Tribe Halticini

Usually black or dark-colored. Body robust or elongate. Hair covering on upper surface simple. Dorsal surface smooth or punctate. Head usually dorsoventrally elongated, height of gena greater than height of eye, basal margin of vertex keeled. 1st joint of rostrum usually incrassate. African species always macropterous, the Palearctic ones often brachypterous. Hind femora sometimes strongly enlarged, adapted for jumping. Claws (Figs. 3l, 5s, 8a) without pulvilli (except in Namaacapsus).

Male genitalia: Right style large, flattened and expanded apically, ± spoon-shaped. Left style with long slender, apically hooked hypophysis. Aedeagus small; vesica membranous, without sclerified spiculi. Female genitalia (Fig. 1a–c): posterior wall of bursa copulatrix plate-like, without K-structures. Sclerified rings variable, in African species ± reniform.


Only a few genera and species are known from the other parts of the world. Four genera are known from the Ethiopian Region. Halticus is a cosmopolitan genus. The two species recorded from Africa have a Paleotropical range. The closely related genus Acratheus is also Paleotropical. Nanniella is an endemic genus which is widely distributed in tropical Africa. The fourth genus, Namaacapsus Schuh (unknown to me), is known only from Cape Province in South Africa.

Emphasizing the importance of the elongate head, incrassate 1st rostral joint and shape of the styles, Wagner (1973) regarded the group as a separate subfamily, the Halticinae. Although genera such as Halticus and Acratheus display these characters, Nanniella, which undoubtedly represents a separate evolutionary lineage, has the head considerably shorter and the 1st rostral segment only moderately thicker than the 2nd. On the other hand, the Orthotylini genus Jiggiga has a misleading external resemblance to certain representatives of the Halticini. Although the vesica in the Orthotylini usually has a complicated structure, forms with a simple vesica also exist.