

| | | |
|-------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Genus | Vol. 21(4): 501-504 | Wrocław, 27 XII 2010 |
|-------|---------------------|----------------------|

Acantholyctus semiermis (LESNE, 1914), a new synonym of
Acantholyctus cornifrons (LESNE, 1898)
(Coleoptera: Bostrichidae)

JERZY BOROWSKI¹ & PIOTR WĘGRZYNOWICZ²

¹Department of Forest Protection and Ecology, Warsaw University of Life Sciences, Nowoursynowska
159/34, 02-776 Warsaw, Poland, e-mail: jerzy_borowski@sggw.pl

²Museum and Institute of Zoology, Polish Academy of Sciences, Wilcza 64, 00-679 Warsaw, Poland,
e-mail: piotr@miiz.waw.pl

ABSTRACT. Synonymy of two species of the genus *Acantholyctus* LESNE has been established: *A. semiermis* (LESNE) proved taxonomically identical to *A. cornifrons* (LESNE). For *A. semiermis* neotype has been designated, currently housed in the collection of Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris.

Key words: entomology, nomenclature, Bostrichidae, Lyctinae, *Acantholyctus semiermis*, *A. cornifrons*, new synonym, neotype designation.

In 1898 French entomologist Pierre LESNE described a new species of African beetle under the name *Lyctus cornifrons*. The description was based on single specimen from Obock (now in Djibouti).

The same author in 1914 described the subspecies *Lyctus cornifrons australis* from Okahandya, Damaraland, what is now Namibia and another species, *Lyctus semiermis*, from Capetown. In 1924 LESNE transferred both species to his newly erected genus *Acantholyctus* LESNE.

In the original description of *Lyctus semiermis* (LESNE, 1914) the author mentioned that the unique type had been deposited in the South African Museum in Cape Town. However, according to the information received from Dr. M. COCHRANE, neither that type nor any other specimen labeled as *Lyctus* (or *Acantholyctus*) *semiermis* could be found in that collection.

While the holotype has not been located, in the course of the revision of the Lyctinae in the collections of the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris the authors discovered a

specimen determined by LESNE as *Acantholyctus semiermis*. As the type has been almost surely destroyed, for the sake of nomenclatural stability the Paris specimen has been designated the neotype. It comes from RSA and is labeled (Fig. 1) as follows:

- a) "Colonie du Cap, Hope Town"
- b) "*Lyctus semiermis* Lesne, P. Lesne vid."
- c) "Neotypus, *Lyctus semiermis* Lesne, 1914, des. J. Borowski & P. Węgrzynowicz".

Having examined numerous specimens of *A. cornifrons* from almost all Africa and southern part of Arabian Peninsula, we have ascertained a considerable individual and geographical variability: the smallest individuals (body length 1.6 mm) were collected in Yemen and Tunisia, the largest (3.4-3.5 mm) in RSA and Namibia. Variable was also the size of frontal tubercles, denticles and emargination at middle of anterior margin of pronotum, and puncturation of the body (Figs. 2-4). Thus, presence or absence of outgrowth at middle of front cannot – despite the common belief – be used as diagnostic character to distinguish between *A. cornifrons* and *A. semiermis*; as the other characters (pronotal sculpture, puncturation of elytra or colouration) do not exceed the range of individual intraspecific variability, we consider both names synonymous:

Genus *Acantholyctus* LESNE, 1924

Acantholyctus LESNE, 1924: 98. Type species: *Lyctus cornifrons* LESNE, 1898: 139, subsequent designation by VRYDAGH, 1955: 3.

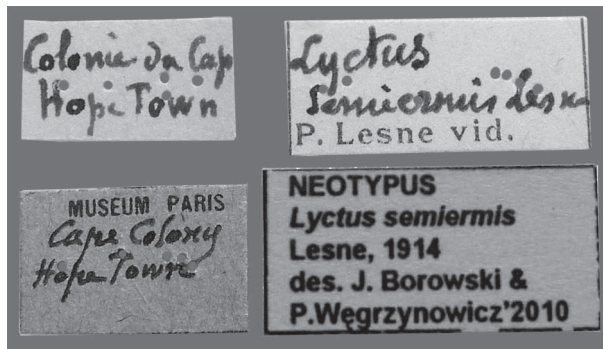
Acantholyctus cornifrons (LESNE, 1898)

Lyctus cornifrons LESNE, 1898: 139. Type locality: Obock. Type depository: MNHN.

