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Autor: Geiser, Michael

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**Studies on Prionoceridae (Coleoptera, Cleroidea) III.
Nomenclatural notes and a lectotype designation for
Idgia species described by Maurice Pic**

by Michael Geiser

Abstract. *Idgia bimaculata* Pic, 1921, a junior homonym of *I. bimaculata* Pic, 1910, is renamed *I. bipicta* nom.nov. *Idgia elongaticeps* Pic, 1943 and *I. curticeps* Pic, 1943 are both junior homonyms and new objective synonyms of *I. elongaticeps* Pic, 1923 and *I. curticeps* Pic, 1920 respectively, as in each case the description was based on one type specimen. A lectotype is designated for *Idgia grandis* Pic, 1933. Exact label data of the types of all these species are given for the first time.

Keywords. Coleoptera – Cleroidea – Prionoceridae – homonym – synonym – lectotype

Introduction

Maurice Pic was one of the most prolific authors in the history of entomology, and dominated the taxonomy of “malacoderm beetles” (Coleoptera: Elateroidea *pars* and Cleroidea *pars*) for a long time. It was also he who described the majority of known taxa within the small family Prionoceridae. The extreme shortness of his descriptions, the lack of useful diagnostic characters given and the limited accessibility of his private collection probably combined to ensure that prionocerid taxonomy was almost totally neglected from the 1930’s until the present day. A recent literature search on this family revealed several nomenclatural ambiguities, including a not-yet-corrected homonymy, all involving names given by Pic. A visit to his collection at the Paris museum contributed much to the clarification of these cases, which is the aim of the present paper.

Material and methods

The examined material is mostly in the Maurice Pic collection, deposited at the Musée nationale d’Histoire naturelle in Paris, France (MNHP). Some type material was examined in the Naturhistoriska Riksmuseet in Stockholm, Sweden (NRMS).

Nomenclatural notes

***Idgia bipicta* Geiser, 2009 nom.nov.**

Idgia bimaculata Pic, 1921: 18. **junior homonym** (preoccupied by *Idgia bimaculata* Pic, 1910: 75)

Material examined. *Idgia bimaculata* Pic, 1921: Holotype ♂: “Trichinopoly, Ind. Or.”; “*Idgia bimaculata* n. sp.”; “TYPE” (MNHP). *Idgia bimaculata* Pic, 1910: Holotype ♀: “Formosa, [locality illegible]”; “*Idgia bimaculata* n. sp.”; “TYPE” (MNHP).

Remarks. After looking at the Pic collection it became evident that *Idgia bimaculata* Pic, 1921 from “Indes Or.” is a completely different species from *Idgia bimaculata* Pic, 1910 from Taiwan, although they were given the same name on the label and in the description. The species described in 1921 is therefore a junior homonym and has to be renamed. The replacement name “*bipicta*” was chosen, in reference to the original morphological distinguishing character (two black pronotal markings), as well as to Maurice Pic, the author of both homonyms.

The holotype of *I. bipicta* nom.nov. is from Trichinopoly (Tamil Nadu, South India), which was not indicated in the original description.

***Idgia elongaticeps* Pic, 1923**

Idgia elongaticeps Pic, 1923: 62.

Idgia eleganticeps (sic!) Pic, 1928 (sic!): GRESSITT (1939): 194.

Idgia elongaticeps Pic, 1943: 4. **syn.nov., junior homonym**

Material examined. Holotype (probably ♂): “Natheng, Annam, 5 avril 1919”, “*Idgia elongaticeps* n. sp.”; “TYPE” (MNHP).

Remarks. This species was described twice. There is only one holotype in the Pic collection, which fits the (poor) original descriptions of both species. *I. elongaticeps* Pic, 1943 is therefore a junior homonym and objective synonym of *I. elongaticeps* Pic, 1923. “*Idgia eleganticeps*”, as cited by GRESSITT (1939), is definitely a spelling error, and the publication date – 1928 – is wrong as well.

***Idgia curticeps* Pic, 1920**

Idgia curticeps Pic, 1920: 8.

Idgia curticeps Pic, 1943: 4. **syn.nov., junior homonym**

Material examined. 4 syntypes: “Indes (Alfieri)”; “*Idgia curticeps* n. sp.”; “type” (MNHP).

Remarks. As in the preceding case, this species was described twice. The descriptions are not identical but refer to the same characters (coloration and short head). However, there is only one type series of *I. curticeps* in the Pic collection, containing four syntypes labelled “Indes (Alfieri)” as well as 19 additional specimens from southern India, mostly from around Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu). It is not yet clear if these additional specimens can, at least partly, be regarded as syntypes as well. In any case, *I. curticeps* Pic, 1943 is a junior homonym and objective synonym of *I. curticeps* Pic, 1920.

***Idgia grandis* Pic, 1933**

Idgia grandis Pic, 1933: 5.

Material examined. 1 syntype ♂ (NMRS): “Kina, N. O. Szechuan”; “Sven Hedins Exp. Ctr. Asien, Dr. Hummel”; “20/5”. 1 syntype (MNHP): same data; “*Idgia grandis* n. sp.”; “Cotype”. 2 syntypes ♀ (NMRS): “Kina, S. Gansu”; “Sven Hedins Exp. Ctr. Asien, Dr. Hummel”; “15/6” “*Idgia grandis* Pic”. 2 syntypes (MNHP): same data; “Cotype”.

Lectotype designation. There are 6 syntypes of this species, three in the Pic collection at MNHP and three at NRMS. To stabilize the usage of the name “*Idgia grandis*” and clarify its type locality (NE Sichuan, China), the single male specimen at NRMS is here designated as lectotype:

Lectotype ♂ (here designated): First label [brownish white paper, printed]: “Kina, N. O. Szechuan”. Second label [brownish white paper, printed]: “Sven Hedins Exp.Ctr. Asien, Dr. Hummel”. Third label [brownish white paper, handwritten]: “20/5”. A lectotype label was added to this specimen.

Remarks. The lectotype is prepared in a somewhat unusual way (a large pin through the pronotum), but is otherwise in a very good state of preservation. At the moment, there is no reason to assume that the specimens from “S. Gansu” are not conspecific with it, although there are some differences in leg coloration. However, as these are all females, it is somewhat difficult to be certain.

The original publication date of this species is 20 December 1933, as indicated in the separata, which were apparently distributed before the appearance of Volume 27 A of “Arkiv för Zoologie”, which has “1935” printed as publication date (according to article 21.8 of ICZN).

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Author's address:

Michael Geiser
Natural History Museum, Entomology
Augustinergasse 2
CH-4001 Basel
SWITZERLAND
E-mail: michael.geiser@stud.unibas.ch
&
University of Basel
Department of Environmental Sciences
Section Biogeography
St. Johans-Vorstadt 10
CH-4056 Basel
SWITZERLAND