



## Two new species of *Charidotella* Weise (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Cassidinae: Cassidini), with a key to *Charidotella sexpunctata* group

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### Abstract

Two new species of *Charidotella* s. str. are described: *Charidotella moraguesi* from French Guyana and *Charidotella pacata* from Bolivia and Brazil. Both belong to the group of species close to *Charidotella sexpunctata* Fabricius characterized by a dark pattern on the ventral surface of elytral disc. A key to the *Charidotella sexpunctata* group is given.

**Key words:** Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae, Cassidinae, Cassidini, *Charidotella*, new species, key, Bolivia, Brazil, French Guyana.

### Introduction

The genus *Charidotella* was proposed by Weise (1896) for *Cassida zona* Fabricius, 1801, a species widespread in the northern part of South America. The genus belongs to the tribe Cassidini and has been characterized by a small body, broadly oval or rarely parallel sided, regularly convex to angulate in profile but without postscutellar tubercle, pronotum without depressions or gibbosities, smooth and shiny, elytra more or less wider than pronotum, humeral angles rounded to acute, basal margin of disc not crenulate, elytral epipleura with sharp ventral margin, venter of pronotum without antennal fossa, clypeus flat or slightly convex, usually with shallow apical depression and slightly elevated anterior margin, clypeal lines usually fine, labrum not or shallowly emarginate, antennae moderately long, segment 3 not or only slightly longer than segment 2, prosternal collar short, without lateral emargination, prosternal process broad, only slightly expanded apically, claws with basal tooth on all tarsi or claws on mid and sometimes hind tarsi asymmetrical with at least one claw simple. The genus comprises 95 species divided into 5 subgenera (Borowiec 1989, 1999; Borowiec and Świętojańska, 2002). The nominotypical subgenus is the most speciose with 69 described species (Borowiec 1989). Most species are similar in appearance and difficult to identify. Colour photos of most species are available in Borowiec and Świętojańska (2002).

In material studied recently I found two new species of the genus *Charidotella* Weise belonging to the group of species close to *Ch. sexpunctata* (Fabricius, 1781). The group is characterized by elytra regularly convex to gibbous with pattern on both dorsal and ventral or only on ventral surface of elytra. The pattern is well visible in fresh specimens, in dried specimens it is usually partly or completely visible when specimens before preparation were preserved in wet atmosphere but not in popular liquids such as alcohol. If the integument of elytra is completely untransparent and we have some doubts if spots are present or absent then beetle should be placed in wet camera for several minutes; in soaked specimens the spots on the underside of the elytra are always well visible.