

**Contribution to the synonymies, distributions,
and bionomics of the Old World species of *Macrosiagon*
(Coleoptera: Ripiphoridae)**

Jan BATELKA

Nad vodovodem 16, CZ-100 00 Prague 10, Czech Republic; e-mail: janbat@centrum.cz

Abstract. Selected material of 26 species of *Macrosiagon* Hentz, 1830 from the Old World and Australia has been studied. Based on the examination of type specimens, the following 27 species group names are synonymised in this paper: *Macrosiagon axillaris* (Gerstaecker, 1855) = *M. maculaticeps* Pic, 1913, syn. nov., = *M. axillare* var. *bedoci* Pic, 1930, syn. nov., = *M. subparallellum* Pic, 1930, syn. nov., = *M. elongatum* Pic, 1950, syn. nov., = *M. axillare* var. *discithorax* Pic, 1951, syn. nov., = *M. axillare* var. *senegalense* Pic, 1951a, syn. nov., = *M. axillare* var. *senegalense* Pic, 1951b, syn. nov., = *M. conradsi* Pic, 1951, syn. nov.; *Macrosiagon bequaerti* Pic, 1913, stat.nov. = *M. diversipenne* Pic, 1930, syn. nov., = *M. monardi* Pic, 1949, syn. nov., = *M. rubronotatum* Pic, 1950, syn. nov., = *M. rubronotatum* var. *leyei* Pic, 1950, syn. nov., = *M. villiersi* Pic, 1953, syn. nov.; *Macrosiagon bifasciata* (Marseul, 1877) = *M. medana* Pic, 1910, syn. nov.; *Macrosiagon biguttata* (Blanchard, 1846) = *Rhipiphorus biguttatus* Blanchard, 1853, syn. nov.; *Macrosiagon bimaculata* (Fabricius, 1787) = *Rhipiphorus dubius* Motschulsky, 1849, syn. nov.; *Macrosiagon caffra* (Fåhræus, 1870) = *M. caffrum* var. *fahraeusi* Pic, 1953, syn. nov.; *Macrosiagon ferruginea* (Fabricius, 1775) = *Rhipiphorus indicus* Hope, 1831, syn. nov.; *Macrosiagon gabonica* Pic, 1950 = *M. senegalense* Pic, 1951, syn. nov.; *Macrosiagon inferna* (Schaufuss, 1872) = *Rhipiphorus lugubris* Fairmaire, 1887, syn. nov., = *Macrosiagon longipes* Pic, 1929, syn. nov., = *M. longicolle* Pic, 1931, syn. nov., = *M. longithorax* Pic, 1947, syn. nov.; *Macrosiagon marcelli* Alluaud, 1902 = *M. lemoulti* Pic, 1930, syn. nov., = *M. theresae* Pic, 1950, syn. nov., = *M. auberti* Pic, 1951, syn. nov.; *Macrosiagon signaticollis* Pic, 1907 = *M. signaticollis* var. *usambarensis* Pic, 1909, syn. nov. *Macrosiagon axillaris* var. *bequaerti* Pic, 1913 is raised to species status. The lectotype of *Emenadia armata* Waterhouse, 1883 is designated. *Aerva javanica* (Burm.f.) Juss. and *Sericocomopsis* sp. (*S. hildebrandtii* Schinz or *S. pallida* (S.Moore) Schinz) (both Amaranthaceae: Aervinae) are reported as the plants visited by adults of *Macrosiagon terminata* (Laporte, 1840) and *M. ferruginea* in the Arabian Peninsula, Sudan and Kenya. The plant subfamily Aervinae is recognised as playing an important role in the bionomics of these two *Macrosiagon* species in the area. Nine *Macrosiagon* species groups are recognised, six of them are newly

established; *M. bifasciata* species group is redefined and additional species have been proposed for inclusion. Three *Macrosiagon* species, *M. axilaris*, *M. caffra* and *M. inferna*, were found to occur both in continental Africa and Madagascar. Their possible significance for future biogeographic studies is shortly outlined. Eight species of *Macrosiagon* are identified as widely distributed Afrotropical species. The first distributional records from the following countries or provinces are given: Africa: Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Madagascar, Namibia, Nigeria, Republic of South Africa, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe; Asia: Bhutan, China (Gansu, Guizhou, Hainan Isl.), India (Darjeeling, Himachal Pradesh, Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh), Indonesia (Java, Kalimantan, Sulawesi, Sumatra), Iran, Laos, New Guinea, Pakistan, Philippines, Solomon Isl., Sri Lanka, 'Thibet' and Vietnam; Australia: Queensland; Europe: continental Greece.

Key words. Coleoptera, Ripiphoridae, *Macrosiagon*, taxonomy, new synonymy, distribution, Old World, bionomics

Introduction

The genus *Macrosiagon* Hentz, 1830 is distributed worldwide with about 230 available species group names. Of the 92 available species group names from the Palaearctic Region only 16 are currently recognised as valid (BATELKA 2008a, this study). However, the taxonomy of *Macrosiagon* is still burdened with numerous unrecognized and invalid names, complicating our understanding of the distribution and biogeography of many species and species groups. Some *Macrosiagon* species are variable in size, color, density of punctation (e.g. on different regions of the pronotum), even in the shape of the body (allometry) and some of the diagnostic characters (e.g. metatarsomeres or medial lobe of the pronotal disc). This variability may be caused by larval development under different conditions or on different hosts and can sometimes make it difficult to match individual specimens of the same species.

While the process of updating synonymies has been nearly completed for Palaearctic and Oriental Regions, with only several taxonomic problems remaining (BATELKA 2003, 2004, 2007a, 2008b; BATELKA & HOEHN 2007), the systematics of the genus in Africa is still unclear due to several tens of unrevised species group names. These were mostly established by Maurice Pic and are known only from his descriptions based on single type specimens. Moreover, many *Macrosiagon* species are widely distributed, sometimes even across several continents, and Pic's species-concept of 'many endemic taxa' is apparently incorrect. Pic often compared his *Macrosiagon* species or varieties with taxa from different species groups; thus they cannot be correctly identified owing to his vague diagnoses. The decision about their validity without the relevant types in hand has not been possible. In this study I continue with the review of type material associated with species distributed in the Old World, result-