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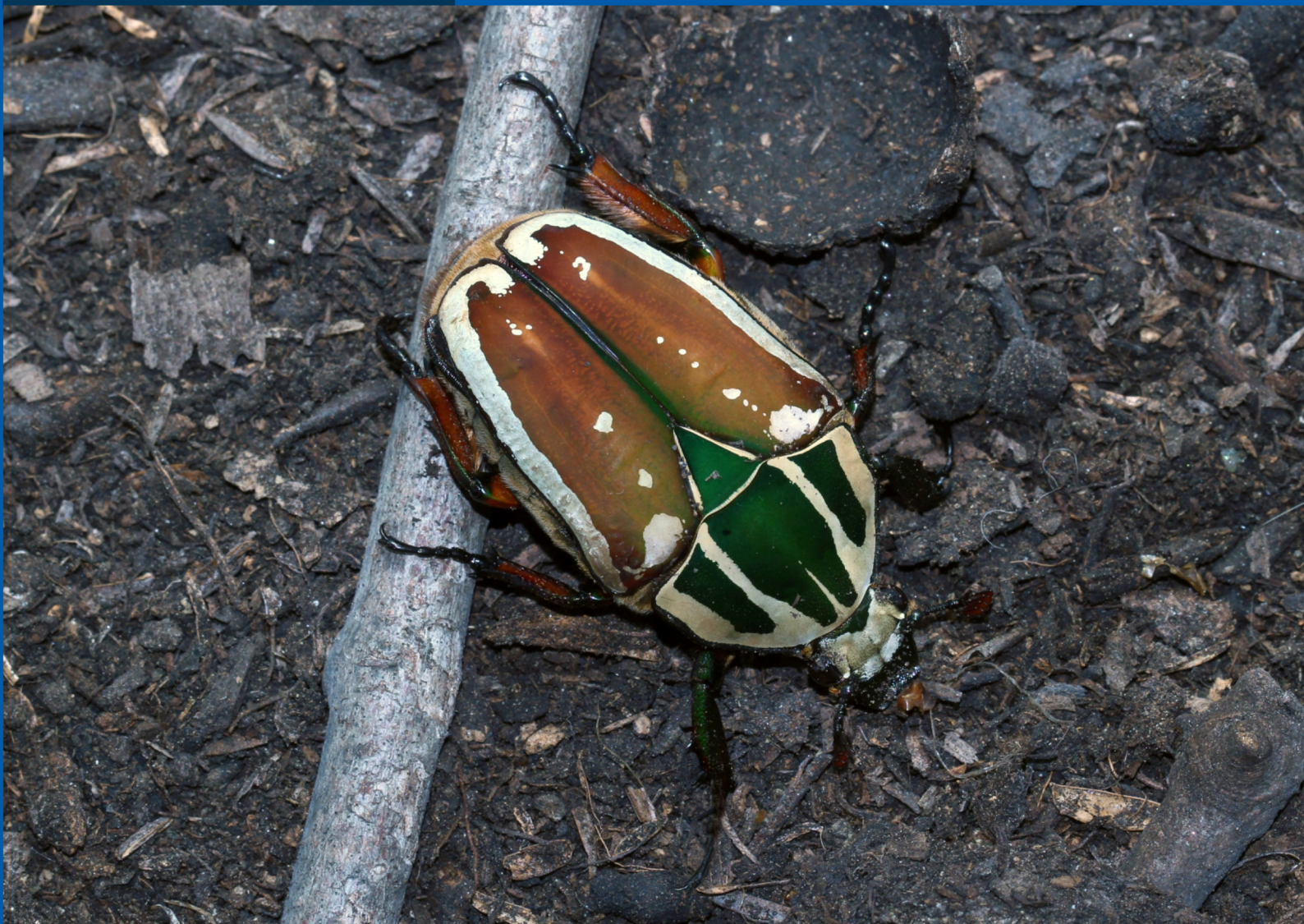
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Mecynorhina ugandensis (Moser, 1907) - Uganda

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Taxonomy and biology of the African Goliathini Krikken, 1984 (Coleoptera Cetoniidae). The family of Cetoniidae Leach, 1815 includes species of beetles particularly diversified in the morphology, often with large dimensions, and with an important and little known pre-imaginal biology and numerous taxonomic aspects to be verified. In particular, the Goliathini are one of the 12 tribes in which the subfamily of the Cetoniinae is divided. *Goliathus* Lamarck, 1801 (named after the biblical giant Goliath), which is about 11 cm long, is one of the largest species of beetles in the world. The Goliathini are characterized by an obvious sexual dimorphism. The males have, almost always, clypeal horns,



often bifurcated. They are widespread in the tropical areas of the African continent (78 genera), while only 2 genera with three species in the American continent, Mexico, follow a paleoamerican dispersion model. The adults of Goliathini are flyers and feed on sugary substances; the larvae are saproxylic. They are entirely dependent for its larval growth and development on large, dead trees, often still standing and in an advanced stage of decomposition. By degrading dead wood, they are of great importance in the ecology of forests. Unfortunately, the African forests are currently under unprecedented threats, and many Goliathini are included in numerous lists of endangered and protected species. The genus *Mecynorhina* Hope, 1837 (see photos) listed about 10 species subdivided into 4 subgenres, spread throughout the tropical African region.