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NEW SYNONYMIES AND NEW COMBINATIONS IN EUROPEAN ALEOCHARINAE (COLEOPTERA: STAPHYLINIDAE)

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Abstract. Based on an examination of type and non-type material eight species-group names and a genus-group name are synonymized. *Acrotona muscorum* (Brisout de Barneville, 1860) = *Colpodota lacertosa* Mulsant et Rey, 1873, syn. n., *Acrotona piceorufa* (Mulsant et Rey, 1873) = *Atheta piceorufa* ssp. *breitii* Brundin, 1952, syn. n., *Aleochara signata* (J. Sahlberg, 1876) = *Aleochara accepta* Likovský, 1972, syn. n., *Atheta (Oreostiba) bosnica* Ganglbauer, 1895 = *Atheta rugosipennis* G. Benick, 1943, syn. n., *Atheta (Philhygra) elongatula* (Gravenhorst, 1802) = *Atheta transsilvanica* G. Benick, 1943, syn. n., *Atheta taxiceroides* Munster, 1932 = *Atheta olbrichi* Scheerpeltz, 1947, syn. n., *Phloeopora scribae* Eppelsheim, 1884 = *Phloeopora bokori* Bernhauer, 1929, syn. n., *Platyola balcanica* Scheerpeltz, 1958 = *Platyola austriaca* Scheerpeltz, 1959, syn. n. *Bernhaueria* Rambousek, 1916 is regarded as a subgenus of the genus *Atheta* Thomson, 1858. *Atheta (Bernhaueria) paradoxa* (Rambousek, 1916) is redescribed, and the female of this species is described for the first time. Affiliation of *Atheta monacha* Bernhauer, 1899 to the genus *Aloconota* Thomson, 1858 is considered. *Atheta magniceps* ssp. *vindobonensis* Brundin, 1944 is treated as a distinct species. The status and rank of *Pseudothinoecia* Bernhauer, 1899 is discussed. *Atheta puellaris* Bernhauer, 1899 is redescribed. Remarks are presented about the relationships of *Rhagocneme* Munster, 1923 and *Neorhagocneme* Machulka, 1941.

Résumé. Se basant sur l'examen d'un matériel constitué de types et de non-types, l'auteur synonymise huit noms d'espèces-groupe et un nom de genre-groupe. *Acrotona muscorum* (Brisout de Barneville, 1860) = *Colpodota lacertosa* Mulsant et Rey, 1873, syn. n., *Acrotona piceorufa* (Mulsant et Rey, 1873) = *Atheta piceorufa* ssp. *breitii* Brundin, 1952, syn. n., *Aleochara signata* (J. Sahlberg, 1876) = *Aleochara accepta* Likovský, 1972, syn. n., *Atheta (Oreostiba) bosnica* Ganglbauer, 1895 = *Atheta rugosipennis* G. Benick, 1943, syn. n., *Atheta (Philhygra) elongatula* (Gravenhorst, 1802) = *Atheta transsilvanica* G. Benick, 1943, syn. n., *Atheta taxiceroides* Munster, 1932 = *Atheta olbrichi* Scheerpeltz, 1947, syn. n., *Phloeopora scribae* Eppelsheim, 1884 = *Phloeopora bokori* Bernhauer, 1929, syn. n., *Platyola balcanica* Scheerpeltz, 1958 = *Platyola austriaca* Scheerpeltz, 1959, syn. n. *Bernhaueria* Rambousek, 1916 est considéré un sous-genre de genre *Atheta* Thomson, 1858. *Atheta (Bernhaueria) paradoxa* (Rambousek, 1916) est décrit à nouveau, et la femelle de cette espèce est décrite pour la première fois. L'affiliation de *Atheta monacha* Bernhauer, 1899 au genre *Aloconota* Thomson, 1858 est considérée possible. *Atheta magniceps* ssp. *vindobonensis* Brundin, 1944 est traitée comme une espèce séparée. Le statut et le rang de *Pseudothinoecia* Bernhauer, 1899 sont discutés. *Atheta puellaris* Bernhauer, 1899 est décrite à nouveau. On fait des remarques sur les relations de parenté entre *Rhagocneme* Munster, 1923 et *Neorhagocneme* Machulka, 1941.

Key words: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Aleocharinae, new synonymies, systematics.

INTRODUCTION

Although the checklist of Central European Aleocharinae was revised twice in recent years (Assing & Schülke, 2001, 2007), among European aleocharines there are still a high number of “phantom taxa”, species that were described in old times, often based on a single specimen and only one sex, and not reported ever since. The present paper attempts to summarize results and conclusions acquired in the course of continuing work on Aleocharinae of the Carpathian Basin and surrounding areas. Since this is not focused on any particular group, the approach is not revisional; nevertheless, type material was consulted where necessary and available.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

Types and non-type material deposited in the following collections were examined:

- Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, USA (FMNH; A. F. Newton).
- Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest, Hungary (HNHM; Gy. Szél).
- Kazinczy Ferenc Museum, Sátoraljaújhely, Hungary (KFM; G. Hegyessy).
- Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Genève, Switzerland (MHNG; G. Cuccodoro).
- Národní Muzeum v Praze, Prague, Czech Republic (NMP; J. Hajek).
- Natural History Museum, University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway (ZMUN; V. I. Gusarov).
- Naturhistorisches Museum, Wien, Austria (NMW; H. Schillhammer).
- Private collection of V. Assing, Hannover, Germany (cAss).

Most of the illustrations were made by permanent preparations in Euparal mounting medium on plastic cards pinned with the specimens. For the drawings a Jenalab compound microscope was used (Carl Zeiss, Jena) with a drawing tube.

RESULTS

New synonymies

1. *Acrotona muscorum* (Brisout de Barneville, 1860)

Homalota muscorum Brisout de Barneville, 1860: 344.

