



Article

Revision of *Menippus* (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Galerucinae) of Taiwan and *Menippus dimidiaticornis* species group with a new generic synonymy

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Abstract

The genus *Issikia* Chûjô, 1961 has been reduced to a **junior synonym** of *Menippus* Clark, 1864. Three Taiwanese species of *Menippus* are recognized: *M. asahinai* (Chûjô, 1962), **new combination** (originally described in *Issikia*); *M. sericea* (Weise, 1889), **status revived** (hitherto misidentified as the Taiwanese population of *M. dimidiaticornis*); and *M. hsuehleeae*, **new species** from north Taiwan. *Menippus dimidiaticornis* species group is a cluster of six species including *M. sericea* and four new species namely *M. nepalensis*, **new species** from Nepal; *M. gressitti*, **new species** from Laos, Vietnam, and China (Hainan); *M. beeneni*, **new species** from China (Shaanxi, Shanxi); and *M. murzini*, **new species** from Thailand, Laos, and Cambodia.

Key words: Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae, Galerucinae, *Menippus*, *Issikia*, new species, Taiwan, taxonomy

Introduction

The genus *Issikia* was erected originally as a subgenus of *Galeruca* Geoffroy by Chûjô (1961). This small Oriental genus comprises of four species: *I. issikii* (Chûjô) endemic to the Ryukyus, *I. asahinai* (Chûjô) endemic to Taiwan, *I. dimidiaticornis* (Jacoby) widespread in the Oriental region (Beenen 2010), and *I. clarki* (Jacoby) known from Malaysia and Indonesia (Mohamedsaid 2004).

Only two species of *Issikia* were known prior to this study from Taiwan: *I. dimidiaticornis* (Jacoby) and *I. asahinai* (Chûjô). The Taiwan Chrysomelid Research Team (TCRT) has been initiated to inventory all species of Chrysomelidae of Taiwan. Over the course of investigating the chrysomelids of Taiwan, a third species was collected recently from north Taiwan. It resembles *I. issikii* (Chûjô) with a similar black spot on the sides of the pronotum. The new species is described herein with a review of all Taiwanese species. However, *I. dimidiaticornis* (Jacoby) has a complicated taxonomic history involving two synonyms. Examination of a number of specimens of *I. dimidiaticornis* (Jacoby) collected from various areas proved that *I. dimidiaticornis* (Jacoby) is actually a species group that contains several closely resembling species. This species group is also reviewed in the present study.

Issikia Chûjô was suspected as a junior synonym of *Menippus* Clark by Reid and Nally (2008). The primary difference between these two genera is the presence of reflexed lateral elytral margins in *Issikia* which is lacking in *Menippus* (Kimoto 1989b). However, this character is variable according to Reid and Nally (2008), who did not alter the taxonomic status of *Issikia* as they did not examine the type species of *Issikia*. In the present study, the status of the genus is discussed following examination of the type species, *Issikia issikii* (Chûjô 1961).

Material and Methods

The recent and historical collections at the Taiwan Agricultural Research Institute and the material collected by the TCRT were studied. As most old specimens were labelled with the name of collecting sites translated from