

OBSERVATIONS ON SOME STAPHYLINIDAE  
AND NEW SYNONYMIES  
(Coleoptera) (\*)

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In the present paper a series of new synonymies and new taxonomical proposals on Palaearctic Xantholinini are presented and discussed.

**Medon petrochilosi** Coiffait, 1970 = **Medon impar** Assing, 2004,  
**syn. n.**

Assing (2004) compared *Medon impar* with *M. cerrutii* Coiffait, 1976, characterized by a quite different aedeagal morphology, especially in lateral view, without comparing it with *M. petrochilosi*, the latter sharing with *M. impar* the same external characters, the structure of the male 5° visible ventrite, the shape of the aedeagus and of its inner sac. Indeed, he wrote in the comparative notes: “*M. impar* is distinguished from *M. cerrutii*, *M. caricus*, *M. petrochilosi*, and related species by the morphology of the aedeagus”, without further explanation, apart “apex of ventral process in lateral view of distinctive shape”, but a little protrusion is not sufficient, in my opinion, for describe a new species (cf figs 16-19 and 24-27 in Assing 2004). The distribution of *M. petrochilosi* is the following: Croatia, Peloponnese, Rhodes.

**Medon seleucus** Bordoni, 1975 = **Medon subquadratus** Assing, 2004,  
**syn. n.**

In this case Assing (2004) compared his new species with *M. seleucus*, the two taxa being apparently distinguished by a minute feature of the aedeagus. He writes: “sternites VII and VIII of similar shape and

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chaetotaxy as in *M. seleucus*. Aedeagus of similar general morphology as in *M. seleucus*, but ventral process in ventral view apically with subquadrate dilatation (in *M. seleucus* almost triangular) and in lateral view wider”. In fact the apex of *M. seleucus* is rounded and more truncate in the specimens of *M. subquadratum* (cf figs 32-35 and 36-39 in Assing 2004). Also this little differences, in aedeagi 0.60-0.70 mm long, is not sufficient for describe a new species. *M. seleucus* was described from Antakya and *M. subquadratus* from Mersin, in Turkey, localities placed opposite each other in front of the Iskendurun Körfezi (cf Map 5 in Assing 2004). The distribution of the species includes coastal and sub-coastal south-eastern Turkey.

**Medon lydicus** Bordoni, 1980 = **Medon lanugo** Assing, 2004, **syn. n.**

It is not clear why the author compares this species with *M. subfuscus* Fagel, 1969 instead of *M. lydicus*, since in *M. subfuscus* the apex of aedeagus, in ventral view, is clearly concave instead being sub-rectilinear as in *M. lydicus* (and of course in *M. lanugo*). In my opinion it is not enough to state “*M. lanugo* is distinguished from other species of the group by the morphology of the aedeagus”, when he simply stated “Apex of ventral process of aedeagus in ventral view truncate” and not “weakly” convex as in *M. lydicus* (cf figs 94-97 and 98-101 in Assing 2004). I am obliged to repeat the same observations reserved to the previous species, noting that each species has a distinct degrees of variability. This species is widely distributed in Turkey.

**Medon maronitus** (Saulcy, 1864) = **Medon reliquus** Assing, 2007, **syn. n.**

The external differences mentioned in the description of *M. reliquus*, compared to *M. maronitus*, relate to punctuation and to the reddish coloration, in other cases the same author rightly attributed to species variability. Moreover, Assing (2004) wrote that *M. reliquus* is readily distinguished from all the species of the *M. apicalis* group, by the chaetotaxy of the male sternite VII, as well as by the shape of the aedeagus, but both characters are identical with those of *M. maronitus*, a species widespread in the eastern Mediterranean (cf figs 4-5 in Assing, 2004 and figs 28-29 in Assing 2007). He also compares *M. reliquus* with *M. beydaghensis* Fagel, 1969, which has very different aedeagus. If the supposed differ-

ences between *M. maronitus* and *M. reliquus* were sustainable, it is not clear why these should not be related to *M. alexandrinus* Bordoni, 1980, which he places in synonymy with *M. maronitus* (“*M. alexandrinus* falls within the range of intraspecific variation of *M. maronitus*”) (Assing 2004). The distribution of *M. reliquus* (cf Map 71 in Assing 2007) almost coincides with that of *M. maronitus* in western Turkey (cf map 1 in Assing 2004).

