

Genus	Vol. 13 (1): 139-142	Wrocław, 10 IV 2002
-------	-----------------------------	---------------------

Metrionella tumacoensis, a new species from Colombia
(Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Cassidinae)

LECH BOROWIEC

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

ABSTRACT. *Metrionella tumacoensis* is described from Colombia. It is close to *M. strandi* Sp. and *M. angularis* (CHAMP.).

Key words: entomology, taxonomy, new species, Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae, Cassidinae, *Metrionella*, Colombia.

The genus *Metrionella* was proposed by SPAETH (1932) for *Coptocycla erratica* (BOH.) and nine other species placed previously in the genera *Coptocycla* and *Metriona*. SPAETH (1932) subdivided the genus in four groups, and perfectly keyed and reviewed all species. None species was described in the genus after the revision (BOROWIEC 1999). In material studied recently I found specimen from Colombia representing a new species. Its description is given below.

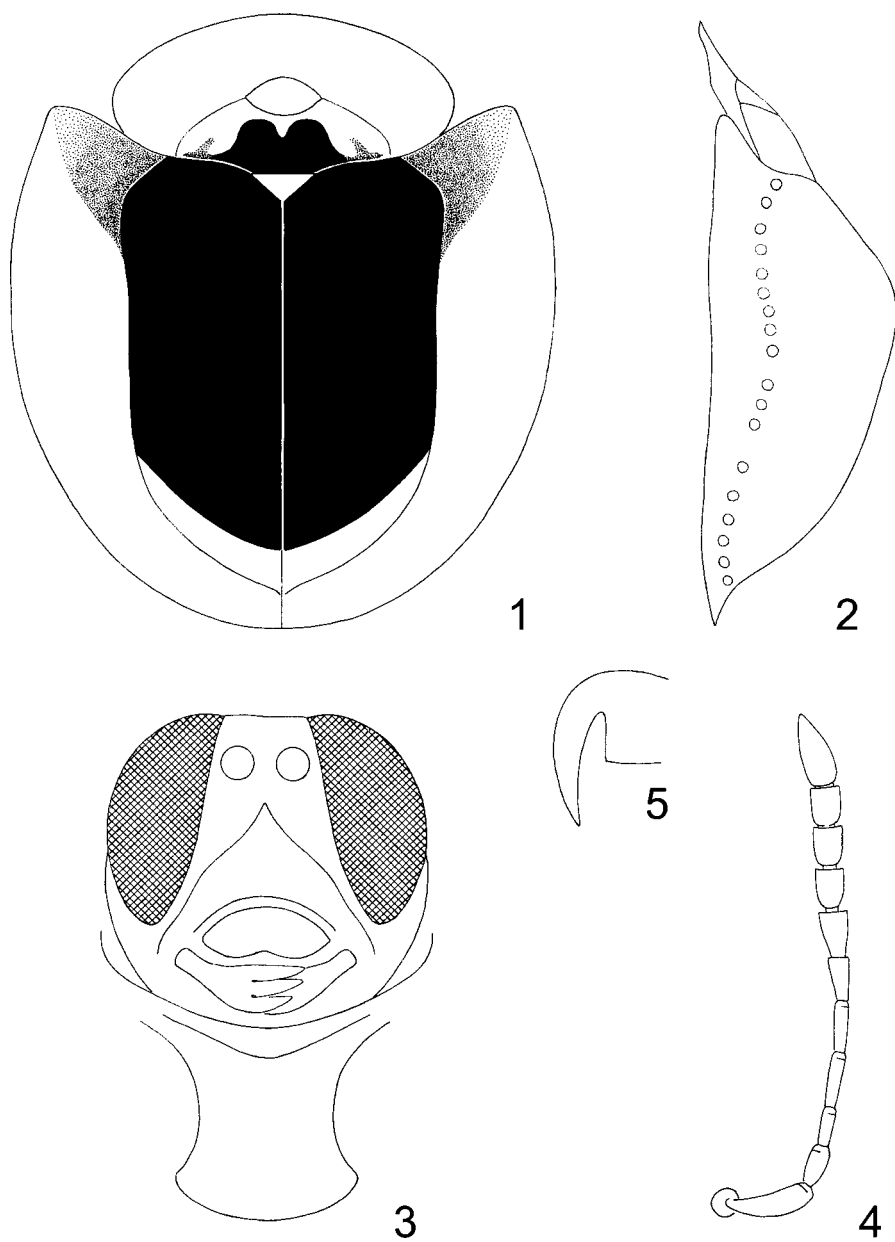
***Metrionella tumacoensis* n. sp.**

ETYMOLOGY

Named after its locus typicus.

