

Stefano ZOIA

## New nomenclatural acts in African Eumolpinae (Coleoptera Chrysomelidae)

**Riassunto:** Nuovi atti nomenclatoriali in Eumolpinae africani (Coleoptera Chrysomelidae).

In seguito all'esame di materiale tipico vengono formalizzate le seguenti sinonimie: *Bechyneia* Jolivet, 1950 = *Euryope* Dalman, 1824 n. syn., *B. spinosa* Jolivet, 1950 = *E. monstrosa* Baly, 1862 n. syn., *Dermoxanthus monardi* Pic, 1940 = *Pseudedusia fulvipes* Jacoby, 1898 n. syn. Vengono inoltre descritti e discussi alcuni caratteri morfologici di *P. fulvipes*.

**Abstract:** After examination of type specimens the following synonymies are formalized: *Bechyneia* Jolivet, 1950 = *Euryope* Dalman, 1824 n. syn., *B. spinosa* Jolivet, 1950 = *E. monstrosa* Baly, 1862 n. syn., *Dermoxanthus monardi* Pic, 1940 = *Pseudedusia fulvipes* Jacoby, 1898 n. syn. Some morphological characteristics of *P. fulvipes* are described and discussed.

**Key words:** *Euryope*, *Bechyneia*, *Pseudedusia*, *Dermoxanthus*, Eumolpinae, synonymies.

### INTRODUCTION

The following synonymic notes are based on the original description, material examined by the author and examination of type specimens preserved in the following museums:

MNHN - Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle - Paris, France;  
 MUZOO - La Chaux-de-Fonds, Suisse;  
 NHML - Natural History Museum - London, England;  
 RBINS - Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences - Bruxelles, Belgium;

*Euryope* Dalman, 1824

*Bechyneia* Jolivet, 1950 n. syn.

Jolivet (1950a) described the new genus *Bechyneia* with the new species *B. spinosa* based on two specimens from the South African Republic: Durban, Natal (holotype) and "Zouloulund" (paratype) (this latter is labeled "Allotype" in RBINS collection). He ranged the new genus in *Chrysomelinae*, near the genera *Algoala* Jacoby, 1904, and *Timarchella* Jacoby, 1904. The same year, Jolivet itself (1950b) moved *Bechyneia* in Eumolpinae after reconsideration of different morphological characteristics, also finding a shallow resemblance with the genus *Cheiloxena* Baly, 1860 from the Australasiatic Region.

Despite the very peculiar aspect of *B. spinosa*,

due to the uneven surface of pronotum and elytra (Figs. 3-4), *Bechyneia* perfectly meets the characteristics of the genus *Euryope*; moreover, examination of *B. spinosa* proves this taxon is a synonym of *E. monstrosa* Baly, 1862.

For the above, I here formalize the synonymies:

*Bechyneia* Jolivet, 1950 = *Euryope* Dalman, 1824 n. syn.

*Bechyneia spinosa* Jolivet, 1950 = *Euryope monstrosa* Baly, 1862 n. syn.

Both taxa were collected in the same area: *E. monstrosa* from Port Natal (now Durban), *B. spinosa* from Durban and "Zouloulund". Based on the original descriptions and the examination of type specimens (Figs. 1-2 and 3-4) I found no reason to maintain distinct the two taxa.

*Pseudedusia fulvipes* Jacoby, 1898

*Dermoxanthus monardi* Pic, 1940 n. syn.

