

Tituboea attenuata, a new synonym of *T. biguttata*
(Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Clytrinae)

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Abstract. Based on the study of type material, *Tituboea attenuata* (Fairmaire, 1875) is considered a new synonym of *T. biguttata* (Olivier, 1791). The aedeagi of both species are indistinguishable. A lectotype is designated for *T. attenuata*.

Key words. Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae, Clytrinae, *Tituboea*, new synonymy, taxonomy, Palaearctic region, Tunisia

During a recent visit to the Museo Civico di Storia Naturale ‘Giacomo Doria’, Genova, Italy, I had the possibility to study numerous type specimens deposited there, including two syntypes (male and female) of *Tituboea attenuata* (Fairmaire, 1875) (Figs. 1–2). Although the specimens bear the labels ‘typus’ and ‘paratypus’ added by subsequent curators, I treat them as syntypes. The male is designated here as the lectotype. The species was described as *Clytra (Tituboea) attenuata* based on an unspecified number of specimens from ‘Kéruan, Ludien’ (= Tunisia) (FAIRMAIRE 1875). It is likely that the two specimens are a complete type series. FAIRMAIRE (1875) compared *T. attenuata* with *Clytra sexpunctata* (Olivier, 1808), now a synonym of *T. biguttata* (Olivier, 1791), and distinguished *T. attenuata* as follows: base of pronotum broader than elytra, pronotum of male without black markings, colouration more reddish, fore tibiae more curved in male, and epistoma more convex and unicolorous.

In his key to the identification of European and Mediterranean Chrysomelidae, WARCHAŁOWSKI (2003) placed *T. attenuata* in one couplet with *T. biguttata*, common in the western and middle Mediterranean region, but he probably treated another species erroneously as *T. attenuata*. His description does not fit the type material of *T. attenuata*, e.g., the head is red and the hind pair of black spots on elytra is confluent in *T. attenuata* sensu WARCHAŁOWSKI (2003), while the head is black and the spots are separated in both syntypes.

The dissection of the lectotype showed that the aedeagi of *T. attenuata* (Figs. 3–4) and *T. biguttata* (WARCHAŁOWSKI 2003, aedeagi from a large series of specimens deposited in various collections) are indistinguishable. The colouration (black head, orange-red pronotum, each elytron with four black spots) and the other characters mentioned above fall within the broad variability of *T. biguttata*. I therefore establish the following synonymy: