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New synonymy in Palearctic Cassidini (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Cassidinae)

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ABSTRACT. Status of two hitherto enigmatic species occurring in the Palaearctic region is discussed and following new synonymies are proposed: *Nabathaea* SPAETH, 1911 = *Cassida* subgen. *Falsocassidula* PIC, 1939, **syn. nov.**, *Nabatheia pygmaea* SPAETH, 1911 = *Cassida* (*Falsocassidula*) *rabinovitchi* PIC, 1939, **syn. nov.**, and *Cassida pellegrini* MARSEUL, 1868 = *Cassida* (*Tylocentra*) *tectiformis* NORMAND, 1949, **syn. nov.**

Key words: entomology, taxonomy, new synonymy, Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae, Cassidinae, Palearctic region.

INTRODUCTION

Palearctic tortoise beetles are quite intensively studied group in past twenty years and was recently catalogued (BOROWIEC & SEKERKA 2010). However, two species were omitted from all works and hitherto known only according to their primary descriptions. The present paper deals with their taxonomic status and both species are considered to be synonyms of older taxa.

Exact label data are cited for all type specimens; a double slash (//) divides data on different labels and a single slash (/) divides data in different rows. Type localities are cited in the original spelling.

Abbreviations used:

DBET – Department of Biodiversity and Evolutionary Taxonomy (Lech BOROWIEC); LSC – collection of Lukáš SEKERKA (Liberec, Czech Republic); HNHM – Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest, Hungary (Ottó MERKL); MM – Manchester Muse-

um, United Kingdom (Colin JOHNSON, Dmitri LOGUNOV); MNHN – Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle Paris, France (Antoine MANTILLERI); NHM – Natural History Museum, London, United Kingdom (Sharon SHUTE, Max BARCLAY); NHMB – Naturhistorisches Museum Basel, Switzerland (Michel BRANCUCCI).

TAXONOMY

***Nabathaea* SPAETH, 1911**

Nabathaea SPAETH, 1911: 272 (type species: *Nabathaea pygmaea* SPAETH, 1911 designated by HINCKS 1952).

Cassida subgen. *Falsocassidula* PIC, 1939: 149 (type species: *Cassida Rabinovitchi* PIC, 1939 by monotypy), **syn. nov.**

***Nabathea pygmaea* SPAETH, 1911**

Nabathea pygmaea SPAETH, 1911: 272 (type locality: 'Aden').

Cassida (*Falsocassidula*) *Rabinovitchi* PIC, 1939: 149 (type locality: 'Bir Meyer'), **syn. nov.**

TYPE MATERIAL EXAMINED

Nabathea pygmaea: holotype, glued: 'Aden [handwritten] / coll. Donckier [white printed and cardboard label] // pygmaea m. typ unic! / Spaeth det. // Type [pink, printed and cardboard label]' (MM).

Cassida (*Falsocassidula*) *Rabinovitchi*: holotype, glued: 'EGYPTE / Bin Meyer [handwritten] / 2.3.1935 [handwritten] / A. RABINOVITCH [white, printed and cardboard label with black frame] // Coll. Alfieri / Egypte [white, printed and cardboard label] // *Cassida* / (*Falsocassidula* / nov. subgen.) / *Rabinovitchi* Pic . / nov. spec. (TYPE) / (det. Pic, 1939) [white, handwritten and cardboard label] // 2016 [white, handwritten and soft label]' (NHMB).

