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Trogophloeus tripunctulatus Coiffait, 1981, a new synonym of *Carpelimus insularis* (Kraatz, 1858) (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Oxytelinae)

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In the course of a type revision for all the New World members of the very speciose genus *Carpelimus* Leach, 1819, taxa described from the Galápagos Archipelago were investigated. There were five species described by Coiffait (1981) as *Trogophloeus*, despite the fact that since 1970 *Carpelimus* was the valid name of the genus; and descriptions were lacking illustrations. One of these taxa, *Trogophloeus (?Boopinus) tripunctulatus* Coiffait, 1981: 304 was based on a single, particularly poorly preserved specimen. In this type both antennae are missing (except first two antennomeres on both sides), the forebody appears smashed, the head is split on the left side under the eye, so that the left eye appears much larger than the right one, and the pronotum has cracks (one large across right side of disc, and some smaller ones along anterior edge). The pubescence is present only partially, and the pronotal sculpture may partly be distorted. The elytra are also cracked longitudinally on both sides. Some legs are missing. Describing a new taxon based on such material is unexcusable.

The labels of the holotype are as follows (labels are separated by the symbol "\", while ";" means line breaks) - note that the author's label confusingly reads "*tripunctulus*": "Galapagos: I.[le] Santa Cruz; Station Darwin (lumière); Basse altitude XI.1964; N. & J. Leleup \ *Trogophloeus*; *tripunctulus*; H. Coiffait ~~det~~. 1980 \ Type [red] \ R.I.Sc.N.B.; I.G. 25.692 \ Holotypus; *Trogophloeus*; *tripunctulatus* Coiffait; ver. Makranczy, 2012 [red] \ *Carpelimus*; *insularis* (Kraatz); det. Makranczy, 2012". Deposited in Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique (ISNB), Brussels, Belgium.

The present author has made every effort to gather material sufficient to interpret the described species as convincingly and completely as possible. For this purpose a diverse sample of 311 *Carpelimus* specimens from the Galápagos Islands acquired by a wide variety of collecting methods was borrowed and studied. This material and the collecting methods were described in Klimaszewski & Peck (1998); the specimens are now deposited in the Canadian Museum of Nature (CMNC), Ottawa, Canada. In these samples there was no specimen even slightly reminiscent to the holotype of *Trogophloeus tripunctulatus*, which immediately was suspicious to the present author. At the same time, the other 4 nominal species published in the same article could be easily found in the more recent samples.

The holotype has turned out to be a male, and study of the aedeagus and especially its inner sclerites revealed that it belongs to *Carpelimus insularis* (Kraatz, 1858). This taxon has a rather troubled history as it was considered to be a synonym of *C. nigrita* (Wollaston, 1857) almost since its description, and was only removed from this synonymy by Schülke (2004) who demonstrated that *C. nigrita* was in fact a distinct species and most of its previous records actually referred to *C. insularis*. Since the original type material of *C. insularis* could not be located, Gildenkov (2007) designated a neotype from Jaen (South Spain) [the taxon was originally described from Nauplia, Greece (Kraatz, 1858)] and published a review of its distribution based on material identified by him.

Herman (2001) summarized the known distribution of "*nigrita*" (in the current sense *C. insularis*) as Madeira, Cape Verde, Morocco, Algeria, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Congo, Mascarene Islands, Madagascar, Turkey, Caucasus, Iran, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Myanmar, Vietnam, Borneo, Indonesia, New Guinea. Schülke (2004) reported the true *C. insularis* from Bulgaria, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Turkey, Tunisia. Gildenkov (2007) provided African distribution records: Senegal, Mali, Ghana, Nigeria, Chad, Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, Congo, Tanzania, Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Botswana, Republic of South Africa, Madagascar, Réunion, and additional country records for Italy (Sicily), France, Iran, Lebanon, Algeria, Russia (South Daghestan), Moldavia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan. Gildenkov (2011) added the following new records: Burundi, Gambia, Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso. Several records in Herman's (2001) list remain uncorfirmed.

The condition of the type specimen has raised a doubt that it is not from the published type locality, but perhaps was stuck to some collecting equipment and being of a very small size, had found its way to the sample with which it was

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