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*Chiridopsis nigropunctata* n. sp. and notes on *Ch. selecta* (WEISE)  
(Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Cassidinae)

LECH BOROWIEC<sup>1</sup> and HEMANT V. GHATE<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Zoological Institute, University of Wrocław, Sienkiewicza 21, 50-335 Wrocław, Poland,  
e-mail: cassidae@biol.uni.wroc.pl

<sup>2</sup>Department of Zoology, Modern College, Shivajinagar, Pune 411 005, India

ABSTRACT. *Chiridopsis nigropunctata* new species is described from Maharashtra Atate, India. *Ch. selecta* (WEISE, 1905) is a distinct species, not a variety of *Ch. bistrimaculata* (BOHEMAN, 1855) and *Ch. binduta* (MAULIK, 1919) is its new synonym. Lectotype is designated for *Chirida selecta* WEISE.

Key words: entomology, taxonomy, new species, new synonymy, Oriental Region, Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae, Cassidinae, Chiridopsis.

The genus *Chiridopsis* SPAETH, 1922 comprises 59 species, 24 of them occur in Oriental Region, and 17 are recorded from India (BOROWIEC in press). Description of a new species from India and redescription of *Ch. selecta* (WEISE, 1905) is given below.

***Chiridopsis nigropunctata* n. sp.**

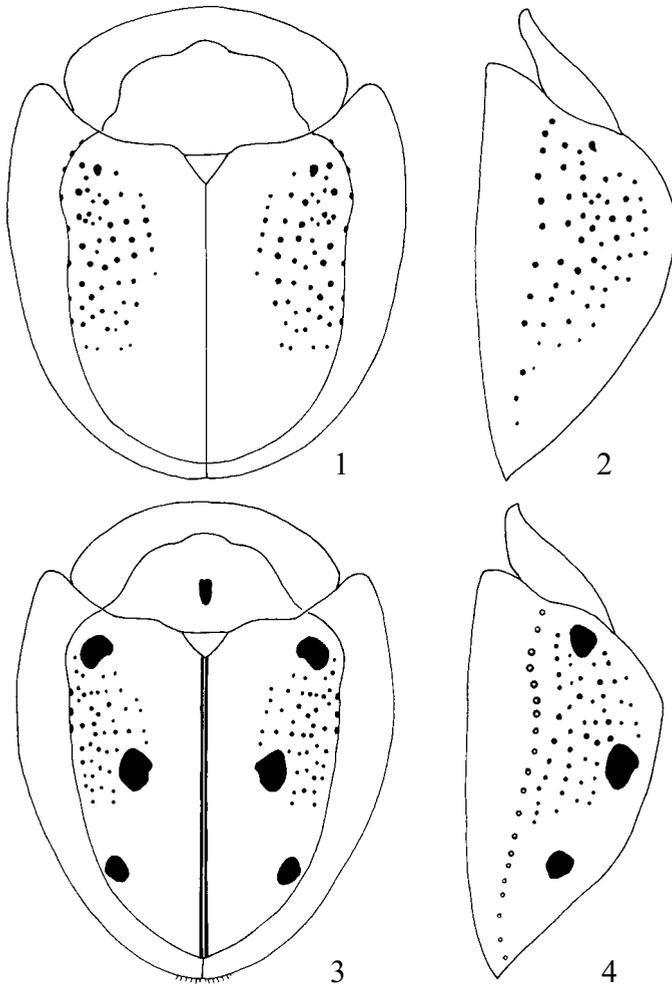
ETYMOLOGY

Named after black marked punctures of lateral part of elytral disc.

DIAGNOSIS

At first glance it is very similar to *Ch. coorta* (SPAETH, 1926) from Laos and Vietnam. Both species have immaculate elytra (in *Ch. nigropunctata* sometimes one or two very small spots occur on each elytra, but these spots are not or only

slightly larger than the largest black elytral punctures) and elytral punctures, at least in lateral part of disc, marked with black; *Ch. coorta* differs in ventrites partly black (uniformly yellow in *Ch. nigropunctata*) and all elytral punctures marked with black (only lateral punctures in *Ch. nigropunctata*). *Ch. bistrimaculata* (BOHEMAN, 1855) is also similar. *Ch. bistrimaculata* has always three, small to large, black spots on each elytron (in *Ch. nigropunctata* elytra are immaculate, or with extremely small spot on humerus, or with additional very small spot in the middle of elytron); in *Ch. bistrimaculata* punctures are often without black centre, if they are marked then black occurs only in marginal four



1-2. *Chiridopsis nigropunctata* (holotype), 3-4. *Ch. selecta* (specimen from Godavari, Nilgiri Hills):

