



Revision of the genus *Pilemostoma* Desbroches, 1891 (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Cassidinae: Cassidini)

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Abstract

The genus *Pilemostoma* is revised and its status discussed. *Pilemostoma fastuosa* (Schaller, 1783) is treated as the only valid species of the genus and the following new synonyms are proposed: *Pilemostoma fastuosa* (Schaller, 1783) = *Pilemostoma bucharica* Spaeth, 1914 (syn. nov.) = *Cassida fastuosa* ab. *Dollmani* Donisthorpe in Fowler, 1913 (syn. nov.). *Pilemostoma fastuosa* is redescribed together with the precise distributional data and the bionomics. Two new host plants, *Inula salicina* and *I. ensifolia* (Asteraceae), are recorded for *P. fastuosa*.

Key words: entomology, taxonomy, faunology, new synonymy, revision, Palaearctic region

Introduction

Palaearctic tortoise beetles (Cassidinae) belong to one of most complicated groups within the subfamily and the status of many species remains unclear. Numerous described species represent a local morph of wide-spread species and are known only from several specimens. Examination of extensive material from the whole range of the species is needed. This paper focuses the taxonomy and faunology of the genus *Pilemostoma*.

Desbrochers (1891) proposed the subgenus *Pilemostoma* within *Cassida* Linné, 1758 for a single species—*Cassida fastuosa* Schaller, 1783. The subgenus was based on the following characters: margin of pronotum forming deep gutter, humeral angles with strong serrulation and tarsal claws with sharp basal tooth. However, this combination of characters occurs in numerous members of the genus *Cassida*. The main character that separates *Cassida* and *Pilemostoma* is a very deep antennal groove running along the head on the ventral side of the pronotum. Based on that character and on the study of all genera in Cassidini, Spaeth (1914a, 1914b) raised its status to the genus level. Some authors have accepted this view (e.g. Brovdij, 1983; Borowiec 1999; Borowiec & Świętojańska 2002; Sekerka 2006) and others still treat it as a subgenus of *Cassida* (Hincks 1952; Seeno & Wilcox 1982; Borden 2000; Warchałowski 2000; Gruev & Tomov, 2007).

Material and methods

Abbreviations used in text

BMNH	British Museum Natural History, London, United Kingdom (Sharon Shute);
DS	collection of Davide Sassi, Castelmarte, Italy;
FK	collection of František Kantner, Lipí, Czech Republic;
HNHM	Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest, Hungary (Ottó Merkl);