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Notes on *Paraleprodera stephana* (White, 1858) and *Paraleprodera officinator* (White, 1858) (Coleoptera, Cerambycidae, Lamiinae, Monochamini)

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Abstract

A diagnosis is provided to *Paraleprodera stephana* (White, 1858) and *Paraleprodera officinator* (White, 1858) based on type material, the taxonomic status of *P. officinator* is restated.

Keywords: Taxonomic status, diagnosis, type material, India

Introduction

White firstly described *Monohammus stephanus* from East India and *Monohammus officinator* from Assam, India ^[1]. Thomson firstly described *Archidice Quadrinotata* from India ^[2]. Lacordaire firstly described *Leprodera officinator* from India ^[3]. Gahan transferred *Monohammus stephanus* White, 1858 to the genus *Leprodera* Thomson, 1857 ^[4]. Breuning transferred *Leprodera stephana* (White, 1858) and *Monohammus officinator* White, 1858 to the genus *Paraleprodera* Breuning, 1935; meanwhile Breuning treated *Leprodera officinator* Lacordaire, 1869 as a junior synonym of *Paraleprodera stephanus* (White, 1858) and described *Paraleprodera stephanus* m. *fasciata* from Sikkim, India, and treated *Archidice quadrinotata* Thomson, 1865 as a junior synonym of *Paraleprodera officinator* (White, 1858) and described *Paraleprodera officinator* m. *flavomaculata* from Assam, India ^[5]. Presently, the TITAN database shows the genus *Paraleprodera* includes 19 species and 2 subspecies, 7 species are recorded from India, and *P. officinator* (White, 1858) is treated as a junior *P. stephana* (White, 1858) ^[6].

In this paper, we found *P. officinator* is not a junior synonym of *P. stephana* based on type material, thus *Paraleprodera* consists of 20 species and 2 subspecies, 8 species are recorded from India.

Material and methods

The examined specimens are deposited in BMNH (The Natural History Museum, London, United Kingdom).

The figures 1-3, 5-7 were taken with an Olympus E-M1MarkII camera, figures 4 and 8 were taken with a Canon EOS 7D Mark II camera. All photographs and figures were produced using Photoshop CS5 software.

Taxonomy

***Paraleprodera stephana* (White, 1858)** Figs 1-4

Monohammus stephanus White, 1858 ^[1]: 406 (type locality: "East India"); Gemminger and Harold ^[7]: 3018 (catalogue).

Leprodera officinator Lacordaire, 1869^[3]: 306 (type locality: "India"); Gemminger and Harold ^[7]: 3012 (catalogue); Aurivillius ^[8]: 75 (catalogue).

Leprodera stephana: Gahan ^[4]: 33 (catalogue).

Leprodera Stephanus Aurivillius ^[8]: 75 (catalogue, misspelling).

Paraleprodera stephanus: Breuning ^[5]: 154 (key), 268 (redescription), fig. 144 (right elytron); Breuning ^[9]: 1 (new distribution); Breuning ^[10]: 334 (catalogue); Weigel ^[11]: 502 (distribution); Löbl and Smetana ^[12]: 284 (catalogue); Mitra *et al.* ^[13]: 44 (distribution); Kariyanna *et al.* ^[14]: 166 (catalogue).

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Paraleprodera stephanus m. *fasciata* Breuning ^[5]: 268 (type locality: "Sikkim, India" and "Tonkin, Vietnam"), fig. 142 (right elytron); Breuning ^[10]: 334 (catalogue).

Paraleprodera stephanus fasciata: Wang ^[15]: 440 (new distribution); Hua ^[16]: 222 (catalogue); Kariyanna *et al.* ^[14]: 166 (catalogue).

Leprodera stephanus Mukhopadhyay and Biswas ^[17]: 64 (distribution).

Paraleprodera stephanus stephanus Hua ^[16]: 222 (catalogue).

Paraleprodera stephana Lazarev ^[18]: 164 (distribution); Lin and Tavakilian ^[19]: 316 (catalogue).