Colpodota lacertosa Mulsant et Rey, 1873: 156, **syn. n.**

Colpodota lacertosa was originally described by Mulsant & Rey (1873) from “environs de Cluny”, France. It was regarded as a synonym of *Aleochara parva* C. R. Sahlberg, 1831 (= *Bolitochara parvula* Mannerheim, 1830) by Bernhauer & Scheerpeltz (1926). Without any argumentation Scheerpeltz (1968) reinstated it as a distinct species, although he most likely did not examine the type of *Colpodota lacertosa*. However, from the original description by Mulsant and Rey it is quite clear that *Colpodota lacertosa* is most probably the same as *Homalota muscorum* described by Brisout de Barneville (1860). Therefore, I consider *Colpodota lacertosa* to be a synonym of *Homalota muscorum*.

The collection at NMW, which contains the Scheerpeltz material, has four specimens arranged as *Atheta lacertosa*. One specimen from “Heckenmoos” (Austria) and one from “Jungbunzlau” (= Mladá Boleslav, Bohemia) belong to *Acrotona parens* (Mulsant et Rey, 1873). Another one from “Piemont” (Piemonte, Italy) belongs to *Acrotona pilosicollis* (Brundin, 1952). Finally, one male specimen from “Corse” (France) is labelled as a type of *Colpodota lacertosa*, which it is not, also it does not correspond to the original description by Mulsant and Rey. Scheerpeltz apparently accepted what the label suggested. He presumably based his interpretation on the assumption that this is a type specimen of *Colpodota lacertosa* by Mulsant and Rey, irrespective of the original description.

Colpodota lacertosa sensu Scheerpeltz (from Corse) is a species unknown to me (most likely a yet undescribed species). Here is its short description. It closely related to *Acrotona parens* (Mulsant et Rey, 1873), and agrees it with most characters (for a description of that species, see Brundin, 1952). However, forebody and abdominal

tergites (especially tergites VI and VII) fairly shining; fine microreticulation of tergite VII more or less obsolescent, difficult to see at medium magnification. Head dark reddish brown, pronotum and elytra slightly lighter. Abdomen dark reddish brown; tergites III and IV barely lighter. Antennae reddish brown; scape slightly lighter. Legs light brownish red. Postocular region 1.1 times longer than eye. Antennal segment X 2.0 times wider than long. Pronotum 1.38 times wider than long. Elytral suture (measured from apex of scutellum to inner apical angles) 0.92 times shorter than pronotum. Pronotal disc slightly flattened along longitudinal midline; posterior margin of abdominal tergite VIII nearly straight; sternite VIII markedly longer than tergite VIII, with posterior margin rounded. Body length 2.1 mm.

2. *Acrotona piceorufa* (Mulsant et Rey, 1873)

Colpodota piceorufa Mulsant et Rey, 1873: 154.

Atheta piceorufa ssp. *breiti* Brundin, 1952: 129, **syn. n.**

A study of a quite large material (more than 60 specimens) available from various localities in Hungary, Romania and Serbia (HNHM) revealed that *Acrotona piceorufa* was a fairly variable species. The body size, the proportions of the antennal segments, and the width of the pronotum, etc. vary slightly in examined specimens but this variation is continuous. According to my measuring, the body length is 1.8–2.3 mm. The postocular region is 1.3–1.5 times longer than the eye. The width to length ratio of antennal segment X is 1.7–2.0. The pronotal width to length ratio is 1.28–1.40. The elytral suture (measured from apex of scutellum to inner apical angles) is 0.80–0.85 times shorter than the pronotum. The size and the shape of the aedeagus is also variable but the difference between figures 50 and 51 in Brundin (1952) is within the range of variability of this species. I consider *Atheta piceorufa* ssp. *breiti* to be a synonym of *Colpodota piceorufa*.

3. *Aleochara signata* (J. Sahlberg, 1876)

Baryodma signata J. Sahlberg, 1876: 75.

Aleochara accepta Likovský, 1972: 162, **syn. n.**

Aleochara tertiaria V. B. Semenov, 1998: 15.

A study of the type material of *Aleochara accepta* (HNHM) revealed that this taxon is conspecific with *A. signata*. The body size, as well as the size and the shape of the aedeagus and spermatheca vary considerably in examined specimens but this variation is almost continuous. In the genus *Aleochara*, such extreme range in body length and also in genitalia is usual within a given species. The difference between figures 2: 8–11 and 3: 1–2, as well as figures 3: 5 and 3: 6 in Semenov (1998) is within the range of variability of *Aleochara signata*. Since there is little doubt that the species under discussion are the same, *Aleochara accepta* is here placed in the synonymy with *Baryodma signata*.

4. *Atheta (Oreostiba) bosnica* Ganglbauer, 1895

Atheta bosnica Ganglbauer, 1895: 220.

Atheta (Liogluta) rugosipennis G. Benick, 1943: 11, **syn. n.**

The description of *Atheta rugosipennis* (Benick, 1943) was based on one male specimen collected at “Velika-Kapela-Gebirge am Bigela-Stiena-Berg” (= Bijele Stijene), Croatia (leg. Weirather). For reasons unknown to me, it was synonymized

with *Homalota tibialis* Heer, 1839 by Vogel (2004). A study of the holotype (MHNG) revealed that it was a male specimen of *Atheta bosnica*. The antennal segment III of the type specimen is a little longer than the segment II, as well as the abdominal tergite VIII and the aedeagus are distinctive (for a description and the illustrations, see Brundin, 1940). *Atheta rugosipennis* is similar to *A. bosnica* in every respect. Therefore, *Atheta rugosipennis* is removed from synonymy with *Homalota tibialis* and placed in synonymy with *Atheta bosnica*.

