

Genus	Vol. 11 (4): 593-596	Wrocław, 26 XII 2000
-------	----------------------	----------------------

Notosacantha multicostata, a new species from Madagascar
(Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Cassidinae)

JOLANTA ŚWIĘTOJAŃSKA

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

ABSTRACT. *Notosacantha multicostata* n. sp. is described from Madagascar. It is close to *N. picta* (KLUG).

Key words: entomology, taxonomy, new species, *Coleoptera*, *Chrysomelidae*, *Cassidinae*, *Notosacantha*, Madagascar.

The genus *Notosacantha* comprises more than 240 species, 95 of them were recorded from Madagascar (BOROWIEC 1999). They were mostly reviewed by SPAETH (1931, 1932). Few additional species were described by SPAETH (1934, 1940) and HINCKS (1962). In the material studied recently I found a new species collected in Madagascar by F. and L. KANTNER (Czech Republic). Its description is given below.

***Notosacantha multicostata* n. sp.**

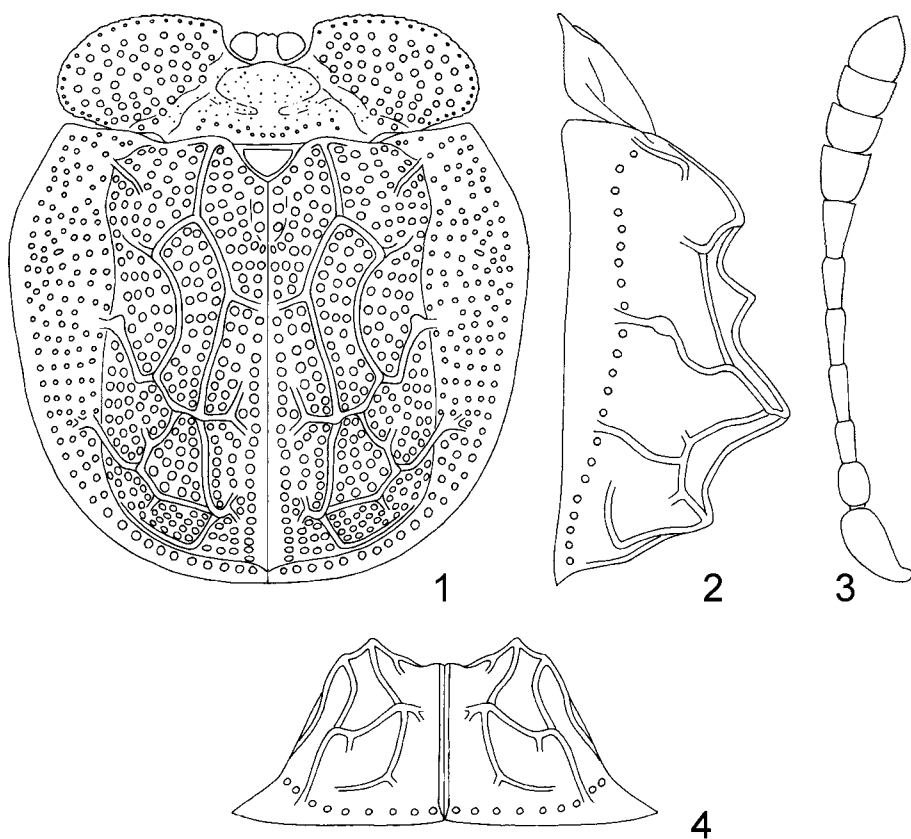
ETYMOLOGY

Named after a complete set of elytral costae.

DIAGNOSIS

It belongs to a species group with distinctly emarginate anterior margin of pronotum, hardly marked frontal plate, pronotum not wider than elytral base, elytra moderately wide (not circular), sides of elytra not emarginate, regularly converging posterad, elytral disc with complete set of prominent tubercles,

principal tubercle c. as wide as high (not needle-shaped), and dorsal surface without green spots. The group comprises also *N. quadrituberculata* (GUÉRIN), *N. picta* (KLUG), *N. picipennis* (SPAETH), and *N. testaceocincta* (SPAETH). *N. quadrituberculata* differs in larger size (length: c. 7 mm, in *multicostata*: 4.2-4.6 mm), dark brown groundcolour of elytra with yellowish-red scutellum (in *multicostata*: deeply black, including scutellum) and principal tubercle with four costae (in *multicostata*: five costae). *N. picipennis* differs in larger size (length: c. 5 mm) and presence of costa between subbasal tubercle and humeral costa (in *multicostata*: subbasal tubercle with sutural costa, without connection to humeral costa). *N. testaceocincta* differs in larger size (length: c. 5.5 mm), yellow explanate margin of elytra (in *multicostata*: black with yellowish-red extreme margin) and absence of connection between basal tubercle and humeral costa (in