1, 3 – body in dorsal view, 2, 4 – body in lateral view

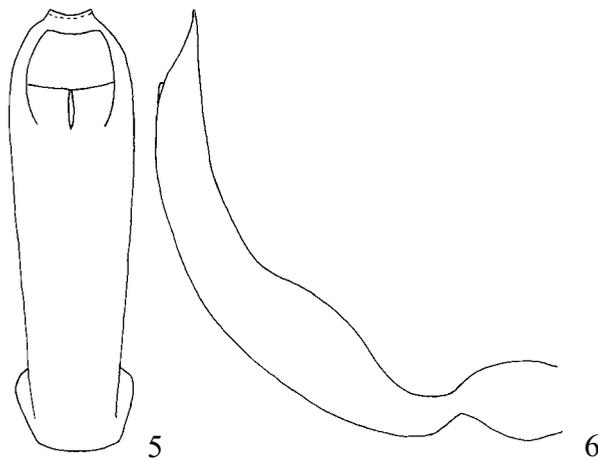
rows (in *Ch. nigropunctata* 7-8 marginal rows are marked with black). Humeral angles in *Ch. bistrimaculata* are slightly more angulate than in *Ch. nigropunctata*, and clypeus is less convex. *Ch. ventralis* (BOHEMAN, 1855) sometimes has elytra immaculate or with only two very small spots on each elytron but differs in slimmer body, ground colour of elytra green-yellow, ventrites mostly black and elytral punctures never marked with black.

#### DESCRIPTION

Length: male: 6.9-7.1 mm, female: 7.2-7.6 mm; width: male: 5.6-5.8 mm, female: 5.5-5.8 mm; length of pronotum: male and female: 2.5-2.6 mm; width of pronotum: male: 4.1-4.2 mm, female: 4.1-4.4 mm; length/width ratio: male: 1.21-1.23, female: 1.28-1.33. Males slightly stouter than females.

Pronotum yellow, only basal margin black. Elytra yellow, crenulate basal margin black, usually without spots, sometimes humerus with very small black spot, and occasionally an extremely small black spot also occurs in the middle of elytron (fig. 1). Punctures in lateral part of disc and in marginal interval with black centre (at least 7 external rows have some punctures marked with black). Head, ventrites and legs yellow. Antennae yellow, only last segment more or less infuscate, especially dorsally.

Pronotum elliptical, with maximum width in the middle, sides broadly rounded. Disc convex, smooth and glabrous. Explanate margin distinctly bordered from disc, smooth and glabrous. Scutellum large, triangular, without transverse sulci. Base of elytra distinctly wider than pronotum, humeral angles regularly rounded. Disc strongly convex, with top of convexity in postscutellar point, without impressions (fig. 2). Puncturation regular, rows distinct on whole length of disc, in two internal rows punctures small and dense, distance between punctures as wide as to thrice wider than puncture diameter. On sides of disc, especially in its



5-6. *Chiridopsis nigropunctata*, male genitalia: 5 – dorsal, 6 - lateral

anterolateral part, punctures coarse to very coarse but sparser than in internal rows. On slope punctures gradually smaller. Marginal row distinct, with large punctures, as large as to slightly larger than in anterolateral part of disc. Intervals flat, in sutural half of disc four to five times wider than rows, in lateral part of disc as wide as to twice wider than rows, only marginal interval broad, more than twice wider than submarginal row. Surface of intervals smooth and glabrous. Explanate margin broad, c. thrice narrower than disc of elytron, declivous, its surface smooth and glabrous. Apex of elytral margin with several short setae. Ventrites with no diagnostic characters. Clypeus distinctly convex, more convex than in all related species, its surface smooth and glabrous. Third antennal segment c. 1.5 times longer than the second, fourth segment c. 1.5 times longer than the third.

Male genitalia: stout, in basal part slightly narrower than in apical, apical process emarginate (fig. 5); in lateral view aedeagus swollen in basal half, ventral surface without distinct carina (fig. 6).

Host plant: *Convolvulaceae*: *Argyreia elliptica*.

#### TYPES

Holotype male: "India, Satara Dist., Kas, IX 1998, Rahul MARATHE"; 9 paratypes: the same data; one paratype: "India, Kas lake, Satara Dist., VIII 1997, R. MARATHE" (holotype and 9 paratypes preserved at the Department of Systematic Zoology and Zoogeography, University of Wrocław, Poland; two paratypes in Manchester Museum, England).

### *Chiridopsis selecta* (WEISE, 1905)

*Chirida selecta* WEISE, 1905: 128.

*Chirida bistrimaculata* var. *selecta*: SPAETH, 1914: 125.

*Chirida binduta* MAULIK, 1919: 423, n. syn.

*Chiridopsis binduta*: BOROWIEC, 1990 a: 698, 1996 b: 30; BOROWIEC and TAKIZAWA, 1991: 638.