**Xantholinus puthzi** Bordoni, 1979 = **Xantholinus penicillatus** Assing, 2007, **syn. n.**

The apparently different orientation of a part of the spines of the internal sac of the aedeagus is not uncommon in the Xantholinini; the photograph of the aedeagus given by Assing (2007) is, in fact, similar to that given by Bordoni for *X. puthzi*; the photograph of *X. puthzi* provided by Assing probably shows an internal sac contracted in Euparal, maybe due to the wearing effect of time.

**Erymus gracilis** (Fauvel, 1895) = **Leptacinus mirus** Assing, 2011, **syn. n.**

*Erymus gracilis* is a very variable species both in the external characters (e.g., large or small body size, greater or lesser number of punctures of the lateral and dorsal series of pronotum), and in those of the aedeagus (in particular more or less long, rod-shaped inner sac). This species exhibits a very wide distribution, from India to Borneo, but it is also known from the areas surrounding the Caspian Sea (Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan), as *Leptacinus circumcaspicus* Gusarov, 1993, a recognized synonym (Bordoni 2002).

Assing (2011) doubts that the species could actually belong to the genus *Erymus* Bordoni, 2002, but both *Erymus gracilis* and *Leptacinus circumcaspicus* are overlooked in its original description.

The character states listed and illustrated in the description of *L. mirus* are almost identical in *E. gracilis*, so I propose the synonymy above.

**Tetartopeus rufonitidus** (Reitter, 1909) and **T. ciceronii** Zanetti, 1998

After the study of the types of various *Tetartopeus* belonging to an intricate species-group (*T. fennicus* (Renkonen, 1938), *T. confusus* Coif-

fait, 1972, some topotypical specimens of *T. ciceronii* Zanetti, 1998, and *T. rufonitidus* (Reitter, 1909)), I found that these *Tetartopeus* all belong to the same species (*T. rufonitidus*), so I have synonymized also *T. ciceronii* with *T. rufonitidus* (Bordoni 2004a). In a subsequent contribution (Assing 2008) *T. ciceronii* was revalidated, based on various, minor external characters, and on the shape of the aedeagus. The variability of these characters, in part already highlighted also by me, is justified by the fact that the type of *rufonitidus* is from “Turkestan”, and *ciceronii* occurs in Italy. I would be very surprised if specimens from lands so distant and different for many respects were identical! Unfortunately Assing (2008) does not even mention the inner sac of the aedeagus which is identical in the specimens from Central Asia, North and Central Europe, and from Italy, as I clearly marked with particular proceedings (the inner sac has the shape of an hose that I cut in half and laid flat), and appropriate figures (Bordoni 2004a). *T. rufonitidus* occurs in Europa, from northern regions to Italy, and in Central Asia.

#### SUBGENERA OF *XANTHOLINUS*

At the beginning of my activity, I have designated numerous subgenera of the genus *Xantholinus* Dejean, 1821, based on the structures of inner sac of the aedeagus, following the approach and the suggestions of Coiffait. I have always considered these subgenera as “groups of species”. Now, to clarify my systematic interpretation and to thin the nomenclature, I propose the following synonymies:

*Xantholinus* Dejean, 1821 = *Afrolinus* Coiffait, 1962, **syn. n.** = *Calolinus* Coiffait, 1956, **syn. n.** = *Heterolius* Coiffait, 1983, **syn. n.** = *Idiolinus* Casey, 1906, **syn. n.** = *Neoleptophallus* Bordoni, 1985, **syn. n.** = *Paracyclinus* Bordoni, 1975, **syn. n.** = *Polydontophallus* Bordoni, 1972, **syn. n.** = *Purrolinus* Coiffait, 1956, **syn. n.** = *Stenophallus* Bordoni, 1972, **syn. n.** = *Tetralinus* Bordoni, 1975, **syn. n.** = *Toxophallus* Bordoni, 1972, **syn. n.**

The named synonymized subgenera can then be replaced respectively by the following groups of species: *algericus*-group (*Afrolinus*); *rufipennis*-group (*Calolinus*); *fortepunctatus*-group (*Heterolius*); *crassicornis*-group (*Idiolinus*); *minutus*-group (*Neoleptophallus*); *procerus*-group (*Paracyclinus*); *elegans*-group (*Polydontophallus*); *tricolor*-group (*Purrolinus*); *laniger*-group (*Stenophallus*); *haematodes*-group (*Tetralinus*); *heinzi*-group (*Toxophallus*).

