

ON SEVEN OVERLOOKED CURCULIONOIDEA
FROM NORTHERN ITALY
(Coleoptera)

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INTRODUCTION

In the paper by Prada (1857) on the weevil fauna of the surroundings of Pavia (Lombardy, northern Italy), commented on by Villa (1860), were comprised some descriptions of new species. According to the rules of the article 50.1.1 of the Code (ICZN 1999), it is clear from the contest that the authorship of these species is by Virginio Betta, since Prada simply quoted the descriptions sent him by the latter author. Although available, these names do not appear in the first comprehensive checklist of Italian Coleoptera (Bertolini 1872) nor in the subsequent ones comprised that by Abbazzi & Maggini (2009). Also in the catalogues of Palaearctic or of the world weevil fauna (Wolfrum 1929, Winkler 1932, Klima 1934a, Klima 1934b, Trýzna & Valentine 2011) they were omitted. The only name by Betta included in a catalogue (Alonso-Zarazaga 2011) as a synonym of *Kalcapion semivittatum semivittatum* (Gyllenhal, 1833) is *Apion tonsuratum* Betta, 1847, described however in a separate paper by Betta (1847). Only Solari (1952) quoted the two *Smicronyx* Schoenherr, 1843 described by Betta in Prada (1857), and affirmed that *S. minusculus* could perhaps be a synonym of *S. jungermanniae*, and that *S. aericollis* for sure does not belong in *Smicronyx*.

Since neither a Betta nor a Prada collection exist anymore, we have chosen to select neotypes of the seven species described by Betta in Prada (1857) following the provisions of the article 75 of the Code (ICZN 1999) with the express purpose of clarifying their taxonomic status. The total length of specimens is meant excluding the rostrum, as customary for Curculionoidea. All the neotypes are deposited in the Museo Civico di Storia Naturale di Milano, Italy.

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Species are treated in the order in which their descriptions appear in the paper by Prada (1857). The first belongs to the family Anthribidae Billberg, 1820, whereas all the remaining ones are members of the Curculionidae Latreille, 1802.

TREATMENT OF THE SPECIES

Tropideres pictus Betta, 1857

Tropideres pictus Betta, 1857: 20

ORIGINAL DESCRIPTION. *T. oblongus, nigrofusciis tomento helvo-griseo ubique vestitus; thoracis marginibus antico et lateralibus castaneis; elytris minutissime lineato-punctatis, in singulo plaga magna longitudinali denudata ferruginea: antennis pedibusque obscure ferrugineis.*

REMARKS. The above description matches well that of *Pseudeuparius centromaculatus* (Gyllenhal, 1833), a species reported from Lombardy by Abbazzi & Maggini (2009). We select thus a neotype labelled “Lombardia (Pavia), Monte Penice m 800, strada per Varzi, 22.VI.1969, leg. R. Caldara [printed on white card], “Neotype, *Tropideres pictus* Betta, des. R. Caldara & E. Colonnelli 2012 [printed on red card]”, and “*Pseudeuparius centromaculatus* (Gyllenhal), R. Caldara & E. Colonnelli det., 2012”. The specimen is a well preserved male, 4.4 mm long, glued on white card. According to the above designation, we move *Tropideres pictus* to *Pseudeuparius* Jordan, 1914 (**comb. rev.**) and establish the following new synonymy: *Pseudeuparius centromaculatus* (Gyllenhal, 1833) [= *P. pictus* (Betta, 1857), **syn. nov.**].

Smicronyx aericollis Betta, 1857

Smicronyx aericollis Betta, 1857: 51

ORIGINAL DESCRIPTION. *S. ovali-oblongus, subnitidus, cinereo-albido squamulosus; thorace serratim punctato, obscure aeneo; elytris striate-punctatis interstriis subrugosis, rufo ferrugineis, macula magna basali, alia prope medium transversa sinuata per suturam conjunctis, marginibusque antice nigris; antennis tibiis tarsisque ferrugineis.*

REMARKS. Among the species living in Lombardy, the one which corresponds to the above short description is *Pachytychius sparsutus* (Olivier, 1807), a not so fresh specimen of which matches quite well the characters listed by Betta (1857). We, after moving this species to *Pachytychius* Jekel, 1861 (**comb. rev.**), select here a neotype labelled: “Lombardia (PV), Volpara, 11-V-1997, L. Diotti” [printed on white card], “Neotype, *Smicronyx aericollis* Betta, des. R. Caldara & E. Colonnelli 2012” [printed on red card], and “*Pachytychius sparsutus* (Olivier), R. Caldara & E. Colonnelli det., 2012”. This specimen is a female, 3.6 mm long, in good condition and glued on a white rectangular card. In consequence, the following new synonymy is established: *Pachytychius sparsutus* (Olivier, 1807) [= *P. aericollis* (Betta, 1857) **syn. n.**].