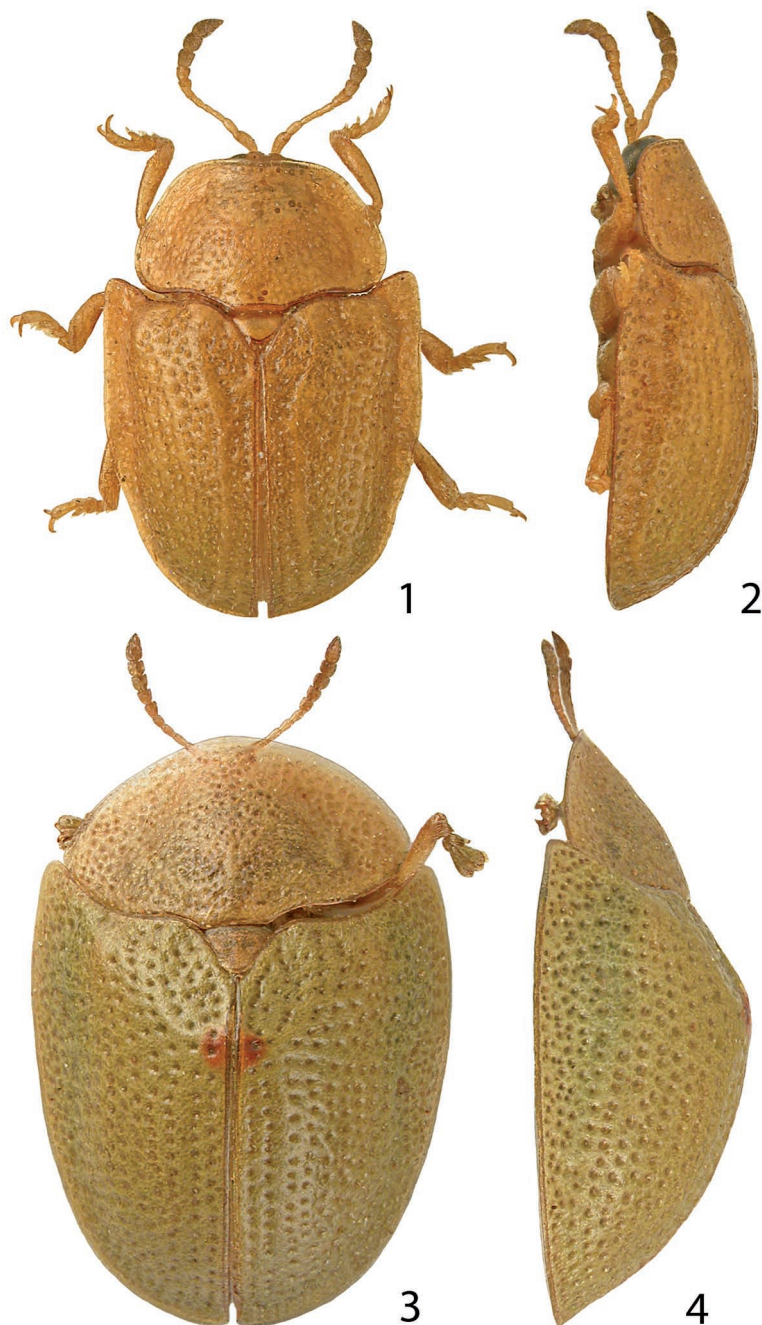
REMARKS

We did not included *C. rabinovitchi* in the Palaearctic catalogue (BOROWIEC & SEKERKA 2010) as it was known to us only according to the name mentioned in the catalogue of Egyptian Coleoptera (ALFIERI 1976) without any reference and thus we supposed it is a nomen nudum. However, recently we obtained description of *Dactylispa tewfiki* PIC, 1939 and in the same paper PIC described also *C. rabinovitchi*. We located the type in the NHMB and its examination revealed that it is conspecific with *N. pygmaea*. The holotype of *Cassida rabinovitchi* represents the yellowish-green Egyptian form (Figs. 1, 2) discussed by BOROWIEC (2002).

***Cassida pellegrini* MARSEUL, 1868**

Cassida Pellegrini MARSEUL, 1868: 213 (type locality: 'Beyrouth').

Cassida (*Tylocentra*) *tectiformis* NORMAND, 1949: 95 (type locality: 'Tunisie – Sloughia'), **syn. nov.**



1, 2. *Nabathaea pygmaea*, specimen from Egypt: 1 – dorsal, 2 – lateral; 3, 4. *Cassida pellegrini*, specimen from Tunisia: 3 – dorsal, 4 – lateral

REMARKS

Although we did not located the type of Normand species which is probably housed in the MNHN we propose its synonymy with *C. pellegrini*. We had an opportunity to see the type specimen of *C. pellegrini* during visit of the MNHN collections. It fully corresponds to specimens known presently from the Cyprus. However, the species has greater range and is besides Lebanon (the type locality) and Cyprus (GRUEV 1995), known also from Israel (BOROWIEC et al. 1997). Recently, we studied single specimen from Tunisia (Figs. 3, 4) which also represents *C. pellegrini* and was captured not far from the type locality of *C. tectifomis*. The description of *C. tectifomis* is quite detailed and fits almost perfectly to the specimens from Tunisia in front of us, especially in size and punctuation of elytra which is diagnostic for *C. pellegrini*. Thus we concluded that both species are synonyms.

MATERIAL EXAMINED

CYPRUS: Chypre, coll. Madon, 1 ex. (DBET); 15 km E of Pafos, coast, 28 IV 2005, on *Lycium*, F. Fritzlar leg., 6 exx. (DBET); Larnaka, Bordan leg. 1 ex. (HNHM); Limassol, 4.XII.1943, G.A. Mavromoustakis leg., 1 ex. (NHM); Paralimni, 9.V.1968, G.P. Georgiou leg., 1 ex. (NHM); Salamis, V.1973, Pffefer leg., 1 ex. (NMP), R. Veselý leg., 1 ex. (LSC).

ISRAEL: Maresha, *Lycium schwein.[schweinfurthii]*, 10 V 1991, J. Halperin leg., 1 ex. (DBET); Omer, 16 IV 1984, J. Halperin leg., 1 ex. (DBET).

TUNISIA: Bizerte Gov., Protville, Rive Oued Mejerda, 19 IV 2009, F. Angelini leg., 1 ex. (DBET).

DISTRIBUTION

Cyprus (GRUEV 1995 and present paper), Israel (BOROWIEC et al. 1997 and present paper), Lebanon (MARSEUL 1868), Tunisia (NORMAND 1949 and present paper).

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