Atheta bosnica occurs in the Balkan Peninsula and in the Southern Carpathians. The closest relative, *Atheta tibialis*, seems to be restricted to the Northern and Eastern Carpathians in Southeast Europe. Its occurrence in the Dinaric Mountains is unproved.

5. *Atheta (Philhygra) elongatula* (Gravenhorst, 1802)

Aleochara elongatula Gravenhorst, 1802: 79.

Atheta (Metaxya) transsilvanica G. Benick, 1943: 6, **syn. n.**

Benick (1943) based his description of *Atheta transsilvanica* on one female specimen from “Roteturmpaß in den Transsilvanischen Alpen” (= Pasul Turnu Roşu), Romania (leg. Breit). A study of the holotype (NMW) revealed that it was a female specimen of *Atheta elongatula*. The type is a large (about 4.0 mm long) and more or less reddish coloured specimen but its diagnostic characters agree completely with those of *Atheta elongatula* (for a description, and an illustration of the female genitalia of that species, see Brundin, 1944). I have seen a similar specimen from Königgrätz (= Hradec Králové, Bohemia) (leg. Eppelsheim; NMW), assigned to *Atheta gyllenhalii* (Thomson, 1856).

6. *Atheta taxiceroides* Munster, 1932

Atheta taxiceroides Munster, 1932: 12.

Atheta (Atheta) olbrichi Scheerpeltz, 1947: 295, **syn. n.**

Scheerpeltz (1947) described *Atheta olbrichi* on the basis of two female specimens from “Lainzer Tiergarten bei Wien”, Austria (leg. Scheerpeltz). I have examined the types (NMW), and these specimens turned out to be females of *Atheta taxiceroides*. According to literature sources (see Muona, 1975), this is a very rare species known from a few points of Europe (Scandinavia, England and the Beskid Mountains). Lohse (1989) mentioned it, under the name *Atheta olbrichi*, also from Hungary (without specifying the exact locality), providing an illustration of abdominal tergite VIII of the male. This record, however, should be treated with doubt, as the figure refers to an aberrant (but not specifically rare) form of *Atheta picipes* (Thomson, 1856). Since then I examined a female specimen from Zirc, Bakony Mountains (leg. Kutasi; HNHM), so the occurrence of *Atheta taxiceroides* in Hungary was unquestionable. In Southeast Europe *Atheta taxiceroides* occurs primarily in the higher mountains, mainly in beech forests (e. g. *Abieti-Fagetum sylvaticae*), where it is not definitely rare, especially in the late autumnal days. It lives on fungous plant material, oozing sap of trees, fermenting fruits, etc. Recently, György Makranczy collected this species in large number by wine trap, in Plješevica Mountains, Croatia.

7. *Phloeopora scribae* Eppelsheim, 1884

Phloeopora scribae Eppelsheim, 1884: 169.

Phloeopora bokori Bernhauer, 1929: 195, **syn. n.**

Bernhauer (1929) described *Phloeopora bokori* on the basis of one specimen from “Tolnam” (= Tolna megye), Hungary (leg. Bokor). (Knowing the collector’s life history, the specimen was most likely collected at Simontornya.) I have examined the holotype (FMC), and this specimen turned out to be *Phloeopora scribae*. This is a relatively rare species, which I have seen from a few points in Hungary (e. g. Gyula, Kerecsend, Pécs).

8. *Platyola balcanica* Scheerpeltz, 1958

Platyola balcanica Scheerpeltz, 1958: 431.

Platyola austriaca Scheerpeltz, 1959: 11, **syn. n.**

Scheerpeltz (1958) described *Platyola balcanica* from Greece (“im südlichen Epirus in der Umgebung von Nisista, Xerovuni”), mentioning specimens also from “Süddalmatien, Herzegowina, Montenegro, Nordalbanien”. One year later (Scheerpeltz, 1959) he described another *Platyola* species from Austria (“Bad-Vöslau in Niederösterreich”), listing specimens also from “Perchtholdsdorf bei Wien”, “Lainzer Tiergartens’ bei Wien” and “Bisamberg bei Wien”. A study of the type material of both species (NMW) revealed that these were the same species even if morphologically somewhat distinct. The degree of variation especially in the size of the eyes is indeed remarkable, but I have been unable to find any sexual characters corresponding to the external character differences. The body size and the length of the eyes, etc. vary in examined specimens but this variation is continuous. In Aleocharinae, such difference in body length and eye length is not unusual within the same species. The aedeagus and the spermatheca of the two species are in fact identical (a few specimens were examined but types are not dissected). Since there is little doubt that the types are conspecific, so *Platyola austriaca* is here placed in the synonymy of *P. balcanica*.

My examination of the spermatheca of *Platyola balcanica* demonstrates that it has a very similar shape in comparison to that of *P. fusicornis* (Mulsant et Rey, 1853). The difference between the males of *Platyola balcanica* and *P. fusicornis* in the secondary sexual characters and the shape of genitalia is also insignificant. However, considering the gap between the ranges of the two species and the minor difference in genitalia the separate status of the two seems justified.

Platyola balcanica seems to be widespread in Southeast Europe, especially in the Balkan Peninsula. I have seen several specimens also from Hungary (Alsószolca, Békés, Budapest, Keszthely, and Mecsek Mountains), as well as from Romania (Băile Herculane) (HNHM, KFM). It occurs in South-eastern parts of Central Europe (the edges of the Eastern Alps, Austria). Literature sources mentioned it (under the name *Platyola fusicornis*) from Slovakia and Bohemia (Moravia), too. I have seen a specimen also from Lenkoran, Azerbaijan (HNHM) but its identity is in doubt.

New combination

Atheta (*Bernhaueria*) *paradoxa* (Rambousek, 1916), **comb. n., stat. n.**

Bernhaueria paradoxa Rambousek, 1916: 87.

