

## Mordellistena balazuci Ermisch and *M. taurica* Csiki, junior synonyms of *M. semiferruginea* Reitter (Col. Mordellidae)

by

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**ABSTRACT.** — After having studied the type-specimens of *Mordellistena semiferruginea* Reitter, *M. taurica* Csiki and *M. balazuci* Ermisch, and additional material, the author concludes that the two last mentioned names are junior synonyms of *semiferruginea*, for which a lectotype is designated.

### INTRODUCTION

*Mordellistena semiferruginea* was described by Reitter (1911) from Hungary (Trecsén) in a note on page 3: 376 of his *Fauna Germanica*. A female *Mordellistena* from France (Ardèche, Bois de Paiolive) was described by Ermisch (1966) and named *balazuci*. At that moment he already doubted whether his *balazuci* was a new species or a race of *semiferruginea*. As he did not have males of either species, the problem could not be solved.

The catch of a male of *M. balazuci* (specimen 7 of the material listed below) led me to study this question.

### MATERIAL EXAMINED

At my disposal were the following 9 specimens:

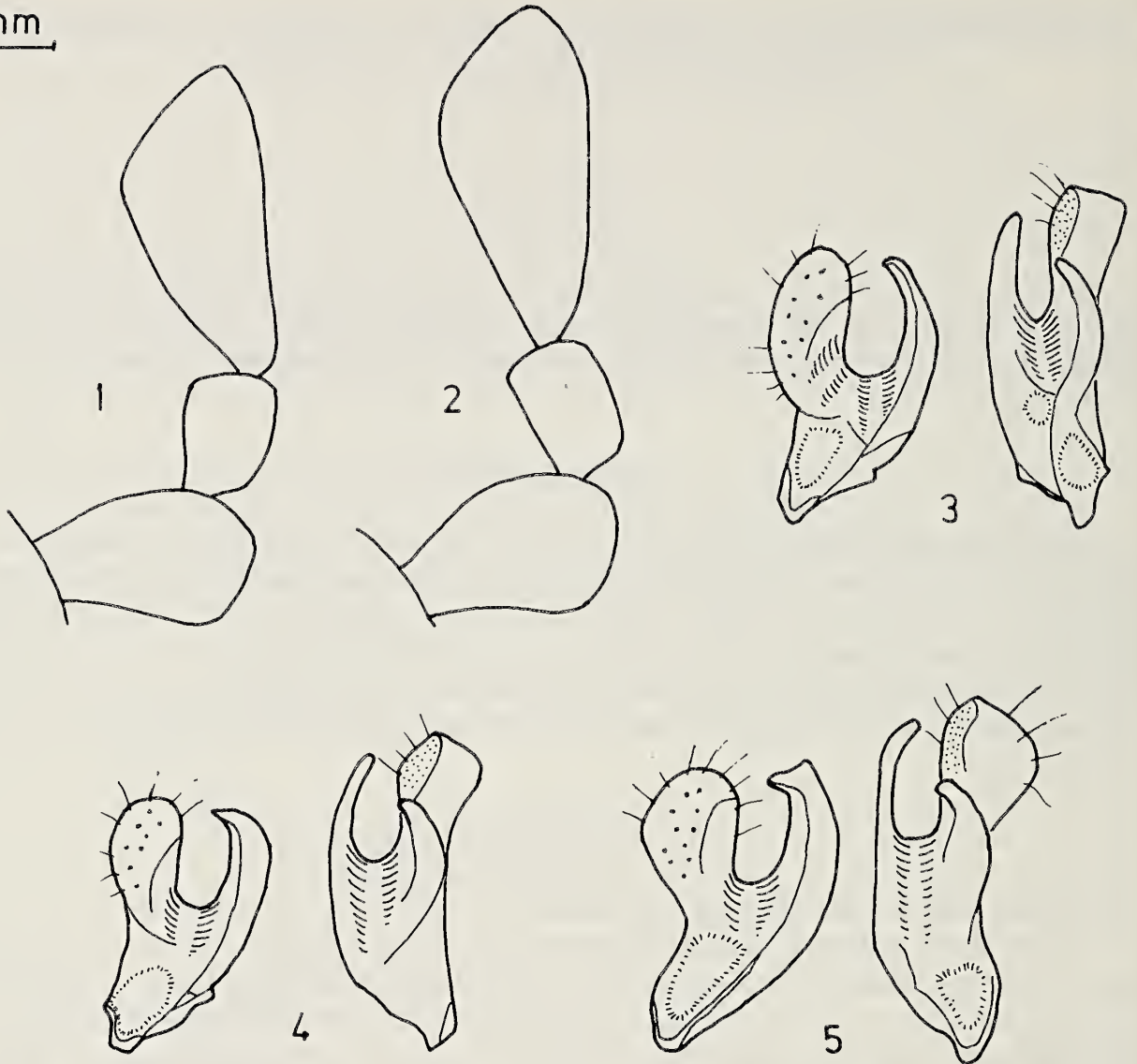
1. ♀, with the following labels: "Hung. Trecsén, Nagy Sziklász", "Kocsi", "Zsihlavnik", handwritten (by Reitter?): "semiferruginea n.", a red label "holotypus 1911", "Mordellistena semiferruginea Reitter". Because Reitter did not expressly mention holotype and paratype, in his description, I herewith select this specimen as lectotype of *M. semiferruginea*. (Budapest Museum).
2. ♂, labels as under 1, except the handwritten one, and having one which reads "paratypus 1911"; here designated paralectotype. (Budapest Museum).
3. ♂, from Hungary, vicinity of Budapest, labels: "Bpst. Umgbg. Kamara erdő, 15 VII 19", "coll. H. Diener", "Mordellistena Milleri Em., det. Diener", *Mordellistena semiferruginea* Rtr., det. Csiki". (Budapest Museum).
4. ♂, Hungary, Mátrahegys, Mátraháza, 28 VII 1956, leg. E. Hamori. (Budapest Museum).
5. ♀, Hungary, Budapest, 29 VII 1915. (Dresden Museum).
6. ♀, Bulgaria, Sandanski, 26 VI - 10 VII 1971, leg. R. Veselý, det. J. Horák 1972. (coll. J. Horák).
7. ♂, France (Pyr. Or.) Vernet, 9 VII 1973 leg. R. Batten. Genitalia extracted (Batten, 1976a) (author's coll.).
8. ♀, apparent holotype of *M. balazuci*: "France (Ardèche) Bois de Paiolive, 15 VIII 1960, leg. J. Balazuc" with labels "Mordellistena (Tolida) abdominalis F." crossed with red pencil and "Mordellistena balazuci Erm.". (Dresden Museum). Pygidium damaged.
9. ♀, holotype of *Mordellistena taurica* Csiki, labels: "... Krim, 24-27-08, W. Pliginski", "Monotypus 1948", "Mordellistena (Mordellochroa) taurica Csiki", damaged, antennae and left elytron missing (Budapest Museum).