I consider valid subgenera, based on primary external and sexual characters, the following taxa: *Typhlolinus* Reitter, 1908; *Helicophallus* Coiffait, 1956, and obviously *Xantholinus* s. str. (*linearis*-group).

**Neohypnus** Coiffait & Saiz, 1964 and **Sungaria** Bordoni, 2003

After the study of some species of *Neohypnus* Coiffait & Saiz, 1964 from North America received by Gusarov and Smetana, and of additional material from Chile and Galapagos Islands (*N. galapagoensis* Bordoni, 2004), compared with the species included until now in the genus *Sungaria* Bordoni, 2003 (see also Bordoni 2003a, 2003b, 2003c, 2003d), I believe that all these species belong to the same genus, so I propose the following synonymy:

*Neohypnus* Coiffait & Saiz, 1964 = *Sungaria* Bordoni, 2003, **syn. n.**

The genus *Neohypnus*, described for a species from Chile (*N. chilensis* Coiffait & Saiz, 1964), occurs in South America, North America, Canada and in East Palaearctic region (Manciuria, Far Est Russia, North and Central China, Korea).

This is an excellent example of trans-Beringian genus.

I establish accordingly the following new combinations:

- *Neohypnus mandshuricus* (Bernhauer, 1923), **comb. n.** (East Russia, S Mongolia, Korea)
- *Neohypnus meridionalis* (Bordoni, 2003), **comb. n.** (Guanxi)
- *Neohypnus rougemonti* (Bordoni, 2003), **comb. n.** (Zhejiang, Shaanxi)

**Vulda** Jacquelin du Val, 1853, **Sylea** Bordoni, 2001, and **Xantholinus kazachstanicus** Janak, 1979

I compared external and genital structures characterizing the genera *Vulda* and *Sylea*, and a single species described as *Xantholinus kazachstanicus* Janak, 1979, with the following results:

Gen. **Vulda** Jacquelin du Val, 1853 (*Vulda* s. str. and subgen. *Typhlodes* Sharp, 1873)

- maxillary palpi with last article clearly shorter than 3<sup>rd</sup> and approximately the same width (fig. 1)
- labial palpi elongated, with last article just shorter than 2<sup>nd</sup>, and narrow (fig. 1)

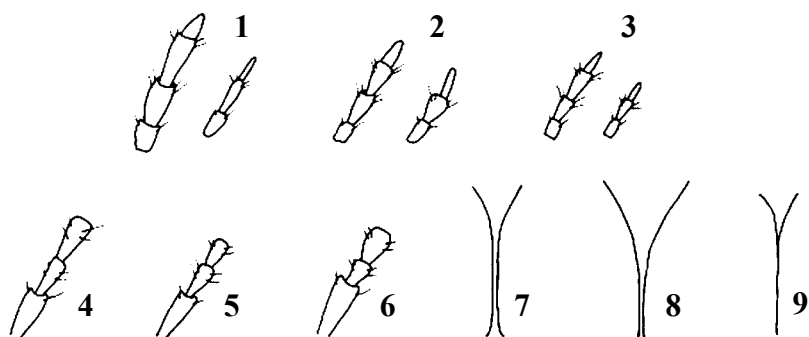
- antennae with 3<sup>rd</sup> article clearly longer than 2<sup>nd</sup> that is long and narrow (fig. 4)
- gular sutures parallel but not juxtaposed, separated by a space (fig. 7)
- frontal grooves almost indistinguishable
- antesternal plate entire
- upper epipleural line vanished forward
- aedeagus with small vestiges of parameres only (fig. 10)
- female genital segment with one median and two lateral sclerites (fig. 13)