(Figs 1 A-C, 2 A, B)

The description of *Bernhaueria paradoxa* (Rambousek, 1916) was based on one male specimen collected at “Insel Ada-Ciganlija unweit Belgrad” (= Zemun, Ada Ciganlija, Serbia) (leg. Rambousek). A study of the material available, i. e. the holotype (NMP) and a female from Újcsanáros: Ócsanárosi-part, Hungary (leg. Hegyessy; KFM) revealed that *Bernhaueria paradoxa* was a species of the genus *Atheta*. As the original description of *Bernhaueria* is inadequate in some respects, I find it best to provide a redescription.

Bernhaueria paradoxa is the type species of the genus *Bernhaueria* Rambousek, 1916 by monotypy. In my opinion, all characters mentioned by Rambousek in the description of *Bernhaueria* fit the genus *Atheta* in the broad sense. The type species of *Bernhaueria* is similar to other species of *Atheta* with pronotal pubescence pattern of type II and V, respectively. I consider *Bernhaueria* to be a synonym of *Atheta* at the rank of genus.

Redescription.

Body length 2.7–3.1 mm. Length of forebody 1.29–1.42 mm. Pronotal width 0.51–0.57, length 0.43–0.46 mm.

Body more or less bicoloured. Head black to blackish brown. Pronotum brown to reddish brown. Elytra brownish red, slightly darker around sutural angle. Abdomen brownish black to blackish brown. Antennae brownish black, antennomeres I–III brownish red. Legs light brownish red.

Body weakly fusiform. Surface with dense microreticulation, and with more or less reclinate pubescence. Forebody with pronounced microreticulation of approximately isodiametric meshes, surface weakly shining. Abdomen glossier, with fine, somewhat obsolete microreticulation of moderately transverse meshes. Vertex, pronotum, elytra and abdominal tergites with more or less distinct, moderately dense, and asperate puncturation. Punctures on vertex fine, faintly asperate, obsolescent in the middle, difficult to see among microreticulation, and distinctly smaller than interstices. Puncturation of pronotum somewhat stronger than that of head; punctures faintly asperate, and smaller than interstices. Elytra with distinctly asperate puncturation, which a little stronger than that of pronotum; punctures on average a little smaller than interstices. Abdominal tergites III–V finely and less densely punctured; puncturation becoming finer and sparser toward abdominal apex; punctures, especially on last tergites smaller than interstices.

Head slightly transverse, 1.24–1.31 times wider than long (length measured from anterior margin of clypeus), with rounded posterior angles. Vertex with pubescence directed posteromedially. Surface slightly flattened. Eyes relatively small, not prominent, and distinctly shorter than postocular region in dorsal view. Postocular region 1.4–1.6 times longer than eye. Temples completely margined; occipital carinae extend from occipital region to hypostoma.

Antennae not especially stout, slightly incrassate apically. Antennomeres II and III elongate. Antennomere III about as long as II. Antennomeres IV–X distinctly increasing in width apically. Antennomere IV slightly transverse, X moderately

transverse, 1.7–2.0 times wider than long. Antennomere XI suboval and barely longer than combined length of antennomeres IX and X.

Pronotum weakly transverse, 1.20–1.25 times wider than long and 1.16–1.18 times wider than head. Surface slightly convex, with relatively large, slightly flattened area along median line, and with very shallow circular impression near posterior margin. Posterior angles feebly marked, obtuse. Microsetae directed posteriorly along midline, and more or less posterolaterally in lateral portion on the disc (type II; see Höeg, 1945). Hypomera fully but narrowly visible in lateral view.

Elytra wider, and at suture (measured from apex of scutellum to inner apical angles) 0.96–0.97 times shorter than pronotum. Microsetae directed somewhat posterolaterally on the disc. Posterior margin near posterolateral angle barely emarginate. Wings fully developed.

Legs relatively short. Tarsal segmentation 4-5-5. Each tarsus with one empodial seta shorter than claws. Tarsal claws of similar length, external claw about as long as internal one. Medial macroseta of mesotibia fairly conspicuous, about 1.5 times longer than tibial width. Metatarsus distinctly shorter than metatibia. First metatarsomere about as long as second, and much shorter than the combined length of second and third metatarsomeres. Last metatarsomere much longer than first.

Abdomen more or less fusiform, widest at segment IV, slightly narrower than elytra. Abdominal tergites III–V with moderately deep transverse basal impression. Posterior margin of tergite VII with distinct white fringe.

Male: posterior margin of abdominal tergite VIII with four denticles: lateral ones narrow, acutely pointed, curved interiorly, and a little shorter than the inner ones; inner ones fairly wide and obtuse. Each denticle with a small, oblong knob at its base (Fig. 2 A). Abdominal sternite VIII barely longer than tergite VIII. Posterior margin of sternite VIII convex, ogival. Median lobe of aedeagus with dorsal bridge, and with unmodified ventral process (Fig. 1 A–B).

Female: posterior margin of abdominal tergite VIII convex and deeply emarginate in the middle (Fig. 2 B). Abdominal sternite VIII barely longer than tergite VIII. Posterior margin of sternite VIII convex but shallowly emarginate in the middle. Spermatheca without umbilicus, and with relatively long duct, with coiled proximal portion (Fig. 1 C).

Comparative notes.

Atheta paradoxa is apparently most closely related to some species of *Atheta* with pronotal pubescence pattern of type II and V (e. g. the species of the subgenus *Alaobia* Thomson, 1858 and *Ceritaxa* Mulsant et Rey, 1873). It has several diagnostic characters of the referred groups, namely the pronotal pubescence pattern, the remarkable secondary sexual characters of the male, and the shape of the spermatheca, etc. However, its other features, first of all the secondary sexual characters of the female are quite different. Taking into account these differences, the subgeneric assignment of *Atheta paradoxa* and the status of the name *Bernhaueria* are somewhat ambiguous.