### DISCUSSION

The following notes are relevant to the synonymies discussed here.

Ermisch (1966) redescribed *semiferruginea* Reitter from specimens not known to me (the basic data of this redescription are summarized under n. 10 in the table below). In the same paper he

0,1mm



Figs. 1-5. *Mordellistena semiferruginea* Reitter; 1, last three segments of maxillary palp of a specimen from France (number 7 of the material listed in the text); 2, the same of a specimen from Hungary (number 4); 3, parameres of a specimen from France (number 7); 4, the same of a paralectotype from Hungary (number 2); 5, the same of another specimen from Hungary (number 4).

described *M. balazuci*, apparently specimen 8 mentioned above, comparing it with the former species (11 in table).

Cziki (1949) described *M. taurica*, mentioning as important features: elytra 2.5 times as long as broad (I measure 2.3 by taking twice the breadth of the right elytron); second segment of antennae very small, third segment twice as long as second segment. Csiki compared the specimen he named *taurica* with *Mordellochroa milleri* Emery and not with the specimen he correctly determined as *M. semiferruginea* (specimen 3 mentioned above). The essentials of Csiki's description of this specimen, as well as those of the original description of *balazuci*, are given in the table below under nrs. 12 and 11, respectively.

The lectotype female of *semiferruginea* agrees with the original description and with the supplementary description by Ermisch (1966) except for the length/breadth ratio of the pronotum, being 0.75, and the pygidial style being 0.4 times as long as elytra.