A syntype of *D. monardi* is preserved in the MOZOO, labeled: S. Amaro IX/Angola Miss. sc. Suisse 1928-29/Dermoxanthus Monardi n sp [handwritten by Pic] (Figs. 5-6). Neither the second specimen mentioned in the description nor the specimen de-

\*Stefano Zoia, Via Ponte Nuovo 109/4, 20128 Milano, Italy. E-mail: stefano.zoia@chrysomelidae.it

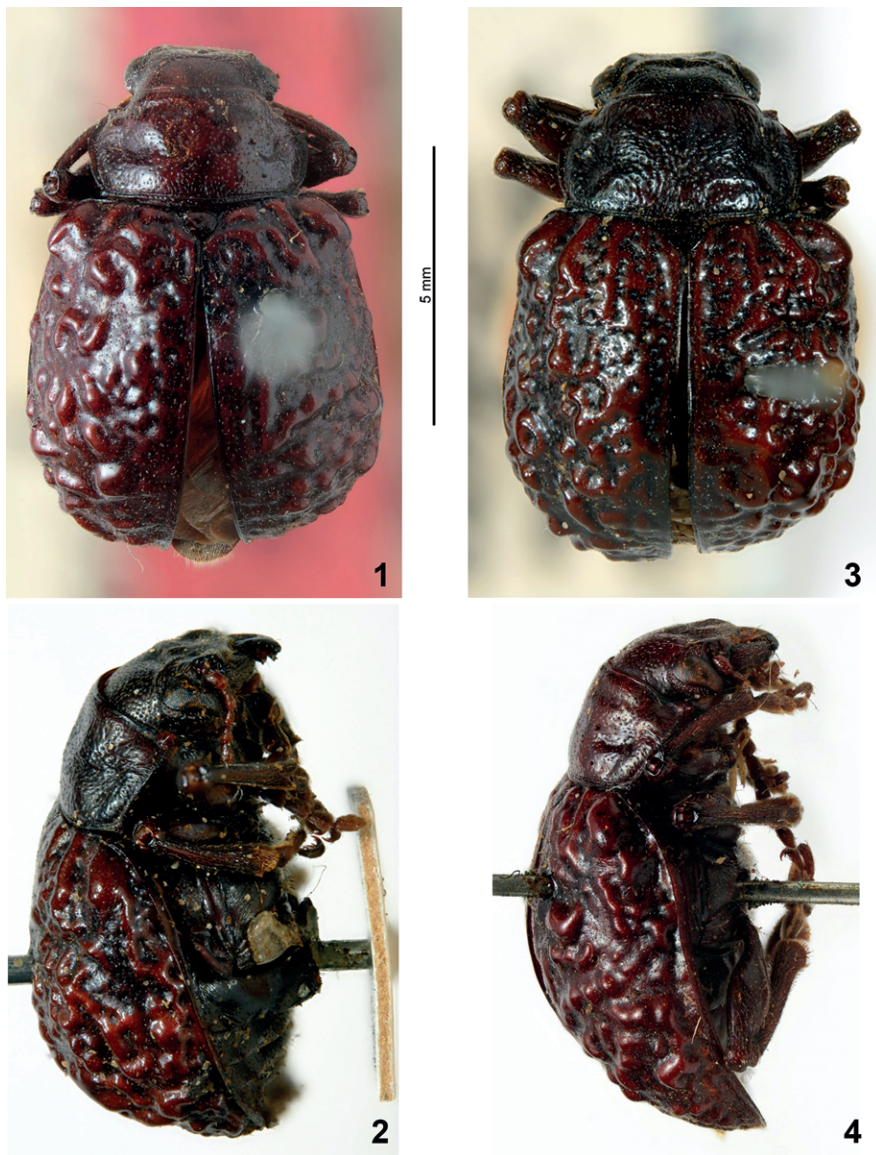
scribed by Pic (1940) as “variety *rufescens*” were found up to now in Pic’s collection (MNHN) or at the MOZOO. Pic (1940) ascribed in a dubitative way *D. monardi* to the genus *Dermoxanthus* Baly, 1859, possibly not having direct knowledge of the genus *Pseudedusia* described by Jacoby (1898).

Examined syntype of *D. monardi* matches the original description by Pic (1940); the specimen can

be referred to *Pseudedusia fulvipes*, so I here formalize the synonymy:

*Dermoxanthus monardi* Pic, 1940 = *Pseudedusia fulvipes* Jacoby, 1898 n. syn.