Lyctus cornifrons australis LESNE, 1914: 335. Type locality: Okahandya (Damaraland). Type depository: ZMUH.

Lyctus semiermis LESNE, 1914: 333. Type locality: Hope Town. Type depository: MNHN, **new synonymy**.

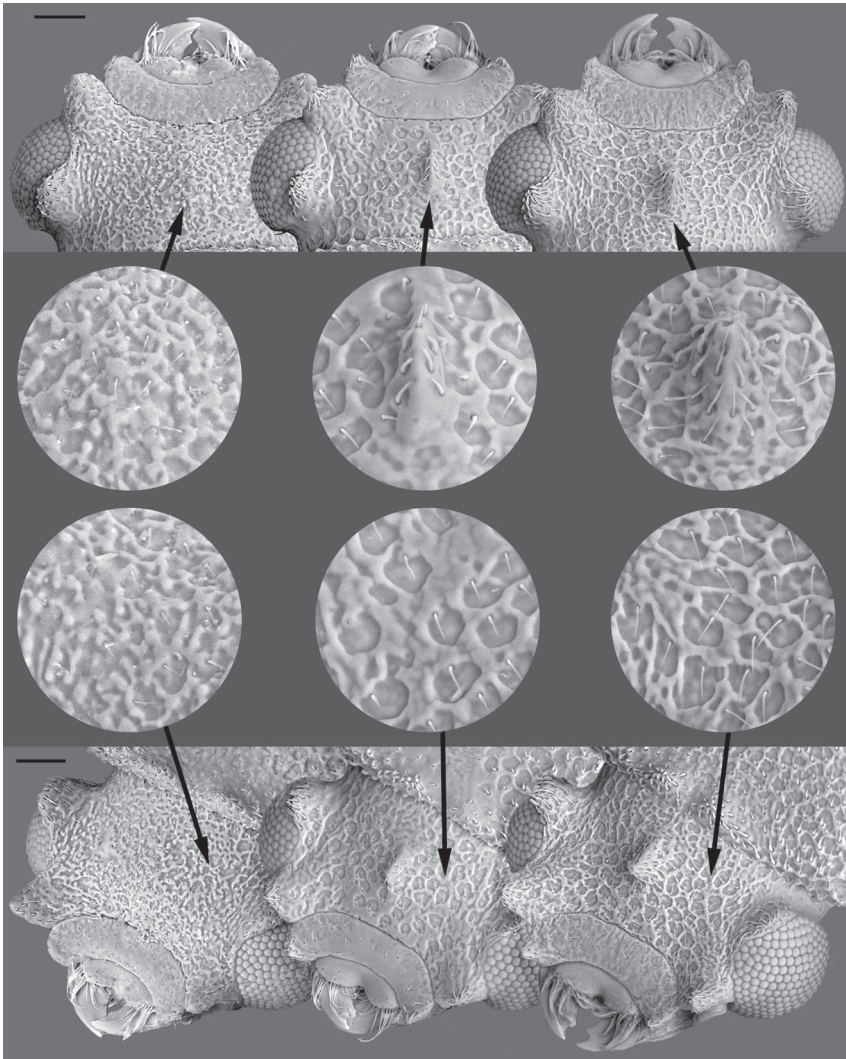
DISTRIBUTION: Whole Africa, Arabian Peninsula (BOROWSKI and WĘGRZYNOWICZ, 2007).



