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Cassida olympica, a new species from Greece (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Cassidinae)

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ABSTRACT. *Cassida olympica* is described from Greece. It is close to *Cassida vittata*, a member of the *C. nobilis* group.

Key words: entomology, taxonomy, new species, Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae, Cassidinae, *Cassida*, Greece.

The genus *Cassida* L. with 410 described species is the richest within the Cassidinae. From Europe and Mediterranean subregion 58 species were recorded (BOROWIEC 2003), 20 of them from Greece (GRUEV 1990).

In the year 2003 during my stay in Greece I found a new species belonging to the *Cassida nobilis* group. Its description is given below.

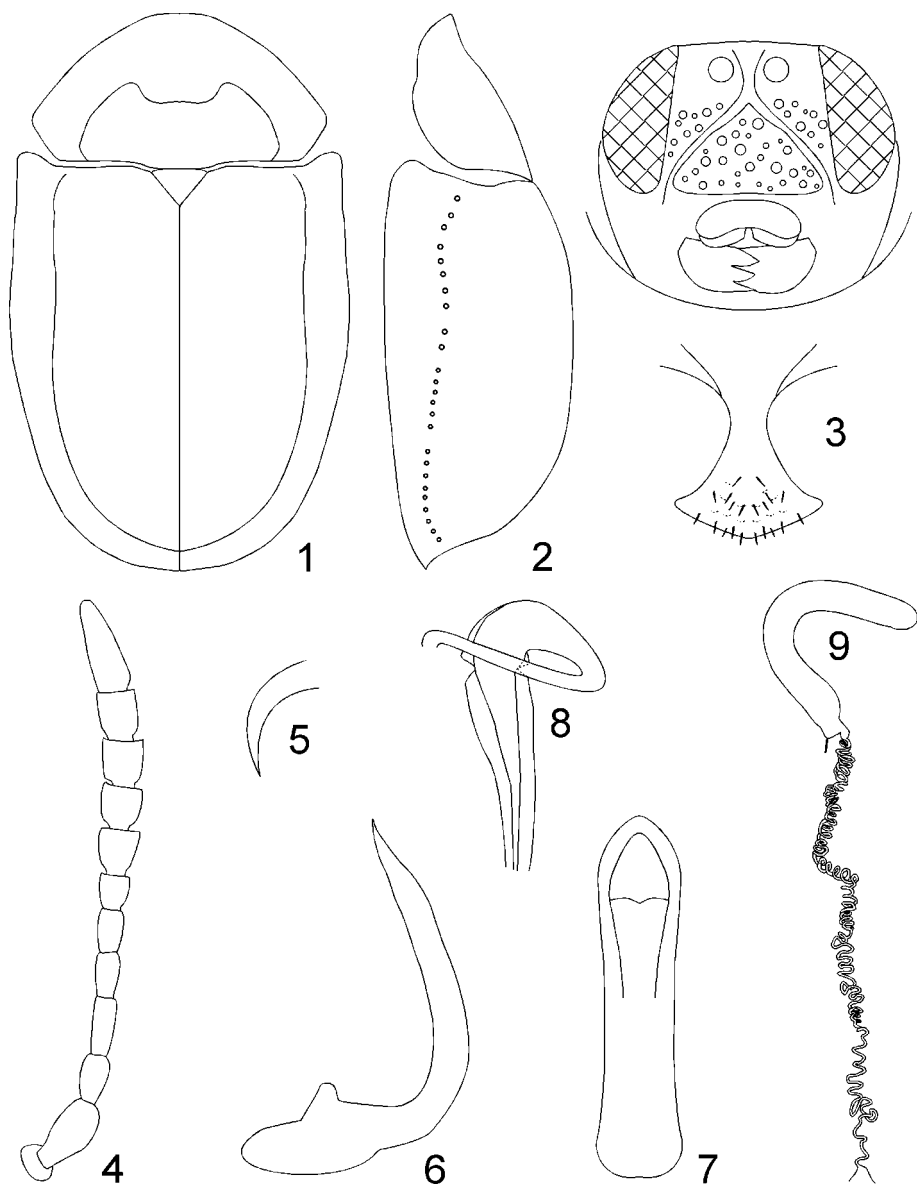
Cassida olympica n. sp.

ETMOLOGY

Named after locus typicus, the locality is situated under the Olympus Mountains.

