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Two new species of *Cassida* Linnaeus, 1758 (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Cassidinae) from Madagascar and notes on subgenera of the genus *Cassida*

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Abstract

Cassida butterwecki sp. nov. and *Cassida morondaviana* sp. nov. are described from Madagascar. Both are unique species and have no close relatives in Madagascar or tropical Africa. Subgeneric division of the genus *Cassida* Linnaeus, 1758 is discussed.

Key words: Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae, Cassidinae, Cassidini, *Cassida*, new species, status of subgenera, Madagascar

Introduction

Cassida Linnaeus, 1758 is the most speciose genus within the subfamily Cassidinae containing until now 419 nominal species. Excepting one native species from North America all have been described from the Old World, especially from the tropics and subtropics of Africa and Asia. Generally, the number of species decreases from west to the east. Africa including Madagascar and the western Palaearctic regions are richer in species than the Australian and eastern Palaearctic regions. The fauna of Madagascar is very interesting and rich with 71 described species, while in the whole of Africa south of the Sahara only 83 species occur (Borowiec, 1999; Borowiec and Świętojańska, 2002). Only one species, *Cassida dorsovittata* Boh., is common in both continental Africa and Madagascar. Madagascan species represent several partially distinct groups, with no close relatives in other regions. Descriptions are given below for two new species recently studied possessing unique characters and unlike any Madagascan or African species groups. The study of African and Madagascan species showed that the diversity of the genus *Cassida* is very high and the subgenera proposed for Palaearctic and Oriental species are difficult to apply to many Afrotropical taxa. Both new species from Madagascar are difficult to place in any proposed subgenera. The situation has led me to review and discuss all subgeneric names proposed in the genus *Cassida*.

Colour photos were prepared using Syncroscopy Auto-Montage Essentials software. Photos were digitally processed for better appearance. Measurements were taken with an ocular micrometer. Body length was measured from the anterior corner of the pronotum to the apex. Pronotal length was taken from the anterior corner to the base of the pronotum, and pronotal width was measured as the distance between the basal corners. Length ratio of antennal segments was measured as a percent of length length of each segment to the length of the first segment. Male genitalia were examined but they are not diagnostic within the genus *Cassida* and were not figured. Spermathecae in the genus *Cassida* are partly diagnostic (Bordy and Doguet, 1987; Borowiec and Świętojańska, 2001), thus they were prepared and figured (Fig. 12–19).

Label data is verbatim, and data from different labels is separated by double slash (//). Each type is clearly labelled with a red label.

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