***Smicronyx minusculus* Betta, 1857**

Smicronyx minusculus Betta, 1857: 51

ORIGINAL DESCRIPTION. *S. oblongo-ovalis, niger, nitidus, parce albidosquamulatus; thorace minutissime punctulato, antice angustato, postice rotundato subdepresso, elytris striato-punctatis, interstriis planis subgranulosis. S. Jungermanniae Schh. duplo minor.*

REMARKS. The above described small size, polished appearance, shape of pronotum with small punctures on disc and elytral shape are those of the neotype labelled: “Val Staffora (PV), Pietragavina, 18-IX-03, L. Diotti” [printed on white card], “Neotype, *Smicronyx minusculus* Betta, des. R. Caldara & E. Colonnelli 2012” [printed on red card], and “*Smicronyx coecus* (Reich), R. Caldara & E. Colonnelli det., 2012”. It is a male, 1.5 mm long, in good condition, dissected and glued on a white rectangular card. The new synonymy: *Smicronyx coecus* (Reich, 1797) [= *S. minusculus* Betta, 1857 **syn. n.**] is here established. This species is cited from Lombardy by Abbazzi & Maggini (2009) under the name of *S. pygmaeus* (Curtis, 1840), which is however a synonym of *S. reichii* (Gyllenhal, 1836). The first authors who incorrectly reported *S. pygmaeus* as the valid name for *S. coecus* were Abbazzi & Osella (1992), followed by Abbazzi et al. (1995) and by Colonnelli (2003), so that it is to *S. coecus* that must be referred the distributional quotations by all these authors.

Gymnetron vittatum Betta, 1857

Gymnetron vittatus Betta, 1857: 61

ORIGINAL DESCRIPTION. *G. oblongo-ovatus, nigro-piceus, longe albedo-pilosus, rostro breviusculo, convexo; elytris striatis, ferrugineis, sutura vittaque in singulo antice abbreviata, pone medium suturam attingente, prope apicem divergente uncinata, nigris; antennis pedibusque ferrugineis.*

REMARKS. Since the name *Gymnetron* Schoenherr, 1825 is neuter, we correct the original spelling *vittatus* in *vittatum* under article 32.5 to meet the requirement of article 31.2 (ICZN, 1999).

The described rostral shape and the elytral pattern are those of a *Mecinus* Germar, 1821, so we move this species to this genus (**comb. rev.**), and select a neotype fitting well its description and labelled with: “Lombardia (PV), S. Margherita Staffora, 20-V-2001, L. Diotti” [printed on white card], “Neotype, *Gymnetron vittatum* Betta, des. R. Caldara & E. Colonnelli 2012” [printed on red card], and “*Mecinus labilis* (Herbst), R. Caldara & E. Colonnelli det., 2012”. This specimen is a female, 2.0 mm long, in good condition and glued on a white rectangular card. The following new synonymy is here established: *Mecinus labilis* (Herbst, 1795) [= *M. vittatus* Betta, 1857 **syn. n.**].

Gymnetron areolatum Betta, 1857

Gymnetron areolatus Betta, 1857: 61

ORIGINAL DESCRIPTION. *G. niger, griseo-pubens; antennis ferrugineis, apice nigris; in medio longitudinaliter pube denudato; elytris rufo-piceis, longius griseo setulatis, sutura nigra hac et plaga marginali setulis spoliatis; femoribus nigro-piceis; tibiis tarsisque rufo-ferrugineis.*

REMARKS. As for the above-mentioned taxon the original spelling *areolatus* must be corrected in *areolatum* under article 32.5 to meet the requirement of article 31.2.

The colour of the integument and the pattern of the dorsal vestiture allow us to move also this species from *Gymnetron* to *Mecinus* (**comb. rev.**). We designate a neotype of it, a specimen corresponding to the description and labelled: “Lombardia (PV), Volpara dintorni, 10-VII-04, L.

Diotti” [printed on white card] , “Neotype, *Gymnetron areolatum* Betta, des. R. Caldara & E. Colonnelli 2012” [printed on red card], and “*Mecinus pascuorum* (Gyllenhal), R. Caldara & E. Colonnelli det., 2012”. This specimen is a male in good condition, 1.8 mm long, dissected and glued on a white rectangular card. In accordance to the above designation, the following new synonymy is here established: *Mecinus pascuorum* (Gyllenhal, 1813) [= *M. areolatus* Betta, 1857 **syn. n.**].

***Gymnetron flavipes* Betta, 1857**

Gymnetron flavipes Betta, 1857: 62

ORIGINAL DESCRIPTION. *G. parvus, subovatus, piceus cinereo-pubescentis; rostro basi nigro, apice ferrugineo: thorace dense cinereo, squamuloso, elytris ferrugineis, striatis; antennis pedibusque ferrugineis.*

REMARKS. The colour of the integuments and the pattern of the dorsal vestiture of this species allow it to be comprised in *Mecinus* as presently understood (**comb. rev.**). We select here a specimen corresponding to the description as the neotype: it is a male, 2.0 mm long, in good condition, glued on a white rectangular card, and labelled: “Pietragavina (Circ. Varzi), 2.12-IX-1920, F. Solari” [printed on white card] , “Neotype, *Gymnetron flavipes* Betta, des. R. Caldara & E. Colonnelli 2012” [printed on red card], and “*Mecinus latiusculus* (Jacquelin du Val), R. Caldara & E. Colonnelli det., 2012”. The following synonymy is here established: *Mecinus latiusculus* (Jacquelin du Val, 1855) [= *M. flavipes* (Betta, 1857) **syn. n.**].