Atheta paradoxa is doubtless a very rare species. It most likely distributed in the forested regions of South-eastern Europe but at the moment is known only from one locality in North-eastern Hungary and from the type locality in Serbia. Its ecology is unknown. The type specimen was found at the time of high flood of the river Save, probably in flood deposit. The specimen from Hungary was collected by a pitfall trap on the southernmost part of the high bank of river Hernád, on loessy clay soil.

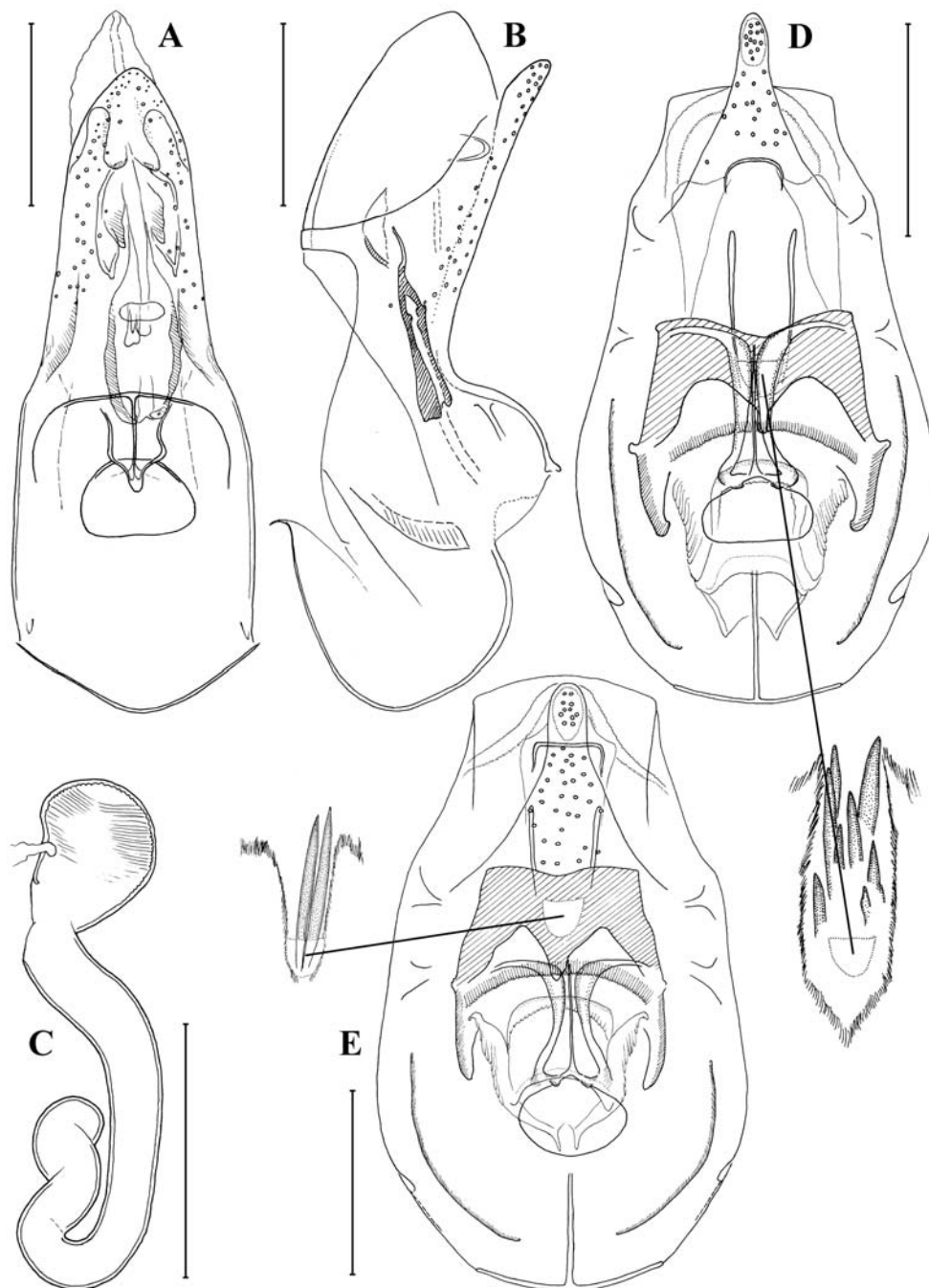


Fig. 1 – *Atheta (Bernhaueria) paradoxa* (Rambousek). Median lobe of aedeagus: A, ventral view; B, lateral view; C, spermateca. *Atheta (Philhygra) hygrobia* (Thomson). D, median lobe of aedeagus (ventral view). *A. (Ph.) vindobonensis* Brundin. E, median lobe of aedeagus (ventral view). Scales (in mm): A–B, D–E 0.1; C 0.2.

