

Notes on the taxonomy of some Palaearctic Buprestidae (Coleoptera)*

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Abstract

In comparison with the Catalogue of Palaearctic Coleoptera the following taxonomic or nomenclatural changes are proposed: *Julodis euphratica nusskina* OBENBERGER, 1924 syn. = *Julodis euphratica beludjistana* OBENBERGER, 1924; *Poecilonota variolosa populiabae* RICHARD, 1889 syn. = *Poecilonota variolosa setulosa* FLEISCHER, 1896 syn. = *Poecilonota variolosa* KLUG, 1829; *Anthaxia polychloros* ABEILLE, 1894 syn.n. = *Anthaxia millefolii* FABRICIUS, 1801; *Anthaxia scutellaris atlasica* NOVAK, 1988 syn.n. = *Anthaxia scutellaris* GÉNÉ, 1829; *Anthaxia mysteriosa* OBENBERGER, 1917 syn. = *Anthaxia istriana* ROSENHAUER, 1847; *Capnodis miliaris metallica* BALLION, 1871 syn.n. = *Capnodis miliaris* KLUG, 1829.

Key words: Taxonomy, nomenclature, synonymy, Palaearctic region, Coleoptera, Buprestidae, *Julodis*, *Capnodis*, *Poecilonota*, *Anthaxia*.

Zusammenfassung

Im Vergleich zum Catalogue of Palaearctic Coleoptera werden die folgenden taxonomischen oder nomenklatorischen Änderungen vorgeschlagen: *Julodis euphratica nusskina* OBENBERGER, 1924 syn. = *Julodis euphratica beludjistana* OBENBERGER, 1924, *Poecilonota variolosa populiabae* RICHARD, 1889 syn. = *Poecilonota variolosa setulosa* FLEISCHER, 1896 syn. = *Poecilonota variolosa* KLUG, 1829, *Anthaxia polychloros* ABEILLE, 1894 syn.n. = *Anthaxia millefolii* FABRICIUS, 1801, *Anthaxia scutellaris atlasica* NOVAK, 1988 syn.n. = *Anthaxia scutellaris* GÉNÉ, 1829, *Anthaxia mysteriosa* OBENBERGER, 1917 syn. = *Anthaxia istriana* ROSENHAUER, 1847, *Capnodis miliaris metallica* BALLION, 1871 syn.n. = *Capnodis miliaris* KLUG, 1829.

Introduction

Since Carl Linnaeus introduced binomial nomenclature there is the problem of understanding and interpreting descriptions of new species. In the past, without drawings of specific characters, it was sometimes difficult to understand the author's intention, although taxonomists tried to verbally create a picture of a species. Today it is more often the question how far an author considers old literature and whether he is able to understand papers in other languages than English or his mother tongue.

* This contribution is dedicated to the late Gottfried NOVAK (1936–2015) who was a well-known specialist of Buprestidae.

Until today there are descriptions of beetles based on very weak characters, especially different colours. Beside this there are (sometimes old and repeated) misinterpretations leading to species or subspecies which are in reality simple forms or do not exist at all.

The following taxonomic changes refer to the Catalogue of Palaearctic Coleoptera (LÖBL & SMETANA 2006). Some of the synonymies were already suggested by previous authors.

Taxonomic changes

***Julodis euphratica beludjistana* OBENBERGER, 1924**

Julodis euphratica nusskina OBENBERGER, 1924 syn.

Julodis euphratica nusskina OBENBERGER, 1924 was already placed into synonymy by BILÝ (1983). This was apparently overlooked by KUBAN (2006) while preparing the catalogue of Palearctic Buprestidae. Furthermore it is difficult to explain the presence of three different subspecies of *Julodis euphratica* (ssp. *beludjistana*, *nusskina*, and *scenica* KERREMANS) in Balochistan (Pakistan).

***Poecilonota variolosa* KLUG, 1829**

Poecilonota variolosa populiabae RICHARD, 1889 syn.

Poecilonota variolosa setulosa FLEISCHER, 1896 syn.

Despite the remarks in MÜHLE et al. (2000), KUBAN (2006) resurrected *P. variolosa setulosa* to a valid subspecies of *P. variolosa*. A recent collection in Greece of more than 50 specimens covering the whole range of variability (size and morphological pattern) of this species proves the correctness of the synonymy. Additionally KUBAN (2006) overlooked that ARNÁIZ RUIZ et al. (2002) placed *Poecilonota variolosa populiabae* into synonymy.

***Anthaxia millefolii* FABRICIUS, 1801**

Anthaxia polychloros ABEILLE, 1894 **syn.n.**

ABEILLE (1894) invented the name *polychloros* as replacement name for *A. millefolii* because he thought that *A. millefolii*, as it was described by FABRICIUS (1801), is in reality *A. signaticollis*. But this is wrong as the examination of the type specimen, deposited in Zoologisk Museum, Copenhagen, showed. *Anthaxia polychloros* is a synonym of *A. millefolii*.

***Anthaxia scutellaris* GÉNÉ, 1829**

Anthaxia scutellaris ab. *atlasica* THÉRY, 1930

Anthaxia scutellaris atlasica NOVAK, 1988 **syn.n.**

THÉRY (1930) described *atlasica* as an aberration of *scutellaris*, as a dark form without any brilliance. THÉRY (1942) repeats this rank later. NOVAK (1988) was the first who gave *atlasica* subspecific rank and by that made the name available. Since then it is kept as the Tunisian, Moroccan and Algerian subspecies of *scutellaris* (e.g., KUBAN 2006). A comparison with dozens of specimens from all Mediterranean countries (no Corsican specimens examined) showed no characteristics justifying a subspecific division.

***Anthaxia istriana* ROSENHAUER, 1847**

Anthaxia mysteriosa OBERBERGER, 1917 syn.

MÜHLE et al. (2000) already placed *A. mysteriosa* into synonymy. As we pointed out in the mentioned work, the type is a single specimen with the type locality Attika and identical with *A. istriana*. The distribution, given in KUBAN (2006) under the name *Anthaxia mysteriosa* is not correct; specimens from Turkey or Syria belong to another – perhaps new – species.

***Capnodis miliaris* KLUG, 1829**

Capnodis miliaris metallica BALLION, 1871 syn.n.

BALLION (1871) described *Capnodis metallica* from Chodshent, Turkestan, as green-coppery or coppery, covered with white scales. KLUG (1829) described *C. miliaris* as black with coppery-reticulated elytra, covered with white scales. Having seen a large number of specimens, from dull grey specimens from Afghanistan to bright coppery ones from Syria but without any substantial differential characteristics of the outer morphology and male genitalia, I am convinced that *C. miliaris metallica* is a synonym of *C. miliaris*.

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