The paralectotype male of *semiferruginea* is similar to the lectotype, apart from the second and third antennal segments, which are equal in length, whereas the pygidial style is half as long as the elytra; the palps are yellow, the last segment is clouded at the apex, and the second segment is broadened at the apex (fig. 2). This specimen is the smallest I have seen; the strigosity on the hindleg are 2/2/2, with two beginnings of a third strigosity to normal 3/3/2.



number	sex	ratio of length/width of pronotum			ratio of length/width of elytra			ratio of lengths pygidial style/elytron			comparison of lengths of 2nd and 3rd antennal segment			total length, excl. pygidial style (in mm)
		0.80	0.75	0.66	2.3	2.4	2.5	0.3	0.4	0.5	2<3	2=3	2>3	
1	♀		+		+			+			+			4.0
2	♂		+		+				+			+		3.3
3	♂			+	+				+			+		3.9
4	♂			+			+		+			+		4.3
5	♀			+			+		+		+			4.4
6	♀			+	+				+				+	4.5
7	♂			+			+		+			+		4.0
8	♀			+	+			.	.	.			+	4.8
9	♀			+	+				+		.	.	.	4.7
10	♀♀	+			+				+		+			
11	♀		+				+	+					+	
12	♀	.	.	.			+	.	.	.	+			

Classes of ratios and measurements in which the specimens studied (numbers 1-9) and the data extracted from published descriptions (numbers 10-12, see text) fall. All measurements are taken at right angles to the plane of the part in question. This may explain deviations between present observations and published data.

Specimen 3 from Budapest (Kamara erdő = Kammer forest) is intermediate between the paralectotype and the male from Mátraháza.

Specimen 4 from Mátraháza is almost identical with specimen 7 from Vernet, even in colour, only the basal corners of pronotum are broadly brownish and the pygidial style is almost half as long as the elytra..

Specimen 7 differs from the holotype of *balazuci* in the following characters: second segment of maxillary palps broadened at apex (fig. 1), pronotum length/breadth ratio 0.66, elytra 2.5 times longer than broad, pygidial style 0.4 times as long as elytra (Batten 1976a). Thus the male *semiferruginea* from Mátraháza (4) and the male from Vernet (7) differ in the ectoskeleton in the length of the pygidial style only.

The holotype of *taurica* differs from the lectotype of *semiferruginea* only in the pronotum which is a bit broader, whereas the difference in the antennae can't be verified.

The characters of colour of the integument and the pubescence used as additional diagnostics to characterize the three species are not important on the species-group level, as more species of Mordellidae are lighter in the East European countries. Ray (1939) wrote in his paper on Neotropical Mordellids: "No description has been made on the basis of colour and pubescent markings alone, since these features are often considerably aberrant" etc. . . . As for the other

characters, Ermisch (1966) himself wrote: "Beide Arten [*balazuci* and *semiferruginea*] zeigen nur geringe ektoskelettale Unterschiede".

The differences fall within the variability of a species, which is illustrated by the figures of the maxillary palps and the parameres.

The maxillary palps of the males are almost alike (fig. 1 and 2). The parameres of the two Hungarian males differ slightly among themselves, demonstrating the level of intraspecific variability (fig. 4 and 5). The parameres of the French male do not differ in any important feature from those of the Hungarian males (fig. 3). We might compare these differences with the figures of the parameres of *Mordella holomelaena* Apfelbeck from different countries (Ermisch 1956: table 2) and those of *Mordellistena pumila* (Gyllenhal) by Ermisch (1969 - unfortunately without locality) and of the male from the Netherlands (Batten 1976b).

As to *M. taurica* the presence of a very small second antennal segment alone is no base for a new species.

The differences between the specimens and the data contained in the diagnoses can be summarized in the table.

### CONCLUSION

My conclusion is that *Mordellistena balazuci* Ermisch and *M. taurica* Csiki are junior synonyms of *M. semiferruginea* Reitter. Consequently this apparent rare species occurs not only in the East of Europe, but also in France.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My thanks are due to dr. Z. Kaszab of the Hungarian Natural History Museum at Budapest, dr. R. Krause of the Staatliches Museum für Tierkunde at Dresden, and mr. J. Horák at Prague for kindly putting at my disposal the specimens mentioned above, and to mr. J. Krikken of the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie at Leiden for his kind advise.

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EPIBLEMA TURBIDANA (TREITSCHKE) (LEPID., TORTRICIDAE). Deze nogal somber gekleurde Tortricide behoort tot onze zeldzame (of mogelijk lokale) soorten. Bentinck & Diakonoff geven er in hun monografie (1968: 119) slechts vier vindplaatsen van, alle al oud. De meeste exemplaren zijn van Giessendam en werden ± 90 jaar geleden door D. ter Haar verzameld. Een nieuwe vindplaats is Goudriaan. In een doos met allerlei oud Tortricidenmateriaal in de collectie van het Instituut voor Taxonomische Zoölogie te Amsterdam trof ik twee exemplaren aan, die daar 13.VI.1885 eveneens door Ter Haar verzameld waren. Mogelijk is de soort op goede groeiplaatsen van Groot Hoefblad nog eens terug te vinden. — B. J. Lempke. (Zie p. 116 in dit nummer!)