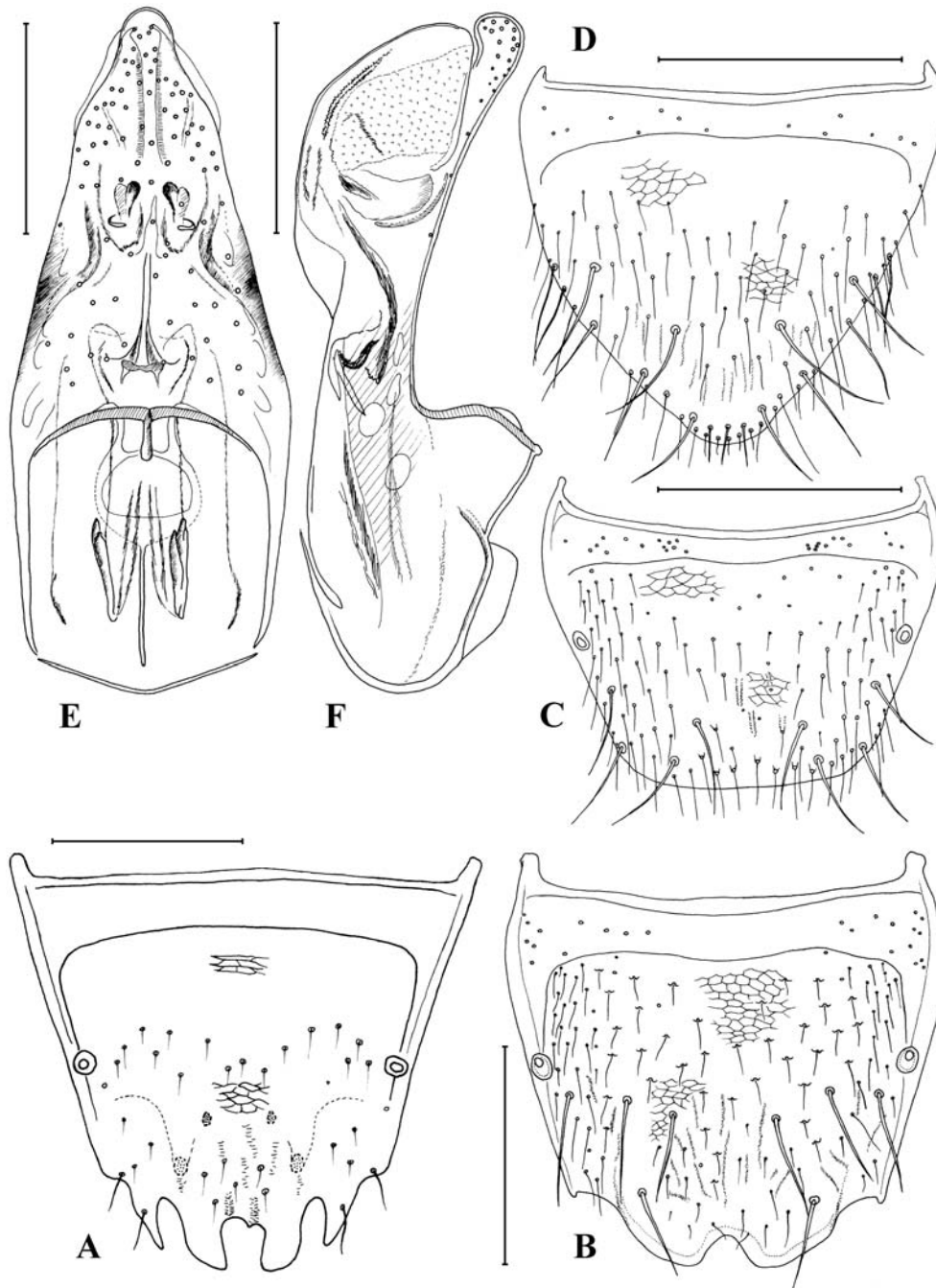


Fig. 2 – *Atheta (Bernhaueria) paradoxa* (Rambousek). A, male tergite VIII; B, female tergite VIII. *Atheta (Pseudothinoecia) puellaris* Bernhauer. C, male tergite VIII; D, male sternite VIII; E, median lobe of aedeagus in ventral view; F, lateral view. Scales (in mm): A–D 0.2; E–F 0.1.

*Discussions**Atheta monacha* Bernhauer, 1899*Atheta (Liogluta) monacha* Bernhauer, 1899 b: 425.

Bernhauer (1899 b) described this species from “Krupathale in Bosnien” (= valley of Krupa river) (leg. Apfelbeck). I have examined a few specimens of the type material, and other specimens from various localities, e. g. Fiume (= Rijeka), Croatia (leg. Kelecsényi); Pazariæ, Krupa-Th., antrum pr. Glamoè (= valley of Krupa river, a cave close to Glamoè), Bosnia (leg. Apfelbeck); Wochein, Carniolia (= Bohinj, Slovenia) (leg. Breit) (HNHM, NMW).

Atheta monacha shows some relationship to some species of the genus *Aloconota* Thomson, 1858, having a long, fairly conspicuous empodial seta on each tarsus. It may be distinguished from the most similar *Aloconota debilicornis* (Erichson, 1839) by the following characters: *Aloconota debilicornis* has larger eyes; its postocular region is 0.7–0.8 times shorter than the eye; its antennomere X is 1.0–1.2 times wider than, or as wide as long; the abdominal tergites VII and VIII of male have fairly conspicuous sexual characters, the former is furnished with a median longitudinal keel and the latter with several tiny apical teeth on posterior margin, respectively. *Atheta monacha* has smaller eyes; its postocular region is 1.0–1.2 times longer than, or as long as eye; its antennomere X is 1.3–1.6 times wider than long; the abdominal tergites VII and VIII of male have no the above-mentioned secondary sexual characters.

Atheta (Philhygra) vindobonensis Brundin, 1944, **stat. n.***Atheta magniceps* subsp. *vindobonensis* Brundin, 1944: 240.

(Fig. 1 E)

Brundin (1944) described *Atheta magniceps* subsp. *vindobonensis* on the basis of several specimens from “Niederdonau: Stockerau” (leg. Bernhauer, Skalitzky), “Umg. Wien” (= vicinity of Vienna) (leg. Winkler), “Lang-Enzersdorf” (leg. Luze) and “Ulrichskirchen” (leg. Spurny), Austria. He also mentioned one female specimen from “Mte. Pollino in Calabrien” (leg. Brundin), Italy. I have examined a few specimens of the type material (NMW), and several specimens from Hungary (HNHM, KFM), from Háromhuta, István-kút (leg. Hegyessy), Lakitelek, Töserdõ (leg. Ádám and Hámori). I have also examined a male specimen of *Atheta hygrobia* (Thomson, 1856) from Hannover, Germany (leg. Assing; cAss).