**Xantholinus kazachstanicus** Janak, 1979

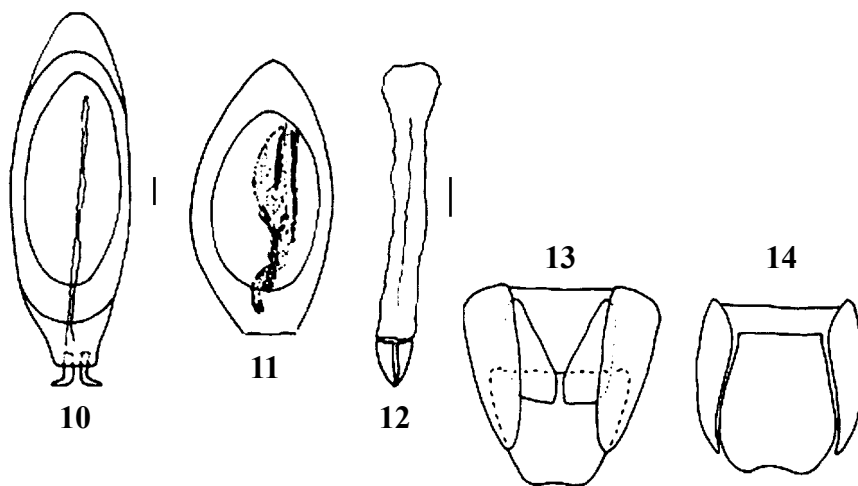
- maxillary palpi with last article barely narrower and shorter than 3<sup>rd</sup> (fig. 2)
- labial palpi with last segment just shorter than 2<sup>nd</sup> that is short and inflated (fig. 2)
- antennae with 3<sup>rd</sup> article shorter than 2<sup>nd</sup> (fig. 4)
- gular sutures V-shaped up to half their length and then parallel but separated by a space (fig. 7)
- frontal grooves short but visible
- antesternal plate entire
- upper epipleural line entire, not joint with the inferior line
- aedeagus without parameres (fig. 11)
- female unknown

Gen. **Sylea** Bordoni, 2001 **gen. reval.**

- maxillary palpi with last article much shorter and narrower proximad than 3<sup>rd</sup>, the latter being very long (fig. 3)
- labial palpi not elongated, with last article fusiform, longer and much narrower than 2<sup>nd</sup> (fig. 3)
- antennae as in *Xantholinus*
- gular sutures V-shaped for short distance and then juxtaposed (fig. 6)
- frontal grooves visible
- antesternal plate divided
- upper epipleural line entire and not joint with the inferior line
- aedeagus with evident juxtaposed, short and large parameres, similar to those of *Spaniolinus* Bernhauer (fig. 12)
- female genital segment with a large median sclerite only (fig. 14)



Figs 1-9 – Maxillary and labial palpi, first three antennal joints and gular sutures of: *Vulda* Jacquelin du Val [*Vulda italica* (Sharp) from Italy, Umbria: Mt Martano, PG)] (1, 4, 7); *Xantholinus kazachstanicus* Janak (from Kazakhstan: Mt Medeo) (2, 5, 8); *Sylea* Bordoni (*Sylea afghanica* (Coiffait) from Afghanistan) (3, 6, 9).



Figs 10-14 – Aedeagus and female genital segment of *Vulda italica* (Sharp) (10, 13); *Xantholinus kazachstanicus* Janak (11, female unknown); *Sylea afghanica* (Coiffait) (12, 14). Scale bar: 0.1 mm.

It follows that, contrary to the Assing's opinion (2010), *Sylea* is not identical to *Vulda*, and that *X. kazachstanicus* does not belong to *Vulda* or *Sylea*. It certainly belongs to a different genus, till now pending a formal name, whose delimitation and possible description need additional available material.

## SUMMARY

The author proposes the following new synonymies: *Medon petrochilosus* Coiffait, 1970 = *Medon impar* Assing, 2004, **syn. n.**; *Medon seleucus* Bordoni, 1975 = *Medon subquadratus* Assing, 2004, **syn. n.**; *Medon lydicus* Bordoni, 1980 = *Medon lanugo* Assing, 2004, **syn. n.**; *Medon maronitus* (Saulcy, 1864) = *Medon reliquus* Assing, 2007, **syn. n.**; *Xantholinus puthzi* Bordoni, 1979 = *Xantholinus penicillatus* Assing, 2007, **syn. n.**; *Erymus gracilis* (Fauvel, 1895) = *Leptacinus mirus* Assing, 2011, **syn. n.**; *Tetartopeus rufonitidus* (Reitter, 1909) = *Tetartopeus ciceronii* Zanetti, 1998, **syn. n.**; *Xantholinus* Dejean, 1821 = *Afrolinus* Coiffait, 1962, **syn. n.** = *Calolinus* Coiffait, 1956, **syn. n.** = *Heterolius* Coiffait, 1983, **syn. n.** = *Idiolinus* Casey, 1906, **syn. n.** = *Neoleptophallus* Bordoni, 1985, **syn. n.** = *Paracyclinus* Bordoni, 1975, **syn. n.** = *Polydontophallus* Bordoni, 1972, **syn. n.** = *Purrolinus* Coiffait, 1956, **syn. n.** = *Stenophallus* Bordoni, 1972, **syn. n.** = *Tetralinus* Bordoni, 1975, **syn. n.** = *Toxophallus* Bordoni, 1972, **syn. n.**; each previously recognized subgenus is here believed to represent a different species-group.

