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Taxonomical position of *Trichochrysea hirta* FABRICIUS, 1801 (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Eumolpinae)

LEV N. MEDVEDEV

Severtsov Institute for Problems of Ecology and Evolution, Leninsky Prospect 33, Moscow 119071,
Russia; e-mail: lev.medvedev@sevin.ru

ABSTRACT. The widely distributed Oriental species *Trichochrysea hirta* F. has to be divided in two species. Taxonomic and synonymy notes are given. *T. celebensis* JACOBY is a new synonym of *T. hirta* FABRICIUS.

Key words: entomology, taxonomy, Chrysomelidae, Eumolpinae, *Trichochrysea*, synonymy, Oriental Region.

According to modern data, *Trichochrysea hirta* FABRICIUS, 1801 is a very usual species and widely distributed in the Oriental Region. It was registered in Nepal, India, Bangladesh, China, Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, Burma, Malaya, Sumatra, Java, Nias (BALY 1867, JACOBY 1908, KIMOTO & GRESSITT 1982).

However, the situation with this species is much more complicated, nevertheless the specimens from all mentioned regions are practically all alike morphologically and differ sometimes only in colour, from green to blue.

This species was described by FABRICIUS, 1801 from Sumatra (as *Eumolpus*) and later mentioned by BALY (1867) with indications of the following localities: Malacca, Sumatra, Penang, Nias and also Sylhet (NE Bangladesh). M. JACOBY (1889) recorded this species from Burma, but indicated, that these specimens “differs somewhat from that given by BALY”. In the “Fauna of British India” (1908) M. JACOBY indicates for this region only the above-mentioned Sylhet, without any record for Burma and wrote, that “it is somewhat doubtful whether BALY had the true *T. hirta* before him, and whether the Indian species is identical with that from Java and Sumatra”.

Later a few other species were described from China and Indochina, which are now included as the synonyms of *T. hirta*. According to KIMOTO & GRESSITT (1982) synonymy of this species is as follows:

***Trichochrysea hirta* (FABRICIUS, 1801)**

Eumolpus hirtus FABRICIUS, 1801, Sumatra;

Bromius hirtus BALY, 1867;

Heteraspis nitidissima JACOBY, 1893, China;

Heteraspis vestita: LEFEVRE, 1890, Laos (nec *T. vestita* BALY, 1860);

Heteraspis viridis JACOBY, 1890, Burma;

Trichochrysea scutellaris PIC, 1926, Vietnam: Hoa-Binh;

Trichochrysea donckieri PIC, 1926, Tonkin;

Trichochrysea diversicolor PIC 1939, China.

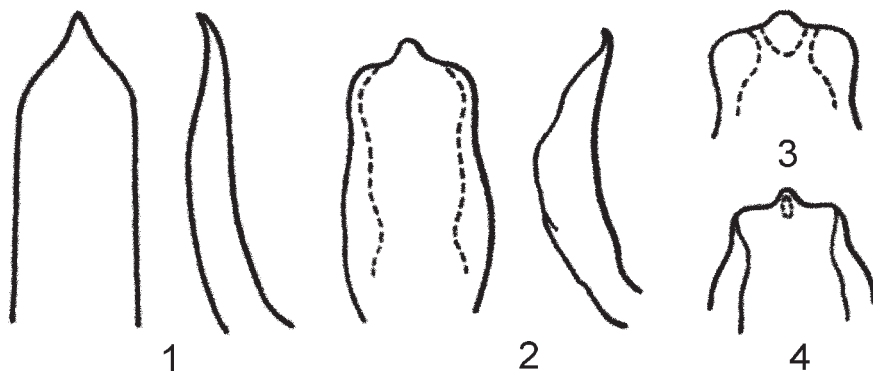
Until the middle of the last century nobody investigated the aedeagal structure of this genus; however the first such studies showed that the aedeagus is a very good character for species separation (MEDVEDEV 1957, MEDVEDEV & EROSHKINA 1987).

After revision of Vietnamese species of this genus (MEDVEDEV & EROSHKINA 1987) it was found that all continental populations of *T. hirta*, in traditional understanding had a very specific and characteristic form of aedeagus with very broad and truncate apex. We divided this species into two subspecies, which differ mainly in colour of the upperside and proposed the following synonymy:

1a. *Trichochrysea hirta hirta* (FABRICIUS, 1801)

Trichochrysea scutellaris PIC, 1926;

Trichochrysea donckieri PIC, 1926.



1, 2. Aedeagus, ventral view: 1 – *T. hirta*, 2 – *T. nitidissima*; 3, 4. Apex of aedeagus, ventral view: 3 – *T. nitidissima nitidissima*, 4 – *T. nitidissima scutellaris*

1b. *Trichochrysea hirta nitidissima* JACOBY 1888

A year ago I received a large amount of material from Indonesia belonging to Museum für Naturkunde, Stuttgart and containing a few specimens which were without doubt typical *T. hirta* F. Happily I had prepared the specimens from Sumatra, Java, Lombok and Malaysia and found to my great surprise, that they all have aedeagus with acute triangular apex, which differs sharply from the continental populations. This means that species from Indonesia is the true *T. hirta* FABRICIUS, while all continental populations belong to another species, to which the name *T. nitidissima* JACOBY, 1893 might be proposed.

Species of this group should be divided as follow:

- 1(2) Upperside with white pubescence. Aedeagus with acute triangular apex (fig. 1). Length 5.8-10.0 mm. Malaysia (Benon Mts.), Sumatra, Bali, Java, Nias, Sulawesi.

T. hirta FABRICIUS

- 2(1) Upperside with white and dark pubescence. Aedeagus broad, with truncate apex, having small central tip (fig. 2). Length 6.0-10.0 mm.
- 3(4) Upperside bright green, sometimes with cupreous sheen. Apex of aedeagus with obtuse lateroapical angles (fig. 3). Extreme north of Vietnam (Bak-Thai), south China, south Korea.

T. nitidissima nitidissima JACOBY

- 4(3) Upperside blue, violaceous blue, rarely greenish blue. Apex of aedeagus with rounded lateroapical angles (fig. 4). China (Hainan), Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Burma (possibly except Tenasserim), Bangladesh, India, Nepal.

T. nitidissima scutellaris PIC

The synonymy of these species looks as follows:

1. *Trichochrysea hirta* (FABRICIUS, 1801)

Eumolpus hirtus FABRICIUS, 1801, Sumatra;

Bromius hirtus: BALY, 1867, all localities except Sylhet;

Trichochrysea celebensis JACOBY, 1895, Celebes (**syn. nov.**).

2a. *Trichochrysea nitidissima nitidissima* JACOBY, 1893

Trichochrysea diversicolor PIC, 1939, China.

2b. *Trichochrysea nitidissima scutellaris* PIC, 1926

Bromius hirtus: BALY, specimen from Sylhet;

Heteraspis vestita: LEFEVRE, 1890, Laos (nec *T. vestita* BALY, 1860);

Trichochrysea donckieri PIC, 1926, Tonkin.

The taxonomic position of *Trichochrysea viridis* JACOBY, 1892 from Tenasserim is still not clear, because its aedeagus was not studied, but this species has, according to the original description, only white pubescence on upperside and might be very possibly a synonym of *T. hirta* F.

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