In my opinion *Atheta vindobonensis* and *A. hygrobia* (Fig. 1 D) should be considered as distinct species, though they are almost totally identical in external characters. The aedeagi of the two species in lateral view are less distinctive, although the basal capsule in case of *Atheta vindobonensis* is more oblong, and the medial lamellae of internal sac are distinctive (for the illustrations, see Brundin, 1944). In ventral view the aedeagi show more characteristic difference (Fig. 1 D, E). The females are practically indistinguishable from each other.

Atheta vindobonensis is known to occur in the South-eastern part of Central Europe (Austria), as well as South and Southeast Europe (Italy and Hungary, respectively). There is a good reason to believe that it substitutes *Atheta hygrobia* in these areas. The latter species seems to be widespread in North Europe, as well as

northern parts and higher mountains of Central Europe, respectively. Its occurrence in South and Southeast Europe needs to be reexamined.

Atheta (Pseudothinoecia) puellaris Bernhauer, 1899

Atheta (Pseudothinoecia) puellaris Bernhauer, 1899 a: 21.

(Fig. 2 C-F)

Bernhauer (1899 a) described this species from “Umgebung von Castelnuovo in Dalmatien” (= vicinity of Hercegnovi, Crna Gora) (leg. Paganetti-Hummler). Based on a study of the type material (FMC, HNHM), in order to facilitate future recognition, the species is here redescribed and illustrated.

Atheta puellaris is the type species of the subgenus *Pseudothinoecia* Bernhauer, 1899 (by monotypy). This species shares some diagnostic characters with the genus *Aloconota* Thomson, 1858, particularly the very distinct empodial seta, however, it is presumably not closely related to the species of the named genus.

Redescription.

Body length 2.0–2.3 mm. Length of forebody 0.63–0.81 mm. Pronotal width about 0.39 mm, length 0.36–0.37 mm.

Body slightly bicoloured. Head yellowish brown. Pronotum brownish yellow. Elytra light brownish yellow. Abdomen yellowish brown, with segment VI blackish brown, and with segments V and VII also more or less dark. Antennae brownish yellow. Legs yellow.

Body weakly fusiform. Surface with dense microreticulation, and fine, reclinate pubescence. Surface weakly shining. Vertex, pronotum and abdominal tergites with almost indiscernible puncturation. Elytra with fine, obsolete, indistinctly asperate puncturation.

Head hardly transverse or quadrate, 1.00–1.04 times wider than, or as wide as long (length measured from anterior margin of clypeus). Vertex with pubescence directed anterolaterally. Surface flattened, with a shallow longitudinal median furrow and a shallow median groove. Eyes relatively large and prominent, and a little shorter than postocular region in dorsal view. Postocular region about 1.1 times longer than eye. Temples not completely margined; occipital carinae short, present only at occipital region.

Antennae relatively slender, barely incrassate apically. Antennomeres II and III elongate. Antennomere III a little shorter than II. Antennomeres IV–X barely increasing in width apically. Antennomere IV slightly elongate, X quadrate, about as wide as long.

Pronotum barely transverse, 1.03–1.08 times wider than long, and 1.08–1.13 times wider than head. Surface flattened, with relatively large, shallow impression along median line, and with a very shallow impression near posterior margin. Microsetae directed anteriorly along midline, and more or less laterally in lateral portion on the disc (type I; see Höeg, 1945). Hypomera fully but narrowly visible in lateral view.

Elytra wider, and at suture (measured from apex of scutellum to inner apical angles) 0.96–1.00 times shorter than, or as long as pronotum. Microsetae directed posterolaterally on the disc. Posterior margin near posterolateral angle barely emarginate. Wings fully developed.

Legs relatively short. Tarsal segmentation 4-5-5. Each tarsus with one empodial seta longer than claws. Tarsal claws of slightly different length (best

observed in dorsal view), external claw longer than internal one. Medial macroseta of mesotibiae not conspicuous, about as long as tibial width. Metatarsus distinctly shorter than metatibia. Metatarsomere I a little longer than II, and much shorter than the combined length of metatarsomeres II and III. Last metatarsomere much longer than first.

Abdomen more or less fusiform, widest at segment IV, slightly narrower than elytra. Abdominal tergites III–V with moderately deep transverse basal impression. Posterior margin of tergite VII with distinct white fringe.

Male: posterior margin of abdominal tergite VIII weakly convex, almost straight (Fig. 2 C). Abdominal sternite VIII a little longer than tergite VIII. Posterior margin of sternite VIII convex, ogival (Fig. 2 D). Median lobe of aedeagus with dorsal bridge, and with unmodified ventral process (Fig. 2 E–F).

Female: unknown.

Comparative notes.

Atheta puellaris does not possess some diagnostic features currently considered to characterize the genus *Atheta*. In external characters it is very similar to *Aloconota* species. Some species of *Aloconota* have the temples also not completely margined and the pronotum also barely transverse, as well as the pronotal setation pattern similar, etc. All the species of *Aloconota* have also a long empodial seta on each tarsus, which is at least as long as the tarsal claws. The different setation pattern of the vertex, however, allows easy separation of both *Aloconota* and *Pseudothinoecia* (the first one has a pubescence with microsetae directed more or less medially). Based on this difference, *Pseudothinoecia* should not to be a member of the genus *Aloconota*, either.

