Short communication

New synonymies in the genera Cymindis and Brachinus (Coleoptera: Carabidae) in Iran

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During our research on the Iranian Carabidae, we studied the type material of several species of which we found four new synonymies in the genera Cymindis and Brachinus.

Acronyms of the collections:
MNHN: Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris
NMB: Naturhistorisches Museum, Basel

Lebia zaboli Jedlička 1968


We compared the types of Lebia zaboli and Brachinus bagdatensis Pic, 1902 and realized that Lebia zaboli (Figure 1) is a synonymy of B. bagdatensis (Figure 2). In the collection of Morvan (Carentoir, France), a specimen of B. bagdatensis was identified by Jedlička as Brachinus zaboli (sic). Jedlička (1961) described the same species as Cymindis richteri.
Cymindis (Cymindis) petrovitzi Mandl 1973

The description of Cymindis petrovitzi was based on a female which is housed in NMB and labelled as: Dasht-arjan/ W. Shiraz, Iran/ leg. Petroviz/ Holotypus Petrovitzia petrovitzi /Mandl (red label) // Petrovitziella persica Jeld./ det. Morvan 1975 (handwritten).

Mandl (1973) erected the new genus Petrovitziella and described two species Petrovitziella petrovitzi and P. vartianorum. Löbl & Smetana (2003) considered the genus Petrovitziella as the subgenus Cymindis. The species Cymindis petrovitzi was included in Cymindis s.str. and C. vartianorum which was placed in the subgenus Petrovitziella. The genus name had been written as Petrovitzia on the label of the holotype. The genus name Petrovitzia had been occupied by Mikšíč (1965). Mandl (1973) had used Petrovitzia and apparently forgot to correct it. Since the other data of the examined specimen match with the data of the publication, we conclude that this specimen is the holotype and the genus name of the type label was intact. Mandl (1973) failed to cite Jedlička (1968) containing the description of Cymindis persica, probably because he was not aware of this species. We compared the types of the both species and found that C. petrovitzi (Figure 3) is a synonymy of C. persica.

According to the labels of C. petrovitzi, Morvan had concluded that this species was a synonymy of C. persica but he left it unpublished. Here we follow Morvan’s conclusion about this synonymy.

Cymindis (Cymindis) transversa Morvan 1972

The description of Cymindis transversa was based on a female which is housed in Morvan's personal collection (Carentoir, France) and labelled as: Iran, Fars/ Khankhoreh/ VI-1970/ P. Morvan/ Cymindis transversum Morvan/ Holotype (red label).
Morvan (1972) stated the resemblance between this species and *Cymindis (Cymindis)* *picta* (Pallas, 1771) in the description. We noticed distinct contrast between the dark spot and yellowish colour of elytra and darker antennomeres IV–IX. Other characters of *C. transversa* agrees with *C. picta*. *Cymindis* species can vary in the colour pattern of the elytra. In the studied material we saw the following variations of the colour of the antennae: in some specimens all antennomeres were light-coloured; in other specimens antennomeres IV–IX were darker than the first three. Therefore, we consider *C. transversa* (Figure 4) as a junior synonymy of *C. picta*.

**Brachinus (INCERTAE) strictus** Morvan 1971

The holotype of *Brachinus strictus* is preserved in MNHN (according to the description), and a female allotype is kept in Morvan collection (Carentoir, France). We failed to access the holotype. The allotype is labelled as: Iran, VII de Chalus/ 2700 m VII.1968/ nord ouest, P. Morvan (handwrited)// Brachinus strictus/ Morvan// Allotype (red label).
The presence of hairs on the light coloured membrane at the apex of the elytra, that was not mentioned by Morvan (1971), led to its treatment as Incertae sedis subgenus (Löbl & Smetana, 2003). In fact the species belongs to the subgenus *Brachinus* s.str. because of the presence of scattered long hairs on apical membrane. The original description and the characteristics fit exactly with the features of *Brachinus (Brachinus) crepitans* (L., 1758). *B. crepitans* is commonly found in Iran. Therefore, we consider *B. strictus* (Figure 5) as a junior synonymy of *B. (Brachinus) crepitans*.

Fig. 5. *Brachinus strictus*, holotype, scale bar = 2mm

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References