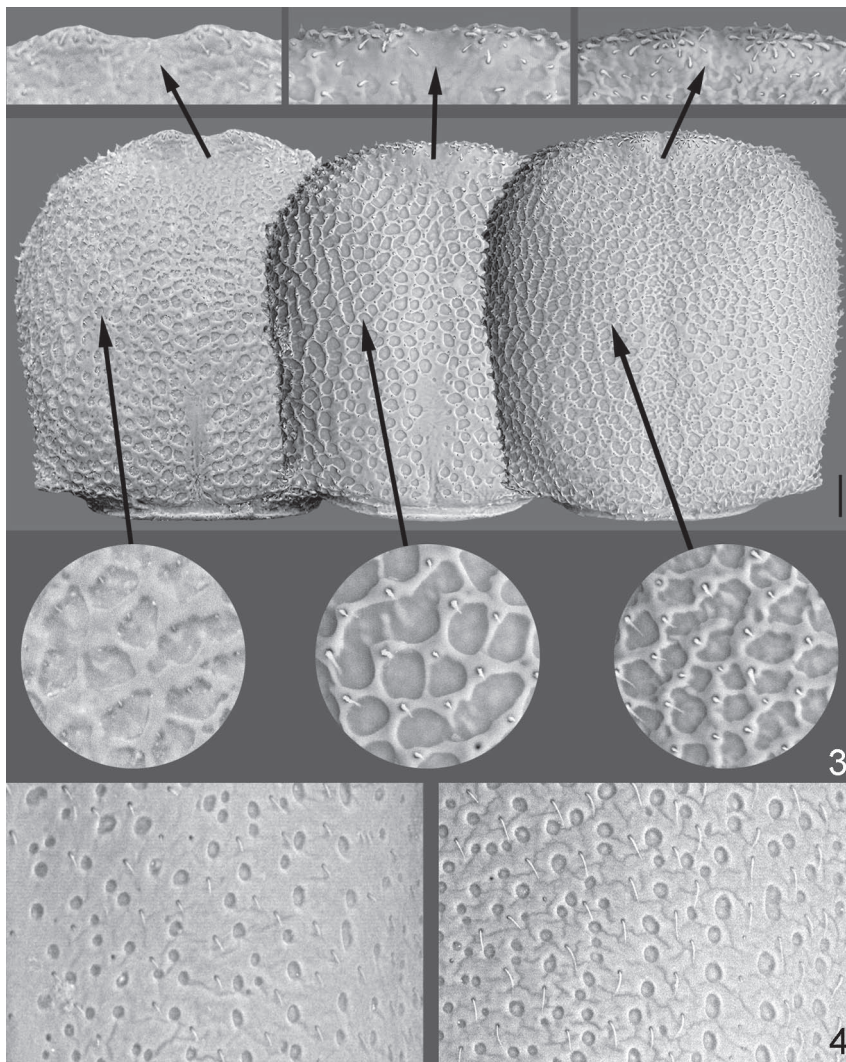
1. Labels of neotype of *Lyctus semiermis*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are greatly indebted to M. COCHRANE (SAM, Cape Town) for the essential information, as well as to Mr. Th. DEUVE and Mrs. A. TAGHAVIAN (MNHN, Paris) for enabling the verification and loan of the specimen photographed for the present paper. We wish to express our sincere thanks to Dr. Roman HOLYŃSKI (Milanówek) for English translation and comments on the text, and Dr. Magdalena KOWALEWSKA-GRO-SZKOWSKA for taking photo of specimens. This publication was supported by the grant N N 309 137135 given by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education.



2. *Acantholyctus cornifrons* - heads (above and oblique) and their sculpture (magnified). Scale = 0.1 mm



3-4. *Acantholyctus cornifrons*: 3 - pronota and theirs sculpture (magnified); 4 - sculpture of elytra. Scale = 0.1 mm

REFERENCES

- BOROWSKI, J., WĘGRZYNOWICZ, P., 2007. World Catalogue of Bostrichidae (Coleoptera). Mantis, Olsztyn. 247 pp., 8 plates.
- LESNE, P., 1898. Sur un Coléoptère nouveau de la famille des Lyctides. Bull. Mus. Nat. Hist. Nat. Paris, **1898**(2): 139-140.
- . 1914. Notes sur les les Coléoptères Térédiles. Bull. Mus. Nat. Hist. Nat. Paris, **1914**(6): 332-335.
- . 1924. Les Coléoptères Bostrychides de l'Afrique Tropicale Française. Encyclopédie Entomologique, 3. Universitaires de France, Paris, 301 pp.
- VRYDAGH, J. M. 1955a. Contribution a l'étude des *Bostrychidae Coleoptera* Teredilia. 3. – Les Bostrychides du Mozambique. Bull. Inst. Roy. Sci. Nat. Belg., **31** (16): 1-23.