

## On the identity of *Bledius paradoxus* (Staphylinidae)

György MAKRANCZY

Department of Zoology, Hungarian Natural History Museum, H-1088 Budapest, Baross utca 13,  
Hungary; e-mail: makranczy@zoo.nhmus.hu

**Abstract.** The types of *Bledius paradoxus* Gridelli, 1936, syn. nov. (described from Italy: Basilicata, Lavello) are studied and the taxon is found to be identical to *Bledius corniger* Rosenhauer, 1856.

**Key words.** Coleoptera, Oxytelinae, *Bledius paradoxus*, new synonymy, Italy

In 2002 Adriano Zanetti and Alessandro Ciceroni kindly brought me the two syntypes of *Bledius paradoxus* Gridelli, 1936 for personal examination from Museo Civico di Storia Naturale, Trieste, Italy (MCST) and Museo di Storia Naturale di Roma, Roma, Italy (MSNR, coll. Luigioni). The results based on the study of both specimens are summarized below.

### *Bledius paradoxus* Gridelli, 1936, syn. nov. = *B. corniger* Rosenhauer, 1856

**Type material examined** [labels separated by '\', lines by ';']. *Bledius paradoxus*: SYNTYPES: Syntype 1 (male, dissected): 'Basilicata; Lavello; leg. Leoni [handwritten] \ Typus! [handwritten] \ [on the back:] Gridelli 1936 \ Typus (printed) \ Bledius (s. str.); paradoxus; mihi; det. Gridelli 1936 \ Bledius; corniger Rosenhauer; det. Makranczy, 2002' (MCST). Syntype 2: 'Basilicata; Lavello; Leoni (printed) \ Bledius (s. str.); paradoxus; Typus! mihi; det. Gridelli 1936 \ Bledius; corniger Rosenhauer; det. Makranczy, 2002' (MSNR).

**Notes on taxonomy.** *Bledius paradoxus* was regarded as a very odd taxon not encountered since its description. GRIDELLI (1936: 60) described the species on the basis of two specimens from the same locality (they might have been originally on the same pin because one set of labels is hand-copied from the printed other). From dorsal view it appears as they are without a pronotal horn, however, a look at the anterior pronotal edge at high magnification from the front or side reveals a clean, smooth-edged hole in the cuticle where the horn is missing. It is unsure whether the horns were removed purposely to make the specimens look as an undescribed species, or it was the result of some developmental anomaly (e.g. damage in the pupal stage by a predator chewing off the horns) or other accident. Both syntypes were examined and *Bledius paradoxus* is hereby formally synonymized with *Bledius corniger* Rosenhauer, 1856, a species already known from South Italy. HERMAN (1986) placed *B. paradoxus* (without a personal examination of the types, but based on characters other than the pronotal horn) in the *B. unicornis* complex of the *B. gigantulus* species group. This is absolutely correct, as *Bledius corniger* is a member of this group.

### References

- GRIDELLI E. 1936: Osservazioni su alcune specie di *Bledius* della fauna italiana (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae). *Bollettino della Società Entomologica Italiana* **68**: 55–62.
- HERMAN L. H. 1986: Revision of *Bledius*. Part IV. Classification of species groups, phylogeny, natural history, and catalogue (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Oxytelinae). *Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History* **184**(1): 1–368.