1-4. *Notosacantha multicostata*: 1 - dorsal view, 2 - lateral view, 3 - hind view, 4 - antenna

multicostata: distinct costa between basal tubercle and humeral costa). At first glance the most similar is *N. plicata*. It differs in a yellow humeral part of explanate margin of elytra (in *multicostata*: black whole explanate margin of elytra), brownish-yellow scutellum (in *multicostata*: black) and absence of costa between basal tubercle and humeral costa (in *multicostata*: distinct costa between basal tubercle and humeral costa). The darkest specimens of *N. goudoti* (WEISE) without green spots are also very similar to *N. multicostata*, but in *N. goudoti* explanate margin of elytra is partly yellow, body slimmer with sharper and higher tubercles, without costa between basal and humeral tubercles.

DESCRIPTION

Length: 4.2-4.6 mm, width: 3.5-3.9 mm, width of pronotum: 3.0-3.2 mm, length/width ratio: 1.18-1.20.

Body short-oval, sides slightly irregularly rounded, with maximum width in 1/4 length, then moderately converging posterad (fig. 1). Almost whole dorsal surface black except yellow explanate margin of pronotum and yellowish-red extreme margin of elytra. Tops of tubercles black to slightly brown or yellowish. Ventrites, clypeus, legs and antennae yellow.

Head with hardly marked frontal plate.

Pronotum broad, with maximum width in basal 1/3 length, sides regularly rounded. Surface of disc finely punctate and along base with single to double row of coarser punctures. Each side of disc with long, oblique impression. Explanate margin with moderately large pores, disposed regularly.

Base of elytra slightly narrower than pronotum. Elytral disc with complete set of costae and with distinct basal, subbasal, principal, apical, humeral and posthumeral tubercles (fig. 1). Dorsal costa complete, curved to suture in 1/3 length. Basal tubercle connected with humeral costa by oblique costa. Subbasal tubercle without connection with humeral costa, but with oblique sutural branch running slightly obliquely posterad and extending to suture. Principal tubercle is the most prominent, c. as high as wide (fig. 2). Anterior and posterior branch of dorsal costa in principal tubercle converging in the same point. Suture branch of principal tubercle bifurcate, extending to second row of punctures. Lateral branch complete, extending to marginal row of punctures, swollen apically. Apicosutural costa short and bifurcate, extending to second row of punctures. Apicolateral costa complete with short costa ultima and furca externa. Furca interna complete, extending to lateral branch of principal tubercle, thus top of principal tubercle bifid (fig. 4). Costa terminalis long, extending to marginal row of punctures. Apex of dorsal costa strongly curved outwards, forms distinct postapical costa (fig. 4). Humeral costa distinct, but not connected with humeral tubercle, its apex curved outwards. Punctuation between costae moderate, distance between punctures as wide as to slightly narrower than puncture diameter. Punctuation of explanate margin finer than on disc, disposed regularly, no impunctate window.

Antennae stout, with distinct 5-segmented club. Pedicle, c. 1.36 times longer than club. Second antennal segment c. 1.28 times longer than wide, segment 8 c. as wide as long, segment 9 and 10 distinctly wider than long (fig. 3).

TYPES

Holotype: „MADAGASCAR mer. or., Ranomafana, 90 km E Fianarantsoa, 1.-5.XII.1999, lgt. F. + L. KANTNER; paratype: the same data (holotype preserved at the Department of Systematic Zoology and Zoogeography, Wrocław University, Wrocław, Poland, paratype in coll. F. KANTNER, Lipi, Czech Republic).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my sincere thanks to F. KANTNER (Lipi, Czech Republic) for sending me specimens of the new species.

REFERENCES

- BOROWIEC, L., 1999. A world catalogue of the *Cassidinae* (Coleoptera: *Chrysomelidae*). Biologica Silesiae, Wrocław, 476 pp.
- HINCKS, W. D., 1962. Madagascar *Cassidinae* (Col., *Chrysomelidae*) Part I. Naturalista Malgache, **13**: 225-250.
- SPAETH, F., 1931. Bestimmungstabelle der *Hoplionota*-Arten (Col. *Chrysom.*) von Madagascar und Nachbarinseln. I. Teil. Wien. Entomol. Ztg., **48**: 150-174.
- , 1932. Bestimmungstabelle der *Hoplionota*-Arten (Col. *Chrysom.*) von Madagascar und Nachbarinseln. II. Teil. Wien. Entomol. Ztg., **49**: 1-15.
- , 1934. Zwei neue *Hoplionota* aus Madagascar. Arb. Morphol. Taxon. Entomol. Berlin-Dahlem, **1**: 291-294.
- , 1940. Vier neue *Hoplionota*-Arten (Col. *Cassididae*). Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., **5** (11): 507-512.