* HEBAUER, 1996 (holotype), aedeagus, dorsal view (1.0 mm). Fig. 11. *Amphiops senegalensis* (CASTELNAU), color pattern (left elytron: Benin/right elytron: Senegal).