

SHORT COMMUNICATION

***Afromorgus pauliani* (Haaf 1954), a second species of Trogidae (Coleoptera: Scarabaeoidea) recorded in Hong Kong**Paul Aston¹ and Shinya Kawai²¹2nd Floor, 102 Wang Tong, Mui Wo, Lantau, Hong Kong
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email: shinya@kawamo.co.jp**Key words:** Trogidae, China, Hong Kong.

The Trogidae are quite distinctive and can be identified from other species of Scarabaeoidea occurring in Hong Kong, by having: 10-segmented antennae, with a 3-segmented club, segments which are capable of apposition; mid-coxal cavities are contiguous and closed laterally by a broad meeting of the meso- and meta-sternum; abdomen with five visible ventrites. Trogidae are tough, heavily sclerotised, dull-coloured beetles, with the upper surface heavily tuberculate and with a strongly deflexed head.

Adults and larvae feed on dried animal remains (giving them the common name of Hide Beetles), being one of the last in a succession of insects that invade carcasses (Lawrence & Britton 1991).

Two specimens were found near lights in Wang Tong village, Lantau, on 5 and 20 June 2008, both attracted by village lights close to Wang Tong cemetery. The specimens were identified by Shinya Kawai as *Afromorgus pauliani* (Haaf 1954).

According to Pittino (2006), the Chinese distribution of *A. pauliani* is limited to Henan, Hubei, Taiwan and southwestern China. It is also distributed in Vietnam, Laos, India and Nepal. The only other species of Trogidae recorded locally is *A. chinensis* (Boheman 1858), which was described from Hong Kong island. *A. pauliani* at 15mm is much larger than *A. chinensis* (11mm). Also, *A. pauliani* has larger tubercles on the elytra.

Figure 1. *Afromorgus pauliani* Haaf 1954. Length 15mm. 5 June 2008 Wang Tong, Mui Wo, Lantau.

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