

## On the identity of *Chalcionellus orcinus* and *Chalcionellus libanicola* (Coleoptera: Histeridae)

Tomáš LACKNER

The Hokkaido University Museum, N10 W8 Sapporo, 060-0810 Japan; email: lackobelansky@mac.com

**Abstract.** The synonymy of *Chalcionellus libanicola* (Marseul, 1870) and *Chalcionellus orcinus* Reichardt, 1932 is rejected based on the examination of the type specimens of both species and *Chalcionellus orcinus* stat. restit. is reinstated as a valid species. The two species differ mainly in the structure of frontal disc, length of elytral striation, shape and punctuation of pronotum, absence/presence of slight metallic luster on the elytra and male genitalia. The lectotype of *Chalcionellus libanicola* is designated.

**Key words.** *Chalcionellus libanicola*, *Chalcionellus orcinus*, taxonomy, Saprininae, Histeridae, Coleoptera, Palearctic region.

### Introduction

The extremely rare species *Chalcionellus libanicola* was described from ‘Mt. Liban’, Lebanon by MARSEUL (1870) under the name *Saprinus libanicola*. This description was based on very incomplete specimens. Presently, only one of these specimens remains in the collection of MNHN, its sex cannot be recognized (genitalia lost) and it is generally in very poor condition. Without examining the type specimens, REICHARDT (1932) placed this species correctly into the genus *Chalcionellus* and in the same paper he described another species *Chalcionellus orcinus* from Kyrgyzstan; the species was later reported also from Uzbekistan and Turkey (KRYZHANOVSKIJ & REICHARDT 1976, MAZUR 1997b). MAZUR (1997a,b) synonymized *Ch. orcinus* with *Ch. libanicola* without examining the type specimen of *Ch. orcinus* (Mazur, pers. comm.), and examined an additional specimen belonging to *Ch. libanicola* from Turkey. ROZNER (2010) reported *Ch. libanicola* from Turkey without stating the number of collected specimens. One of the reported specimens (the single collected specimen?) has been preserved in the collection of P. Kanaar (Oegstgeest, the Netherlands) who had identified it. Kanaar’s collection has been bequeathed to RMNH and after having borrowed and examined this specimen I came to the conclusion that it belongs to the species *Ch. orcinus* (see below).

Both these species can be best separated from other congeners of the genus *Chalcionellus* by the key provided in KRYZHANOVSKIJ & REICHARDT (1976: 188). Their main distinguishing