Supplementary remarks on the taxonomic structure of the genus
Chrysodema C.G.
(Coleoptera: Buprestidae)

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ABSTRACT. Having become aware of the overlooked designation of type-species for
the genus Chrysodema C.G. made it necessary to introduce some corrections to my earlier
publication (HOŁYŃSKI 1993): new name for the subgenus originally considered nominotypical
and modification of the key.

Key words: entomology, nomenclature, new name, classification, Buprestidae, Chrysodema
C.G.

The almost cosmopolitan (only marginally in neotropics) subtribe Chalcophrina Lac. (Buprestinae: Buprestini – HOŁYŃSKI 1993) contains 7 genera, 3 of them
known to occur in the Indo-Pacific Region (traditional Oriental plus Wallacea, New
Guinea, and tropical-subtropical Oceania eastwards to ca. 130°W – HOŁYŃSKI 2009).
Two E-Asian species (KUROSAWA 1974) of mainly Holarctic Chalcophora Dej., as well
as six (PENG 1995 – some of them of doubtful validity) of sino-japanese Nipponobu-
prestis Obb. (perhaps but a subgenus of Chalcophora Dej.), do not extend beyond its
northernmost areas, so only the speciose [estimations vary from 48 (LANDER 2003)
through ca. 80 (my unpublished preliminary revision) to 100 (BELLAMY 2003) spp.] and widely (from India and Ceylon to Bonin, Mariana and Solomon Is.) distributed
Chrysodema C.G. significantly represents the subtribe in the Region, making – besides
the Chysochroina Cast. (Chrysochroa Dej., Cyphogastra Devr., Iridotaenia Devr.,
&c.) or Belionota Esch. – one of the most impressive “trade-marks” of the Indo-Pacific
buprestid fauna.

Traditionally (e.g. KERREMANS 1909) the genus Chrysodema C.G. was divided into
four subgenera: Pseudochrysodema SND., Gelaeus WATH., Chrysodema C.G. s.str. and
Thymedes WATH.; some later authors (KUROSAWA 1979, VOLKOVITSHE 2001) ascribed full
generic rank to all of them, and such treatment has been followed in the influential
catalogue of BELLAMY (2003), who (despite the Russian author’s own warning against
such interpretation (“It is vital to note that I do not suggest a new classification of the
Buprestidae, because in my opinion the creation of a natural classification based on
a single character system is impossible”)) uncritically accepted his phenetic arrange-
ment of antennal structures as taxonomic classification. In my opinion the differences
separating the above-mentioned taxa from one another (as well as from TAMAMUSHIA
M.C., originally described as a distinct genus), are no more (often less) pronounced
than those between some groups within CHRYSODEMA C.G. s.str., therefore I (HOŁYŃSKI
1994) not only retained the broad interpretation of the genus, but further extended it
by inclusion of MIWA & CHÛJO’s (1935) taxon and distinguished two more subgenera:
LEGANYA sg.n. and MITSHEKIA sg.n. In so doing, I accepted BUPRESTIS RADIANIS
Boisduval as the type of CHRYSODEMA C.G., having overlooked the earlier designation of
is a rather “aberrant” species, making (together with C. lewisi SnD.) a distinctive circle not showing
the diagnostic characters of what I considered the nominotypical subgenus. Whether
they should be classified as con-subspecific with C. smaragdula (Ol.) (in which case
MITSHEKIA Hol., typified by the latter, would become a younger synonym) or should
be kept separated (as I tentatively do), remains unclear, but anyway CHRYSODEMA C.G.
s.str. sensu HOŁYŃSKI (1994) has been left without valid name and the main purpose of
this paper is to provide one:

Marcsiikella nom. nov.


Type-species BUPRESTIS RADIANIS Boisduval 1835.
Marcsiikella n.n. is only a substitute name, so its type-species and diagnosis re-
main as for CHRYSODEMA C.G. s.str. sensu HOŁYŃSKI (1994). More exact delimitation
is, however, needed between the nominotypical subgenus (sensu Kurosawa 1982) and
MITSHEKIA Hol. – this is done below in the form of modified key:

KEY TO SUBGENERA OF THE GENUS CHRYSODEMA C.G.

1(6) Laterobasal foveae of pronotum large, round, laterally delimited by sharp and
high supramarginal ridge. Antennal setae much shorter than width of antenno-
meres.
2(3) Elytra with prominent subhumeral denticle .......... Pseudochrysodema SnD.
3(2) No distinct subhumeral denticle
4(5) 2.-5. elytral costae joined at ca. apical third ......................... Leganya Hol.
5(4) 5. costa always separate throughout, 2. and 4. also separate or joined to 3. only
behind apical fourth ....................................................... Marcsiikella n. n.
6(1) Pronotal foveae, if distinct, more or less irregular, not reaching supramarginal
ridge, or antennal setae subequal to or longer than width of joints
7(12) Lateral carinae of pronotum do not reach anterior angle
8(9) Subhumeral denticle of elytra prominent ........................................ Gelaeus WATH.
9(8) Elytra without distinct subhumeral denticle
10(11) Perimarginal dfp vitta deep, regular, at least in apical half of elytra. Elytral disk without discal dfp foveae. 2.-4. costae lacking or very inconspicuous ................................................................. Chrysodema G.G. s.str.
11(10) Elytra without appreciable perimarginal dfp vitta, and/or with distinct discal foveae, and/or costae prominent ........................................... Mitshekia HOL.
12(7) Lateral pronotal carinae entire
13(14) Elytra with depressed dfp pattern (lateral band or large patches) ................
.................................................................................................................................................. Thymedes WATH.
14(13) Elytra evenly sculptured .......................................................... Tamamushia M.C.

Except speciose, widely distributed Marcokiella n.n. and Mitshekia HOL. all the remaining subgenera are small (1 to 9 spp.) groups of restricted distribution: Pseudechrysodema SND. inhabits various Micronesian islands, Leganya HOL. New Guinea, Gelaeus WATH. Lesser Sundas, Thymedes WATH. Philippines and Tamamushia M.C. Bonin Is., only Chrysodema G.G. s.str. occupies two widely disjunct (relictual?) areas: Ceylon (C. sonnerati C.G.) and Japan (C. lewisi SND.).

REFERENCES