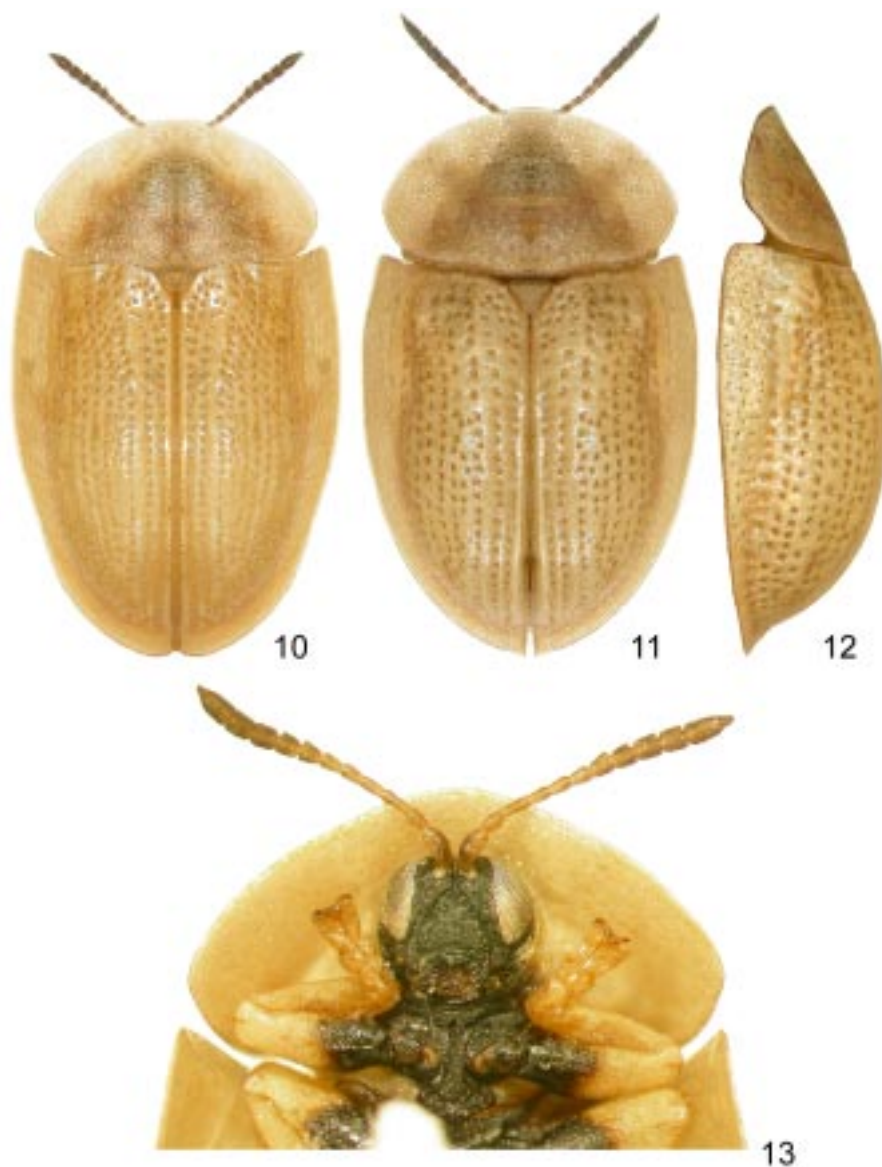
DIAGNOSIS

It belongs to the *Cassida nobilis* group. The group is characterised by mostly yellow or brown dorsum with two longitudinal bands, elongate oval body, steeply decreasing explanate margin of elytra, regularly convex elytral disc, punctuation at least partly irregular, black-brownish and broad clypeus, legs at least partly



1-9. *Cassida olympica*: 1 – dorsal, 2 – lateral, 3 – head and prosternum, 4 – antenna, 5 – claw, 6 – aedeagus lateral, 7 – aedeagus dorsal, 8 – ejaculatory apodeme, 9 – spermatheca

yellow, divergent claws without basal teeth, elytral disc without erected setae and abdomen partly black. The group comprised hitherto five species: *Cassida nobilis* LINNAEUS, 1758 known from the Palaearctic region including East Siberia and W China, *Cassida ovalis* SPAETH 1914 known from Algeria and Corsica, *Cassida parvula* BOHEMAN 1854 known from Armenia, Bulgaria, Romania, S Russia,



10-13. *Cassida olympica*: 10 – female dorsal, 11 – male dorsal, 12 – male lateral, 13 – head, antennae, prosternum and fore legs

