

SHORT NOTES

II. About the identity of *Dorcadionoides subaeneus* Motschulsky, 1857 (Coleoptera Cerambycidae)

The genus *Dorcadionoides* was introduced by MOTSCHULSKY (1897) for a fossil cerambycid from Baltic amber. Even if it is without a description and the indication of new genus, it must be considered valid according to ICZN, Art. 13.4.

The six-line-description of *Dorcadionoides subaeneus* was based on only one specimen belonging to Prof. Franz Anton Menge, once teacher at the Petrischule in Danzig (today Gdańsk). Such description is all that remains from this cerambycid today. In fact, MENGE'S collection, donated to the Westpreußische Provinzialmuseum in Danzig after the death of its owner in 1880, was moved to a number of Pomeranian villages in 1945 (KOSMOWSKA-CERANOWICZ, 2001). Although single samples have been later found in Germany and Poland, this collection is currently considered as having been lost (SZADZIEWSKI, *in litt.*).

Nonetheless, it is still possible to draw some taxonomic considerations. According to its author, *D. subaeneus* was an intermediate form between the genera *Dorcadion* Dalman, 1817 and *Leiopus* Audinet-Serville, 1835; its antennae were scarcely longer than the body and its sub-metallic body was covered by a fine pubescence. The wide difference between such genera, the former wingless, globose and with short antennae, and the latter winged, depressed and with very long antennae does not allow to identify the tribe either. Nonetheless, the prothorax was toothed at both sides and this fact suggests that *D. subaeneus* must have belonged at least to the subfamily Lamiinae.

After its description, this fossil was mentioned by SCUDDER (1885), HANDLIRSCH (1907), LARSSON (1978), SPAHR (1981) and CARPENTER (1992). In particular, CARPENTER considered *Dorcadionoides* as similar to *Dorcadion*, but the simple observation that this species was only 1 line long (~2 mm) suggests that *Dorcadionoides* did not have anything to do with such genus.

This minute size is very rare among Lamiinae; currently, no species is so small. Nevertheless, a scarcely longer size can be found among Cyrtinini and Pogonocherini. Actually, ZANG (1905) described just a *Pogonocherus*-species from Baltic amber, 2,9 mm long.

The description of *D. subaeneus* might adapt itself to *Pogonocherus jackeli* Zang, 1905. Moreover, according to the description, *P. jackeli* was similar to *P. ovatus* (Goeze, 1777), a species of the Recent, rare in the Northern Europe and perhaps unknown to MOTSCHULSKY.

Hence, there is the possibility that *D. subaeneus* could have been the oldest synonym of *P. jackeli*. Unfortunately, the effective identity of this fossil can no longer be checked and this species must be considered as Lamiinae *incertae sedis*.

Acknowledgements

The author thanks Ms. Juliane Diller, Zoologische Staatssammlung München (Germany), Ph.D. Steve W. Lingafelter, National Museum of Natural History, Washington (USA), Prof. dr. hab. Ryszard Szadziewski, Museum of Amber Inclusions, University of Gdańsk (Poland), the Library of the National Museum of Natural History, Washington (USA), the Library of the Zoologische Staatssammlung München (Germany) for the collaboration and Dr. Otilia C. Trandafir for the linguistic translation.

Bibliography

- CARPENTER F. M., 1992 - Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology. Part R: Arthropoda. Volume 4: Superclass Hexapoda. - The Geological Society of America, Inc. and the University of Kansas. Boulder, Colorado and Lawrence Kansas, 279-655.
- HANDLIRSCH A., 1907 - Die fossilen Insekten und die Phylogenie der rezenten Formen. Ein Handbuch für Paläontologen und Zoologen - *W. Engelmann Verlag*, Leipzig, 1430 pp.
- KOSMOWSKA-CERANOWICZ B., 2001 - The old Gdansk amber collection - *Prace Muzeum Ziemi* 46: 81-106.
- LARSSON S. G., 1978 - Baltic Amber - a Palaeological Study. - Entomonograph, vol 1. Scandinavian Science Press Ltd., Klampenborg, 192 pp.
- MOTSCHULSKY V. I., 1856 - Études entomologiques 1856, V année. Voyages. Lettre de M. de Motschulsky à Ménétriés N° 3 - *Imprimerie de la Société de Littérature Finnoise*, Helsingfors. : 21-38+ 1 Pl.
- SCUDDER S. H., 1885 - Systematische Übersicht der Fossilen Myriopoden, Arachnoideen und Insekten (Sonderabzug aus Zittel, Handbuch der Palaeontologie I. Abtheilung. Palaeozoologie. Bd. II) - *R. Oldenbourg Druck und Verlag*, München und Leipzig: 793-794.
- SPAHR U., 1981 - Systematischer Katalog der Bernstein- und Kopal-Käfer (Coleoptera) - *Stuttgarter Beiträge zur Naturkunde Ser. B (Geologie und Paläontologie)* 80: 1-107.
- ZANG R., 1905 - Coleoptera Longicornia aus der Berendtschen Bernsteinsammlung - *Sitzungsberichte der Gesellschaft Naturforschender Freunde zu Berlin* 1905: 232-245 + 1 Tab.

Francesco VITALI, corso Torino 5/7 I-16129 Genova, Italia