



## Description of the mature larva of *Gastrophysa janthina* (Suffrian, 1851) [= *G. unicolor* auct.] (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Chrysomelinae) and key to the larvae of the European *Gastrophysa*

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### Abstract

Mature larva of *Gastrophysa janthina* (Suffrian, 1851) (= *G. unicolor* auct.) is described and illustrated for the first time, based on specimens collected on *Rumex* spp. (Polygonaceae) in Spain. Nomenclature of this species is discussed, justifying the use of *G. janthina* instead of *G. unicolor* auct. Diagnostic characters for the identification of species within *Gastrophysa* Chevrolat, 1837 are coloration of dorsal tegument and shape of labrum. This latter character is the only one separating the larva of *G. janthina* from that of *G. viridula* (De Geer, 1775). A key to European larvae of genus *Gastrophysa* is provided. Notes on distribution and host plants are included.

**Key words:** Chrysomelidae, *Exiguipecta*, *Gastrophysa janthina*, *Gastrophysa unicolor*, larva, key

### Introduction

The genus *Gastrophysa* Chevrolat, 1837 is comprised of 11 species distributed in the Holarctic and Oriental regions (Jolivet, 1951), and four of them are present in Europe. Among the latter, *G. polygoni* (Linnaeus, 1758) and *G. viridula* (De Geer, 1775) have wide distribution ranges, whereas *G. janthina* (Suffrian, 1851) (= *G. unicolor* auct.) and *G. analis* (Reitter) are endemic from the Iberian and Balkan peninsulas, respectively. Since larvae of *G. polygoni* and *G. viridula* were already described (Hennig, 1938; Steinhausen, 1994), larval stages of European *Gastrophysa* are comparatively quite well known, considering that for the western Palaearctic species only about 22% of the larvae are known within Chrysomelidae, and 37% within Chrysomelinae (Steinhausen, 1996).

*Gastrophysa janthina* and *G. analis* are brachypterous species, condition related with their restricted distributions. This character motivated the creation of a subgenus, *Exiguipecta* Jolivet, separating both species from the rest of the genus. However, no other adult characters justify this splitting of *Gastrophysa* into two subgenera, and for this reason the first description of the larva of an *Exiguipecta*, could add new diagnostic characters or, on the contrary, confirm the lack of justification for the separation. Therefore, the aims of this paper are (i) to describe the mature larvae of the Iberian endemic *Gastrophysa*, *G. janthina*, and (ii) to evaluate the characters justifying the subgenus *Exiguipecta* and thus the convenience on maintain the subgeneric classification of *Gastrophysa*.

### Nomenclatural note

The name *Gastrophysa unicolor* (Marsham, 1802) is currently attributed to the blue species of *Gastrophysa*