Type material examined

Holotype (BMNH), gender unknown. 52 109 (handwritten in black ink on a circular blue label) / *monohammus stephanus* n. s (handwritten in black ink on a rectangular white label) / *mon. stephanus*. White E. Indies (handwritten in black ink on a rectangular white label) / Type (printed in black ink on a circular white label with red border) / NHMUK 013309790 plus a QR code (printed in black ink on a rectangular white label). Examined from four photographs (Figs 1-4).

Diagnosis

According to the holotype photographs of *Monohammus stephanus* (Figs 1-3) and syntype photographs of *Monohammus officinator* (Figs 5-7), *Paraleprodera stephana* can be distinctly distinguished from *Paraleprodera officinator* by scutellum densely covered with short yellow hairs (scutellum densely covered with short yellowish-brown hairs in *P. officinator*), each elytron with a white haired band (base of the band expanded) obliquely extending from outside of near basal 1/4 to near middle of suture, with a yellow haired band extending along near middle of suture to near apical 1/4, then obliquely extending to outer margin of near apical 1/8, the yellow haired band connected with an oblique short sub-serrated white band at outside and expanded into several irregular oblique bands towards apex and suture (elytra with a

pair of oblique sub-reniform yellow spots near outside of basal 1/4 and a pair of oblique sub-oval or irregular yellow spots near outside of apical 1/4 in *P. officinator*).

Distribution

Bhutan, China (Guangxi, Yunnan, Xizang), Vietnam (Tonkin), Laos, India (Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim), Myanmar (Sadon), Nepal.

***Paraleprodera officinator* (White, 1858) stat. rev.** Figs 5-8
Monohammus officinator White, 1858 ^[1]: 409 (type locality: "Assam, India").

Archidice Quadrinotata Thomson, 1865 ^[2]: 554 (type locality: "India").

Paraleprodera officinator: Breuning ^[5]: 153 (key), 268 (redescription), fig. 144 (right elytron); Breuning ^[10]: 334 (catalogue).

Paraleprodera officinator m. *flavomaculata* Breuning, 1943 ^[5]: 269 (type locality: "Naga-Hills, Assam, India"); Breuning ^[10]: 334 (catalogue).

Epicedia officinator Mitra *et al.* ^[20]: 86 (distribution, misspelling).

Type material examined

Syntype (BMNH), gender unknown. 48 73 (handwritten in black ink on a circular blue label) / *monohammus officinator* White Type (handwritten in black ink on a rectangular white label) / *officinator* Dej (handwritten in black ink on a rectangular blue label) / m. *officinator*, Dej" assam. (handwritten in black ink on a rectangular white label) / Type (printed in black ink on a circular white label with red border) / NHMUK 014016936 plus a QR code (printed in black ink on a rectangular white label). Examined from four photographs (Figs 5-8).

Distribution

India (Assam, Sikkim), Myanmar.



Fig 1-4: *Monohammus stephanus*, holotype. 1. habitus, dorsal view; 2. habitus, ventral view; 3. habitus, lateral view; 4. labels (all photographs taken by Zhuo Chen).



Fig 5-8: *Monohammus officinator*, syntype. 5. habitus, dorsal view; 6. habitus, ventral view; 7. habitus, lateral view; 8. labels (all photographs taken by Zhuo Chen).

Remarks

As above stated, *P. officinator* (White, 1858) actually is not a junior *P. stephana* (White, 1858). While the TITAN database falsely treated *P. officinator* as a junior of *P. stephana* [6], which led to this mistake was cited in the book “Catalogue of Palaearctic Coleoptera. Volume 6 Chrysomeloidea”. We guessed the possible reason is that *Leprodera officinator* Lacordaire, 1869 and *P. officinator* have same species name “*officinator*”, however *L. officinator* was treated as a of *P. stephana* [5], therefore the *P. officinator* was falsely treated as a junior of *P. stephana* by TITAN database [6].

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