

Review of the genus *Macromonycha* (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Cassidinae)

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Abstract. The genus *Macromonycha* Spaeth, 1911, currently including three species, is reviewed based on the study of type material. In addition, *M. kantnerorum* sp. nov. is described from Jordan and Turkey. The lectotype of *Cassida suberosa* Weise, 1889, is designated. Detailed distributional data are given for *M. apicalis*, which is recorded for the first time from Iran and Syria. All known species of the genus are keyed and figured.

Key words. Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae, Cassidinae, taxonomy, new species, lectotype designation, Palaearctic region, Iran, Jordan, Syria, Turkey.

Introduction

SPAETH (1911) proposed the genus *Macromonycha* Spaeth, 1911, for a single species *Cassida apicalis* Gebler, 1845, and synonymized *Cassida olivieri* Boheman, 1854, with it. Weise in REITTER (1889) described *Cassida suberosa* Weise, 1889, from 'Chodsha-kala' (Turkmenistan), and 'Araxesthal' (Armenia) and mentioned that the species resembles only *Cassida atrata* Fabricius, 1787, ignoring Gebler's description of *C. apicalis*. Later on, *C. suberosa* was synonymized with *M. apicalis* (SPAETH 1914b). Another species described by Weise – *Chiridula anatolica* Weise, 1900 – was considered as valid and transferred to *Macromonycha* (SPAETH 1914a). MAULIK (1923) described *Kari brunnea* Maulik, 1923, but he evidently overlooked the genus *Macromonycha*, and his new genus and species were soon synonymized with *M. anatolica* by SPAETH & REITTER (1926). Consequently, SPAETH & REITTER (1926) downgraded *M. anatolica* to a subspecies of *M. apicalis*. However, SPAETH & REITTER (1926) never examined the type of *K. brunnea*. It was studied recently by BOROWIEC (2001) and synonymized with *M. apicalis*. BOROWIEC (1999, 2001) also re-examined the type of *M. anatolica*, restored it to the species rank, and provided a detailed redescription.

Both described species live in arid habitats in the Near East and central Asia. They belong to very rare species that are collected only scarcely, and data on their distribution are very poor. I have recently examined specimens collected in Jordan and 'Anatolia' [= present Turkey], which belong to an additional undescribed species. Its description is given below together with a key and review of all known species.