*Chiridopsis promiscula* [sic!]: TAKIZAWA, 1980: 31(larva, misidentification).

WEISE (1905) described *Ch. selecta* from Nilgiri Hills in SW India. SPAETH (1914) placed it in synonymy of *Ch. bistrimaculata* (Boh.). We have examined three syntypes of *Ch. selecta* preserved in Museum für Naturkunde in Berlin and, in our opinion, it is a distinct species not a variety of *Ch. bistrimaculata* and *Chirida binduta* MAULIK, 1919 (type examined!, preserved in British Museum, London), is its junior synonym. Its redescription is given below.

#### DIAGNOSIS

It belongs to the group of species with three black spots on elytron. At first glance it is very similar to *Ch. bistrimaculata* but *Ch. selecta* has suture with black margin while in *Ch. bistrimaculata* it is not marked with black. Elytral

spots in *Ch. selecta* are usually smaller than in *Ch. bistrimaculata*. Pronotum in *Ch. bistrimaculata* is uniformly yellow while in *Ch. selecta* there is a black stripe in front of scutellum. The black marked punctures in *Ch. selecta* occupy almost whole anterolateral part of disc while in *Ch. bistrimaculata* at the most marginal four rows have some punctures marked with black. *Ch. selecta* has apex of elytral margin with rows of moderately long setae, while in *Ch. bistrimaculata* the setae are very short, hardly visible. Specimens of *Ch. selecta* with reduced or obsolete pronotal spot and black sutural margin, and punctures marked with black only in two marginal rows, are extremely similar to *Ch. bistrimaculata* and differ only in longer apical setae and slimmer aedeagus with prominent carina along ventral side (in *Ch. bistrimaculata* aedeagus has no distinct carina on ventral side, like in *Ch. nigropunctata* n. sp.). *Ch. promiscua* (BOHEMAN, 1855) has the same combination of characters with three spots on each elytron, pronotum with median stripe and elytral suture marked with black but differs in smaller size, elytral spots usually larger and sutural stripe wider than in *Ch. selecta*. In *Ch. promiscua* punctures of lateral part of disc are never marked with black.

#### DESCRIPTION

Length: male: 6.2-6.8 mm, female: 7.1-8.1 mm; width: male: 5.4-6.1 mm, female: 5.8-6.4 mm; length of pronotum: male and female: 2.1-2.6 mm; width of pronotum: male: 3.8-4.2 mm, female: 4.1-4.7 mm; length/width ratio: male: 1.13-1.15, female: 1.18-1.27. Males distinctly stouter than females.

Pronotum yellow, basal margin black, in front of scutellum more or less defined median stripe, sometimes reduced to very narrow, short median line, occasionally obsolete. Elytra yellow, crenulate basal margin black, each elytron with three black spots, sutural margin narrowly black. Punctures in lateral part of disc and in marginal interval with black centre (at least two, usually 6-7 external rows have some punctures marked with black). Occasionally black markings of punctures and suture are obsolete and only punctures in marginal row have rudimentary blackish markings. Head, ventrites and legs yellow. Antennae yellow, only last segment more or less infusate, especially dorsally.

Pronotum elliptical, with maximum width slightly behind the middle, sides broadly rounded. Disc convex, smooth and glabrous. Explanate margin distinctly bordered from disc, smooth and glabrous. Scutellum large, triangular, without transverse sulci. Base of elytra distinctly wider than pronotum, humeral angles more narrowly rounded than in precedent species. Disc strongly convex, with top of convexity in postscutellar point, without impressions. Puncturation regular, rows distinct on whole length of disc, in two internal rows punctures small and dense, distance between punctures as wide as to thrice wider than puncture diameter. On sides of disc, especially in its anterolateral part, punctures coarse (but slightly smaller than in precedent species) but sparser than in internal rows. On slope punctures distinctly smaller than in anterior part of disc, sometimes almost obsolete. Marginal row distinct, with large punctures, as large as to

slightly larger than in anterolateral part of disc. Intervals flat, in sutural half of disc five to six times wider than rows, in lateral part of disc as wide as to twice wider than rows, only marginal interval broad, more than twice wider than submarginal row. Surface of intervals smooth and glabrous. Explanate margin broad, c. thrice narrower than disc of elytron, declivous, its surface smooth and glabrous. Apex of elytral margin with row of moderately long setae. Ventrites with no diagnostic characters. Clypeus less convex than in precedent species, its surface smooth and glabrous. Third antennal segment c. 1.3 times longer than the second, fourth segment c. 1.6 times longer than the third.

Male genitalia: very similar to precedent species, slightly slimmer, ventral surface with prominent carina.

#### TYPES

Lectotype (present designation): "Anamalais ANDREWES" "*Chirida selecta* m." (Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin); two paralectotypes: the same data (Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin).

#### DISTRIBUTION

India: Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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