Middle Asia, Mongolia, and NW China, *Cassida persicana* BOROWIEC, 1999 (= *Cassida persica* MEDVEDEV, 1956 not SPAETH, 1926) known from Iran, and *Cassida vittata* VILLERS, 1789 known from the Palaearctic region including China. *C. olympica* differs from all of the above mentioned in its unique life colour. Living specimens have green dorsum with a red tint like *C. aurora* WEISE, 1907, without two characteristic longitudinal bands, dried specimens are yellow and are very close to *C. vittata*, but due to the shape of pronotum (fig. 1) and black femora at least in their basal 1/4 can be distinguished. Dried specimens of *C. nobilis*, *C. parvula* and *C. persicana* usually have longitudinal bands. *C. nobilis* differs in rounded angles of pronotum, broader body and femora deep black at least in their basal 2/3, sometimes also tibiae are infuscate with black, in *C. olympica* tibiae are never with black. *C. persicana* differs in completely yellow ventrites. *C. ovalis* and *C. parvula* differ in yellow clypeus and whole yellow legs. *C. ovalis* sometimes has black clypeus, but is well characterized by its stout and broader elytra which have maximum width in their 1/3 length, while *C. olympica* has maximum width closer to humeral angles. Explanate margin of elytra in *C. ovalis* is more decreasing than in *C. vittata* and runs almost perpendicularly to the surface thus in hind view elytral outline appears like \cap figure while in *C. olympica* explanate margin runs slightly obliquely to the surface (colour photos of all species of the *Cassida nobilis* group are available in BOROWIEC 2003).

DESCRIPTION

Length: 5.21-6.17 mm (mean 5.73 mm), width: 3.34-3.90 mm (mean 3.55 mm), length of pronotum: 1.46-1.86 mm (mean 1.66 mm), width of pronotum: 2.65-3.16 mm (mean 2.96 mm), length/width ratio: 1.55-1.72 mm (mean 1.62 mm), width/length of pronotum ratio: 1.55-2.04 (1.79 mm). Body elongate oval (figs 1, 10, 11).

Pronotum and scutellum yellow. Elytral disc yellow. Explanate margin of elytra yellow. Living specimens have green colour with a red tint without two longitudinal bands. Clypeus black. Thorax black, abdomen black with broad yellow margin. Trochanters black or deeply brown, femora in basal 1/4 to 1/3 deep black, apices yellow, tibiae yellow, tarsi yellow. Antennal segments 1-6 are in their inner part yellowish brown to deep yellow, outer part yellow, segments 7-11 brown to brownish yellow.

Pronotum pentagonal, with maximum width at posterior angles. Disc regularly convex, indistinctly bordered from the marginalia, moderately punctate. Marginalia are steeply decreasing.

Scutellum triangular, without impressions. Base of elytra wider than pronotum, humeral angles protruding anterad, rounded. Disc without impressions. Anterior margin without black teeth. Punctuation of disc mostly irregular, dense. Punctures along suture and in lateral parts of disc tend to form more or less regular rows. Intervals completely flat, 2nd interval wider than others, but not as wide as in *C. nobilis*, without golden band along them. Whole surface of disc smooth and

slightly shining. Marginal row distinct, in the middle broken by two vacancies, its punctures same as in lateral part of disc (figs 2, 12). Explanate margin narrow with maximum width in anterior part, wider than in *C. nobilis*. Whole surface of marginalia shallowly and densely punctate.

Clypeus flat, as long as wide, coarsely punctate. Clypeal grooves distinct, very deep, converging in triangle with sharp top, which ends distinctly before antennal insertions (like in *C. nobilis* and *C. persicana*), while in *C. vittata* they are fine and ending close to antennal insertions. Eyes large. Labrum deeply emarginate, brown-black. Prosternal process broad, moderately expanded apically, coarse (figs 3, 13).

Antennae stout, segment 9 as wide as long, segment 10 slightly longer than wide. Length ratio of antennal segments: 100:63:75:57:52:48:57:55:63:62:120. Segment 3 1.2 times longer than segment 2 and 1.3 times longer than segment 4 (fig. 4).

Claws simple (fig. 5).

Male genitalia: aedeagus typical for the group, without species characters (figs 6, 7), ejaculatory apodeme with unique structure (fig. 8).

Female genitalia: vasculum "U" shaped, ampulla short, ductus long and forms a thin spiral. Close to *C. nobilis*, but ductus is shorter (fig. 9).

DISTRIBUTION

Greece: Pieria: eastern coast near Katarini, and Chalkidiki: near Lagomandra.

TYPE MATERIAL

Holotype and Allotype "Greece or., 3km N of Katarini Paralia, 30.V.-10.VI.2003, L. Sekerka leg."; (preserved in author collection); numerous paratypes: same data, but also "R. Škoda leg."; paratype: "Makedonien, Chalkidiki, Sithonia" "GR. Neos Marmaras, Umg. Lagomandra, A.6.2000, Sieber" (preserved in collections of J. BEZDĚK (Brno), L. BOROWIEC (Wrocław), F. FRITZLAR (Jena), F. KANTNER (Lipí), J. PELIKÁN (Hradec Králové), L. SEKERKA (Liberec), R. ŠKODA (Liberec) and National Museum Prague.

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