The following taxa are considered valid subgenera of the genus *Xantholinus*: *Typhlolinus* Reitter, 1908; *Helicophallus* Coiffait, 1956, and obviously *Xantholinus* s. str. (*linearis*-group); *Neohypnus* Coiffait & Saiz, 1964 = *Sungaria* Bordoni, 2003, **syn. n.** The following new combinations are subsequently established: *Neohypnus mandschuricus* (Bernhauer, 1923), **comb. n.** (East Russia, S Mongolia, Korea); *Neohypnus meridionalis* (Bordoni, 2003), **comb. n.** (Guanxi); *Neohypnus rougemonti* (Bordoni, 2003), **comb. n.** (Zhejiang, Shaanxi). The genus *Sylea* Bordoni, 2001 is not a synonym of *Vulda* Jaquelin du Val, 1853, and is here a revalidated genus, and *Xantholinus kazachstanicus* Janak, 1979 does not belong to *Vulda* or *Sylea*, but it certainly belongs to a different genus, till now pending a formal name, whose delimitation and possible description need additional available material.

## RIASSUNTO

L'autore propone le seguenti nuove sinonimie: *Medon petrochilosus* Coiffait, 1970 = *Medon impar* Assing, 2004, **syn. n.**; *Medon seleucus* Bordoni, 1975 = *Medon subquadratus* Assing, 2004, **syn. n.**; *Medon lydicus* Bordoni, 1980 = *Medon lanugo* Assing, 2004, **syn. n.**; *Medon maronitus* (Saulcy, 1864) = *Medon reliquus* Assing, 2007, **syn. n.**; *Xantholinus puthzi* Bordoni, 1979 = *Xantholinus penicillatus* Assing, 2007, **syn. n.**; *Erymus gracilis* (Fauvel, 1895) = *Leptacinus mirus* Assing, 2011, **syn. n.**; *Tetartopeus rufonitidus* (Reitter, 1909) = *Tetartopeus ciceronii* Zanetti, 1998, **syn. n.**; *Xantholinus* Dejean, 1821 = *Afrolinus* Coiffait, 1962, **syn. n.** = *Calolinus* Coiffait, 1956, **syn. n.** = *Heterolius* Coiffait, 1983, **syn. n.** = *Idiolinus* Casey, 1906, **syn. n.** = *Neoleptophallus* Bordoni, 1985, **syn. n.** = *Paracyclinus* Bordoni, 1975, **syn. n.** = *Polydontophallus* Bordoni, 1972, **syn. n.** = *Purrolinus* Coiffait, 1956, **syn. n.** = *Stenophallus* Bordoni, 1972, **syn. n.** = *Tetralinus* Bordoni, 1975, **syn. n.** = *Toxophallus* Bordoni, 1972, **syn. n.**; ciascuno dei sottogeneri in precedenza riconosciuti viene ora messo in corrispondenza con una serie di "gruppi di specie". I seguenti taxa sono invece considerati sottogeneri validi: *Typhlolinus* Reitter, 1908; *Helicophallus* Coiffait, 1956, e naturalmente *Xantholinus* s. str. (*linearis*-group).

I due generi *Neohypnus* Coiffait & Saiz, 1964 e *Sungaria* Bordoni, 2003, **syn. n.** sono ritenuti sinonimi; di conseguenza sono stabilite le seguenti nuove combinazioni: *Neohypnus mandschuricus* (Bernhauer, 1923), **comb. n.** (East Russia, S Mongolia, Korea); *Neohypnus meridionalis* (Bordoni, 2003), **comb. n.** (Guanxi); *Neohypnus rougemonti* (Bordoni, 2003), **comb. n.** (Zhejiang, Shaanxi). I due generi *Sylea* Bordoni, 2001 e *Vulda* Jaquelin du Val, 1853 sono infine ritenuti distinti, e *Xantholinus kazachstanicus* Janak, 1979 non si ritiene attribuibile né a *Vulda* né a *Sylea*, ma appartiene ad un genere da definire e delimitare, sulla base di più vasto materiale eventualmente disponibile. *Sylea* Bordoni è quindi genere rivalidato.



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