The small available material of *P. fulvipes* shows a large variability in size and coloration of spec-

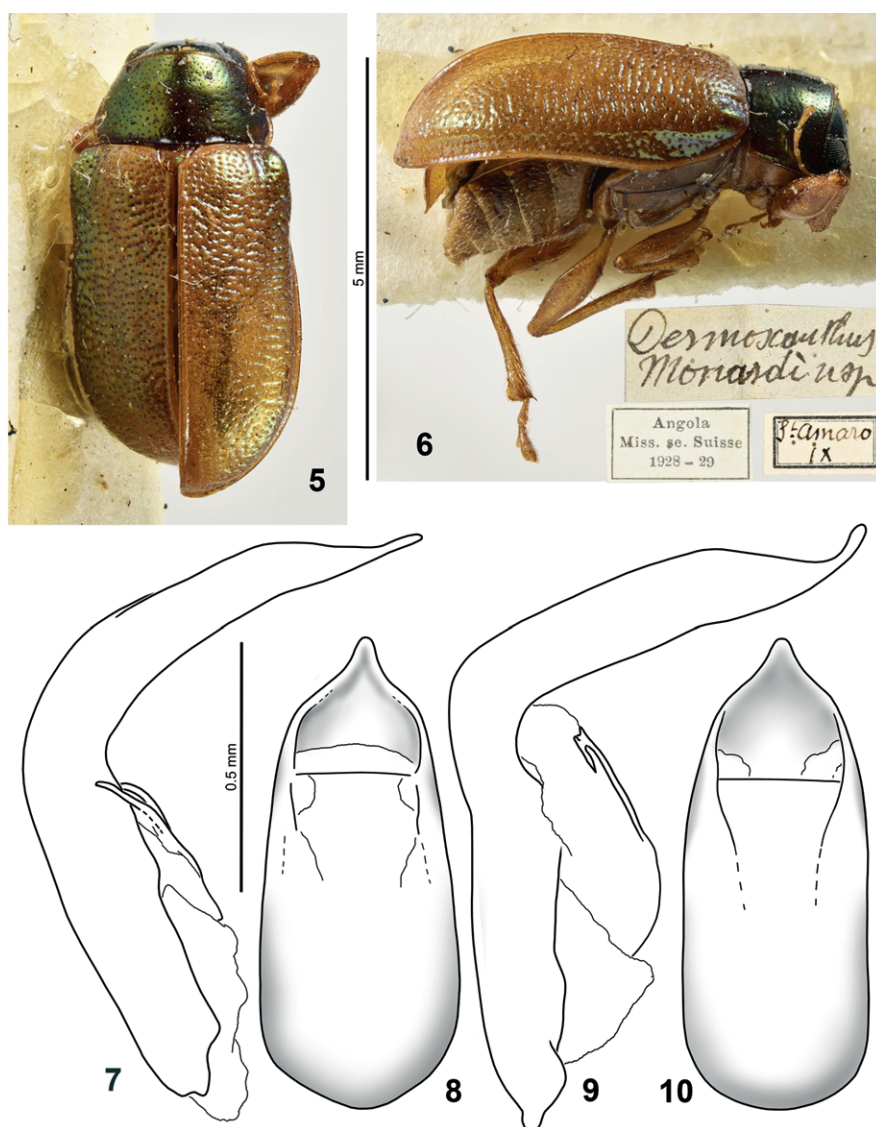


Figs. 1-4. 1) *Euryope monstrosa* (Syntype, NHML) dorsal view; 2) idem, lateral view; 3) *Bechyneia spinosa* (Paratype, RBINS) (= *E. monstrosa* n. syn.) dorsal view; 4) idem, lateral view.

imens, already visible in Jacoby's type material, regardless of their geographic origin. Examined males show sensible polyandry (see also a *P. fulvipes* syntype in: [http://www.chrysomelidae.it/afr\\_Eum/Pseudedusia%20fulvipes.html](http://www.chrysomelidae.it/afr_Eum/Pseudedusia%20fulvipes.html)): larger specimens have a larger head with more developed mandibles, consequently the prothorax is less restricted frontward, antennae are slender and somewhat proportionally longer; the only

available smaller male more resembles females in shape and size of both head and prothorax and length of antennae. In any case, the first protarsomere and the acute tooth in the middle of profemora are somewhat larger in males than in females.