Pseudothinoecia can be distinguished from the other athetine groups by the combination of the following characters. Body weakly fusiform. Temples not fully margined; occipital carinae short, present only at occipital region. Antennal segment III a little shorter than segment II, segments V–X slightly elongate or quadrate, at most about as wide as long. Pronotum barely transverse, 1.03–1.08 times wider than long, with microsetae directed anteriorly along the midline; in lateral portions of the disc microsetae directed laterally (type I, see Höeg, 1945). Pronotal hypomera visible in lateral view. Medial macroseta of mesotibia inconspicuous and thin, about as long as tibial width. Tarsal formula 4-5-5. Metatarsal segment I a little longer than segment II. Each tarsus with one empodial seta longer than claws. Tarsal claws of slightly different length, external claw longer than internal one. Median lobe of aedeagus with dorsal bridge, and with unmodified ventral process.

At the moment, *Atheta (Pseudothinoecia) puellaris* is known only from the type locality. It is presumably a marine littoral species. Bernhauer (1899 a) noted, that it was found in the company of *Myrmecopora sulcata* (Kiesenwetter, 1850), probably on the seashore.

Neorhagocneme Machulka, 1941

Neorhagocneme Machulka, 1941: 186.

Type species: *Neorhagocneme bohémica* Machulka, 1941: 186 (= *Homalota subsinuata* Erichson, 1839), by monotypy.

Homalota subsinuata and *Atheta fractipes* were placed together in the subgenus *Rhagocneme* Munster, 1923, in the genus *Atheta* Thomson, 1858 by Munster (1923). *Atheta fractipes* Munster, 1923 (= *Atheta dwinensis* Poppius,

1908), the type of the subgenus *Rhagocneme* shares with *Homalota subsinuata* a conspicuous character, the structure of the metatibiae. They are apparently twisted, and compressed before the knee. However, other characters, e. g. the structure of the pronotal hypomera and the length of the mesotibial macroseta seem to be excluding *Homalota subsinuata* from *Rhagocneme*. Recognizing these differences, Machulka (1941) introduced a new generic name for his *Neorhagocneme bohémica* (= *Homalota subsinuata*), however, it was considered a synonym of *Rhagocneme* by subsequent authors.

Examination of the species in question reveals that each species may represent a distinct lineage within the tribe Athetini. *Atheta dwinensis* is closely related to the genus *Atheta* Thomson, 1858, especially to the subgenus *Coproceramius* Gistel, 1857 (*Dimetrota* auct., nec Mulsant et Rey, 1873), having the pronotal hypomera fully visible from lateral aspect, and the mesotibial macroseta is conspicuous, much longer than the mesotibial width. *Homalota subsinuata* is related to the genus *Acrotona* Thomson, 1859, having the pronotal hypomera not visible from lateral view, and mesotibial macroseta is short, inconspicuous, about as long as the tibial width. Considering the above facts, the synonymy of *Neorhagocneme* and *Rhagocneme* is somewhat questionable. Perhaps both should be considered to be distinct groups within the tribe Athetini.

Neorhagocneme can be distinguished from the other athetine groups by the combination of the following characters. Body weakly fusiform. Temples fully margined. Antennal segment III about as long as segment II, segments V–X slightly transverse, at most 1.7 times wider than long. Pronotum slightly transverse, about 1.38 times wider than long, with microsetae directed anteriorly along the midline; in lateral portions of the disc microsetae directed laterally (type I, see Höeg, 1945). Pronotal hypomera not visible in lateral view. Medial macroseta of mesotibia inconspicuous and thin, about as long as tibial width. Metatibiae apparently twisted, and compressed before the knee. Tarsal formula 4-5-5. Metatarsal segment I a little shorter than segment II. Each tarsus with one empodial seta shorter than claws. Tarsal claws of similar length. Median lobe of aedeagus with dorsal bridge, and with unmodified ventral process.

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NOI SINONIMII ȘI NOI COMBINAȚII ASUPRA ALEOCHARINELOR DIN FAUNA EUROPEANĂ (COLEOPTERA: STAPHYLINIDAE)

REZUMAT

Pe baza examinării de material tip și nu numai, opt specii și un gen aparținând subfamiliei Aleocharinae sunt sinonimizate. *Acrotona muscorum* (Brisout de Barneville, 1860) = *Colpodota lacertosa* Mulsant et Rey, 1873, syn. n., *Acrotona piceorufa* (Mulsant et Rey, 1873) = *Atheta piceorufa* ssp. *breiti* Brundin, 1952, syn. n., *Aleochara signata* (J. Sahlberg, 1876) = *Aleochara accepta* Likovský, 1972, syn. n., *Atheta (Oreostiba) bosnica* Ganglbauer, 1895 = *Atheta rugosipennis* G.

Benick, 1943, syn. n., *Atheta (Philhygra) elongatula* (Gravenhorst, 1802) = *Atheta transsilvanica* G. Benick, 1943, syn. n., *Atheta taxiceroides* Munster, 1932 = *Atheta olbrichi* Scheerpeltz, 1947, syn. n., *Phloeopora scribae* Eppelsheim, 1884 = *Phloeopora bokori* Bernhauer, 1929, syn. n., *Platyola balcanica* Scheerpeltz, 1958 = *Platyola austriaca* Scheerpeltz, 1959, syn. n. *Bernhaueria* Rambousek, 1916 este privit ca un subgen al genului *Atheta* Thomson, 1858. Masculul speciei *Atheta (Bernhaueria) paradoxa* (Rambousek, 1916) este redescris, iar femela acestei specii este descrisă pentru prima dată. Este stabilită apartenența speciei *Atheta monacha* Bernhauer, 1899 la genul *Aloconota* Thomson, 1858. *Atheta magniceps* ssp. *vindobonensis* Brundin, 1944 este prezentată ca o specie distinctă. Sunt discutate statutul și rangul subgenului *Pseudothinoecia* Bernhauer, 1899. Este redescrisă *Atheta puellaris* Bernhauer, 1899. Sunt prezentate câteva observații în ceea ce privește relația dintre genurile *Rhagocneme* Munster, 1923 și *Neorhagocneme* Machulka, 1941.

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