***Mecinus sericatus* Betta, 1857**

Mecinus sericatus Betta, 1857: 62

ORIGINAL DESCRIPTION. *M. lineari-elongato, nigro-fuscus, subopacus, cinereo-pubescentis; antennis. tibiis, tarsisque ferrugineis; thorace sat remote punctulato; elytris striato-punctatis, fusco-ferrugineis, sutura precipue basi lata, humeris marginibusque obscurioribus.*

REMARKS. A male specimen of *Mecinus circulatus* (Marsham, 1802), with the above characters, in good condition and glued on a white rectangular card is here designated as the neotype, and labelled: “Val Staffora

(PV), Pietragavina, 29-V-04, L. Diotti” [printed on white card], “Neotype, *Mecinus sericatus* Betta, des. R. Caldara & E. Colonnelli 2012” [printed on red card], and “*Mecinus circulatus* (Marsham), R. Caldara & E. Colonnelli det., 2012”. It is a female in good condition, 2.9 mm long, glued on a white rectangular card. The following new synonymy is here proposed: *Mecinus circulatus* (Marsham, 1802) [= *Mecinus sericatus* Betta, 1857 **syn. n.**].

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SUMMARY

Seven Curculionoidea described from Lombardy (northern Italy) by Virginio Betta in 1857 and overlooked by subsequent authors are here treated. Since the Betta collection where their types are supposed to have been preserved was never traced, neotypes of all of them are designated with the purpose of clarifying their taxonomic status. Revised combinations are: *Pseudeuparius pictus* (Betta, 1857) **comb. rev.** from *Tropideres* Schoenherr, 1823; *Pachytychius aericollis* (Betta, 1857) **comb. rev.** from *Smicronyx* Schoenherr, 1843; *Mecinus vittatus* (Betta, 1857) **comb. rev.** from *Gymnetron* Schoenherr, 1825; *Mecinus areolatus* (Betta, 1857) **comb. rev.** from *Gymnetron* Schoenherr; *Mecinus flavipes* (Betta, 1857) **comb. rev.** from *Gymnetron* Schoenherr. The following new synonymies are established: *Pseudeuparius centromaculatus* (Gyllenhal, 1833) [= *P. pictus* (Betta, 1857) **syn. n.**]; *Pachytychius sparsutus* (Olivier, 1807) [= *P. aericollis* (Betta, 1857) **syn. n.**]; *Smicronyx coecus* (Reich, 1797) [= *S. minusculus* (Betta, 1857) **syn. n.**]; *Mecinus labilis* (Herbst, 1795) [= *M. vittatus* (Betta, 1857) **syn. n.**]; *Mecinus pascuorum* (Gyllenhal, 1813) [= *M. areolatus* (Betta, 1857) **syn. n.**]; *Mecinus latusculus* (Jacquelin du Val, 1855) [= *M. flavipes* (Betta, 1857) **syn. n.**]; *Mecinus circulatus* (Marsham, 1802) [= *M. sericatus* Betta, 1857 **syn. n.**].

RIASSUNTO

Sono qui trattate sette specie di curculionoidi descritti di Lombardia da Virginio Betta nel 1857 e ignorati dagli autori successivi. Poiché una collezione Betta dove presumibilmente erano conservati i loro tipi non esiste più, sono designati i loro neotipi allo scopo di fissare il loro status tassonomico. Combinazioni nuove sono: *Pseudeuparius pictus* (Betta, 1857) **comb. rev.** da *Tropideres* Schoenherr, 1823; *Pachytychius aericollis* (Betta, 1857) **comb. rev.** da *Smicronyx* Schoenherr, 1843; *Mecinus vittatus* (Betta, 1857) **comb. rev.** da *Gymnetron* Schoenherr, 1825; *Mecinus areolatus* (Betta, 1857) **comb. rev.** da *Gymnetron* Schoenherr; *Mecinus flavipes* (Betta, 1857) **comb. rev.** da *Gymnetron* Schoenherr. Vengono poi stabilite le seguenti nuove sinonimie: *Pseudeuparius centromaculatus* (Gyllenhal, 1833) [= *P. pictus* (Betta, 1857) **syn. n.**]; *Pachytychius sparsutus* (Olivier, 1807) [= *P. aericollis* (Betta, 1857) **syn. n.**]; *Smicronyx coecus* (Reich, 1797) [= *S. minusculus* (Betta, 1857) **syn. n.**]; *Mecinus labilis* (Herbst, 1795) [= *M. vittatus* (Betta, 1857) **syn. n.**]; *Mecinus pascuorum* (Gyllenhal, 1813) [= *M. areolatus* (Betta, 1857) **syn. n.**].

Mecinus laticusculus (Jacquelin du Val, 1855) [= *M. flavipes* (Betta, 1857) **syn. n.**]; *Mecinus circulatus* (Marshall, 1802) [= *M. sericatus* Betta, 1857 **syn. n.**].

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