The color of the underside of the body is usually uniformly reddish-brown, with metallic greenish proepisterna in some specimens; head and pronotum are usually



Figs. 5-10. 5) *Dermoxanthus monardi* (Syntype, MUZOO) (= *Pseudedusia fulvipes* n. syn.) dorsal view; 6) idem, lateral view and labels pinned with the specimen; 7) *P. fulvipes* from Angola (Huila prov., 10 km SW Cacula) aedeagus lateral view; 8) idem, dorsal view; 9) *P. fulvipes* from Zimbabwe (Masvingo, Lake Mutirikwi), aedeagus lateral view; 10) idem, dorsal view.

darker than the underside, showing or not a metallic hue, sometimes blackish or metallic green. Elytra are usually brownish, sometimes with a slight green metallic hue, more widely metallic green in the larger males.

Aedeagi of two specimens, from Zimbabwe and Angola, were examined highlighting some differences in their morphology (Figs. 7-10). In a small male from Angola (Huila prov., 10 km SW Cacula, 10-11.XI.2011 leg. P. Schüle - Michael Langer collection, Niederwiesa, Germany), apex of median lobe is straight in lateral view and sides of apex in dorsal view are somewhat thickened; in a large male from Zimbabwe, aedeagus is slightly larger, apex of median lobe is clearly bent upwards with sides less thickened. These differences are of difficult interpretation on the basis of the small examined material and are here regarded within the variability of the taxon and of no taxonomic significance. However further studies on a more abundant material will be able to better define the importance of differences here highlighted.

Very recently I had the opportunity to examine a small series of five specimens from central Malawi, a nation not yet reporting this species, with the following data: Salima env., 5-6.i.2002, F. Kantner leg. (National Museum, Museum of Natural History, Praha, Czech Republic).

*P. fulvipes* turns out to be distributed in Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Malawi and Southern Tanzania (Zoia, 2022 and data here provided).

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks are due to Dr. Nicolas Margraf and Dr. Marion Dangeon, for their help during my visit to the MOZOO, and to Michael Langer for the loan of specimens for study. Special thanks to Mauro Daccordi who first recognized and pointed out to me the real identity of *Bechyneia spinosa* and for his suggestions in drafting this note.

#### REFERENCES

- BALY J.S., 1862 - Descriptions of new species of Phytophagous Beetles. The Annals and Magazine of Natural History, (ser. 3) 10: 17-29.
- DALMAN J.W., 1824 - Ephemerides Entomologicae, Homiae, 1: 1-36.
- JACOBY M., 1898 - Additions to the Knowledge of the Phytophagous Coleoptera of Africa. - Part I. Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London, pp. 212-242, 1 tav.
- JOLIVET P., 1950a - *Bechyneia spinosa* nov. gen., nov. sp. (Col. Chrysomelidae). Bulletin et Annales de la Société Entomologique de Belgique, Brussels, 86(1-2): 36-39.
- JOLIVET P., 1950b - Rectifications de nomenclature chez les Chrysomeloidea (1re note). Bulletin de l'Institut royal des Sciences naturelles de Belgique, Brussels, 26(56): 1-4.
- PIC M., 1940 - Nouvelle série de Coléoptères de l'Angola. Revue Suisse de Zoologie, 46(17): 359-365.
- ZOIA S., 2022 - Distributional and nomenclatural notes on some African Eumolpinae (Insecta: Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae). Vernate, 41: 445-450.

#### SITOGRAPHY

[http://www.chrysomelidae.it/afr\\_Eum/index.html](http://www.chrysomelidae.it/afr_Eum/index.html)