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Cassidopsis borowieci, a new species from Madagascar (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Cassidinae: Basiprionotini)

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ABSTRACT. *Cassidopsis borowieci*, species new to science, is described and figured from Madagascar. It is a third member of the Madagascan endemic genus.

Key words: entomology, taxonomy, new species, Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae, Cassidinae, Basiprionotini, *Cassidopsis*, Madagascar

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Cassidopsis* FAIRMAIRE, 1899 comprises only two species endemic to Madagascar (BOROWIEC 1999, BOROWIEC and ŚWIĘTOJAŃSKA 2002) and was recently revised (BOROWIEC 1994). Its members are primitive cassids of hispid appearance characterized by head partly visible from above, stout antennae with longitudinal striation and flattened apical segments, mouthparts hidden by anterior margin of prosternum, stout body and elytra irregularly punctate. In the material studied recently I found a new species. Its description is given below.

Cassidopsis borowieci n. sp.

ETYMOLOGY

Dedicated to my friend and teacher Lech BOROWIEC, world leading specialist in Cassidinae.

DIAGNOSIS

Cassidopsis borowieci distinctly differs from both congeners in body colouration.

It has whole body, except antennae of same deep yellow colour and elytral disc with four small black spots. *C. basipennis* has pronotum and scutellum brown, elytra deep yellow and each elytron with two moderately large pale yellow spots. *C. perrieri* distinctly differs in yellow head with black vertex, yellow pronotum with three large black spots, elytra with variable yellow-black pattern, pronotum and elytra often with blue metallic tint and four basal antenomeres yellowish-brown. *C borowieci* has only the first antennal segment yellowish-brown and its puncturation of elytra is denser and more prominent than in *C. perrieri*.

DESCRIPTION

Length: 5.21 mm, width: 4.11 mm, length of pronotum: 1.17 mm, width of pronotum: 3.05 mm, length/width ratio: 1.27, wide/length of pronotum ratio: 2.61. Body stout, nearly circular (figs. 1, 2).

Pronotum, scutellum and elytra deep yellow. Each elytron with four small black spots of following configuration: one on humerus, one in the middle of elytral plate, one in the middle of slope and one on the apex of slope, the last one is the smallest. Elytral sutura with very narrow black band, disappearing on slope and do not reaching marginalia. Basal margin of elytra and pronotum black. Ventrates including legs uniformly yellow. First antenomere yellowish-brown, remaining deep black.

Pronotum broad, strongly transverse, more than twice wider than long with rounded sides, obtuse anterior angles and angulate hind angles. Disc regularly convex, smooth, shiny with hardly marked median furrow and distinct basal impression. Basal margin of pronotum serrate. Nearly whole surface of disc finely, indistinctly and sparsely punctate, distance between punctures many times wider than puncture diameter. Several stronger punctures are in surroundings of median furrow. Explanate margin very narrow and broadly marginate.

Scutellum triangular, smooth and shiny. Base of elytra not wider than pronotum and with large black serrulation. Humeral angles rounded, not protruding anterad. Disc regularly convex, irregularly punctate, distance between punctures slightly wider than puncture diameter. Black spots not elevated, with similar puncturation as other parts of disc. Marginal row not distinct, there is only tendency in anterior part to separate marginalia from disc by several regular punctures. Explanate margin narrow, punctate and widest in the middle.

Head large, clypeus short, nearly semicircular, its surface smooth and shiny. Antennae short and stout, probably sexually dimorphic as antennae in *C. basipennis* but only available specimen is a female. Segments 1-6 smooth, only scarcely punctate with several erected setae. Segment 7 intermediate, basally smooth and nearly glabrous, distally dull and longitudinally striate. Remaining segments dull, more or less haired and longitudinally striate. Length ratio of antennal segments (female): 100:31:34:28:33:37:47:41:41:42:69. Segment 3 is 1.1 times longer than second and 1.2 times longer than fourth (fig. 3).

Prosternal collar large, stout, smooth, shiny, not angulate on sides, strongly expanded apically and with indistinct shallow impression (fig. 3).



1-3. *Cassidopsis borowieci* n. sp. 1 – body dorsal, 2 – body lateral, 3 – antennae, head, prosternal collar and fore legs

Legs stout, unmodified. Tarsi broad, the last segment distinctly longer than the third and slightly reaching behind marginal setae. Claws simple.

Host plant and bionomics unknown.

DISTRIBUTION

Madagascar: Toliara pr.

MATERIAL EXAMINED

Holotype, female: "SW MADAGASCAR, Toliara Pr., Betioky, iii.1992" (preserved in author's collection deposited at the Department of Zoology, Faculty of Biological Sciences, University of South Bohemia, České Budějovice, Czech Republic).

KEY TO *CASSIDOPSIS* FAIRMAIRE, 1899 (modified after BOROWIEC 1994)

1. Pronotum without black markings at all, elytra with yellow or black spots never with metallic tint. Only basal antennal segment yellowish-brown. Head completely pale 2.
- Pronotum with three black spots (occasionally middle spot divided into two). Elytra with variable blackish pattern and often blue metallic tint. Usually there are six yellow spots on black background or black pattern reduced to wide sutural band. Four basal antennal segments yellowish-brown. Head with black vertex ***perrieri*** FAIRMAIRE
2. Pronotum and elytra of same colour. Each elytron with four small black spots and very narrow sutural band. Elytral spots not elevated ***borowieci*** n. sp.
- Head, pronotum and scutellum brown, elytra deep yellow. Each elytron with two elevated pale-yellow spots ***basipennis*** FAIRMAIRE

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