DIAGNOSIS

It belongs to the third group in SPAETH's (1932) revision. The group is characterized by subtriangular body, clypeal grooves converging in a triangle, elytral disc with dark pattern (at least punctures marked with brown areola), and



1-5. *Metrionella tumacoensis*: 1 – dorsal, 2 – lateral, 3 – head and prosternum, 4 – antenna, 5 – claw

marginalia usually with more or less distinct humeral spots. The group comprises 5 species. *M. tumacoensis* is intermediate between species with sharp humeral angles (*M. angularis* (CHAMP.), *M. glabrescens* SP., *M. strandi* SP.) and species with obtuse humeral angles (*M. erratica* (BOH.), *M. irrorata* SP.). Mostly dark elytral disc and very fine elytral puncturation place it close to *M. strandi*. *M. tumacoensis* differs in less triangular body and less angulate humeral angles. Pronotal disc in *M. strandi* is uniformly brown or gradually darker from apex to base, while in *M. tumacoensis* at base there is a distinct dark brown spot as in fig. 1. Antennae of *M. tumacoensis* are slightly shorter than in *M. strandi*, almost uniformly yellow with only segments 9 and 10 slightly darker than than neighbouring segments, while in *M. strandi* segment 8-10 are brown to black, distinctly darker than basal segments. *M. angularis* differs in coarser elytral puncturation, especially in sutural half of disc (in *M. tumacoensis* like in *M. strandi* puncturation of sutural half of disc is extremely fine, resembling pricks), sharper humeral angles (the sharpest in the genus), and paler elytral pattern with marginal interval mostly yellow with only humeral part dark (in *M. tumacoensis* dark colour of disc reaches behind submarginal row thus marginal interval up to half length is dark). *M. glabrescens* differs in yellow marginal interval and elytral disc with pattern composed of brown and yellow spots (in *M. tumacoensis* almost whole disc is dark brown). *M. erratica* and *M. irrorata* have elytral disc distinctly less convex than in *M. tumacoensis* and never uniformly brown, and more obtuse humeral angles. Humeral spots in *M. erratica* and *M. irrorata* are usually short, diagonal, usually not extending to lateral margin of elytra, or completely absent while in *M. tumacoensis* humeral spots are distinct, brown, gradually pale from base to apex but extending to elytral margin.

DESCRIPTION

Length: 5.45 mm, width: 4.7 mm, length of pronotum: 1.8 mm, width of pronotum: 3.0 mm, length/width ratio: 1.16, width/length of pronotum ratio: 1.67. Body subtriangular (fig. 1).

Explanate margin of pronotum yellow, disc yellowish brown, at base with large dark brown spot as in fig. 1. Scutellum yellowish-brown with dark brown anterior margin. Elytral disc mostly dark brown, only its apex and posterior third of marginal interval yellow. Explanate margin of elytra yellow with pale brown humeral spots, gradually paler from base to apex but extending to lateral margin of elytra. Clypeus yellow. Prothorax brownish-black, metathorax brownish-black with large yellow spot on lateral plates. Abdomen around sides yellow, in middle brown, brown spot only slightly wider than width of each yellow margin. Legs uniformly yellow. Antennae yellow, segments 9 and 10 indistinctly infusate, only slightly darker than apical and basal segments.

Pronotum regularly elliptical, with maximum width in middle, sides broadly rounded. Disc moderately convex, bordered from explanate margin by sulcus, impunctate. Whole surface of disc and marginalia smooth and shiny.

Scutellum triangular, without impressions. Base of elytra much wider than pronotum, humeri moderately protruding anterad, angulate. Elytral margin behind humeral angle not emarginate. Basal margin of disc smooth. Disc unevenly convex, with top of convexity in postscutellar point (fig. 2). Postscutellar impressions gently marked, principal impressions distinct. Punctuation of disc regular, fine, in sutural rows and apex extremely fine, resembling pricks. In lateral parts of disc punctuation distinctly coarser than in sutural rows, but never as coarse as in related species except *M. strandi*. Intervals flat, in sutural half of disc several times, in lateral part of disc 1.5-2 times as wide as rows. Whole surface of disc smooth and shiny. Marginal row distinct, in the middle not broken by lateral fold, its punctures distinctly coarser than in lateral rows. Marginal interval narrow, as wide as submarginal row. Explanate margin broad, in widest part as wide as 2/3 width of each disc of elytron. Whole surface of marginalia smooth and shiny. Apex of elytral epipleura bare.

Clypeus flat, c. 1.4 times as wide as long, smooth and shiny. Clypeal grooves deep, converging in triangle slightly before half length of clypeal plate. Frontoclypeal sulci deep. Eyes large, gena very short. Labrum shallowly emarginate to 1/6 length. Prosternal process broad, moderately expanded apically, flat, without special structure (fig. 3).

Antennae slim, filiform, segments 9 and 10 c. 1.4 times as long as wide. Length ratio of antennal segments: 100:60:50:75:70:55:60:50:52:50:100. Segment 2 c. 1.2 times as long as 3, segment 4 c. 1.5 times as long as segment 3 (fig. 4).

Claws with large basal tooth (fig. 5).

TYPE

Holotype: "Colombia, Nariño Prov., Tumaco, Bananen zone, 14 IV 1958" (holotype preserved at the Department of Systematic Zoology and Zoogeography, Wrocław University, Wrocław, Poland).

REFERENCES

- BOROWIEC, L., 1999. A world catalogue of the Cassidinae (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae). Biologica Silesiae, Wrocław, 476 pp.
- SPAETH, F., 1932. Über die mit *Metrioria erratica* verwandten Arten (Col., Chrysom. Cass.). Folia Zool. Hydrobiol., 4: 263-270.