



A taxonomic revision of the weevil genus *Picia* Tournier, 1895 (Coleoptera: Curculionoidea: Eirrhinidae)

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Abstract

The Palaearctic weevil genus *Picia* Tournier, 1895 is revised for the first time. Three valid species are recognised: *P. sinuatocollis* (Faust, 1885), *P. mesopotamica* (Tournier, 1889) and *P. syriaca* (Reitter, 1889). The following new synonymies are proposed: *P. sinuatocollis* (= *Faustia ephimeropoides* Tournier, 1889 **syn. n.**; = *Ephimeropus fenestratus* Reitter, 1889 **syn. n.**; = *Picia alfierii* Pic, 1914 **syn. n.**; = *Picia druinei* Pic, 1917 **syn. n.**; = *Hydronomidius punjabensis* Pajni & Kamal Tewari, 1985 **syn. n.**); *P. mesopotamica* (= *Faustia caucasica* Tournier, 1889 **syn. n.**; = *Faustia millingi* Tournier, 1889 **syn. n.**; = *Ephimeropus flaveolus* Reitter, 1889 **syn. n.**; = *Picia distinctipennis* Pic, 1901 **syn. n.**). *Faustia ephimeropoides* Tournier, 1889 (syn. of *Picia sinuatocollis* (Faust)) is designated as the type species of *Faustia* Tournier. Neotypes of *Faustia caucasica* Tournier, 1889 and *Faustia millingi* Tournier, 1889 and lectotypes of the following taxa are designated: *Ephimeropus fenestratus* Reitter, 1889, *Ephimeropus flaveolus* Reitter, 1889, *Ephimeropus syriacus* Reitter, 1889, *Faustia ephimeropoides* Tournier, 1889, *Faustia mesopotamica* Tournier, 1889, *Hydronomus sinuatocollis* Faust, 1885, *Picia alfierii* Pic, 1914, *Picia distinctipennis* Pic, 1901, *Picia druinei* Pic, 1917. On the basis of external characters, as well as the shape of the terminalia, *Picia* appears very closely related to the genus *Echinocnemus* Schoenherr, 1843.

Key words: Curculionoidea, Eirrhinidae, *Picia*, taxonomy, new synonymies

Introduction

Tournier (1889) described the new genus *Faustia* for four new species mainly characterised by very long and narrow tarsi, with the first three segments subequal in width, and an elongate body densely and completely covered with broad scales, as in *Ephimeropus* Hochhuth, 1847, a genus presently considered as synonymous with *Bagous* Germar, 1817 (Caldara & O'Brien, 1998). However, Tournier gave no criteria for a systematic position of his new genus. In 1895, Tournier replaced the name *Faustia* with the new name *Picia*, having realised the homonymy of his earlier name with *Faustia* Kraatz, 1882 (Coleoptera, Tenebrionidae).

Subsequently the genus and the species of *Picia* remained unknown to authors who treated the genus *Ephimeropus* and related genera, such as Schilsky (1907) and Reitter (1913). However, Pic (1901, 1914, 1917) scantily, in a few lines, described three new species of *Picia*. He knew the species of *Picia* very well, since they were contained in a part of Tournier's collection that he had bought (H. Perrin, pers. comm.). Unfortunately, Pic markedly modified the original disposition of this material in Tournier's boxes, removing specimens to other boxes without appropriately labelling many of Tournier's types and sometimes causing irreparable damage, as I could ascertain during numerous inspections of Pic's collections, now housed in the MNHN.

Solari (1930) alone treated the systematic position of *Picia*. In a paper on *Ephimeropus* and related genera he concluded, only on the basis of its original description, that *Picia* belonged to the Bagoinae and he proposed a key for its distinction from the supposedly related genera *Hydronomus* Schoenherr, 1825, *Ephimero-*