



Revalidation and revision of *Ochralea* Clark, 1865 (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Galerucinae) from the Oriental Region

IZFA RIZA HAZMI & THOMAS WAGNER*

University of Koblenz-Landau, Department of Integrated Natural Sciences – Biologie, Universitätsstr. 1, D-56070 Koblenz, Germany.
E-mail: thwagner@uni-koblenz.de

*32nd contribution to the taxonomy, phylogeny and biogeography of the Galerucinae

Abstract

Ochralea was described by Clark in 1865 for a very large Oriental galerucine with elongate basal metatarsomeres. Subsequently, nigh more species were described in this genus. It was synonymised with *Monolepta* by Weise in the Catalogue to the Galerucinae in 1924, and accepted as such by most subsequent authors. Whilst revising the type species of *Monolepta*, *M. bioculata* (Fabricius, 1781), it became clear that *Ochralea* was a distinct genus. The revalidation and redescription of this genus, containing two valid species, is here proposed. *Ochralea nigripes* (Olivier, 1808) has one recognised junior synonym and *Ochralea nigricornis* Clark, 1865, and two new synonyms *Ochralea pectoralis* Harold, 1880 **syn. nov.** and *Monolepta erythromelas* Weise, 1922 **syn. nov.** This species is abundant and widely distributed in south-east Asia from Bengalia and Bangladesh to southern China, the Philippines and Sulawesi. *Ochralea wangkliana* (Mohamedsaid, 2005) **comb. nov.**, is only known from a few specimens collected around Wang Kelian Perlis, Malaysia. Redescriptions of the genus and the two species are given, including illustrations of external and genital characters, and a distribution map.

Key words: Galerucinae, *Ochralea*, *Monolepta*, Oriental region, revalidation, revision, taxonomy, redescription, new synonym, new combination

Introduction

Galerucinae with slender legs and the basal metatarsomere much longer than the four remaining metatarsomeres together, have been assigned to the “Section Monoleptites” sensu Wilcox (1973). This typological group (Wagner, 2004) includes *Monolepta* Chevrolat, 1837, one of the most speciose genera in the Chrysomelidae. This group is also very diverse in the Oriental Region with about 260 described nominal species (Wilcox, 1973; Mohamedsaid, 2004). The taxonomic and systematic status of most of its species is poorly known, and many of the genera of the group are in need of revision.

Some taxa of the “Monoleptites” from tropical Africa have recently been revised (e. g. Wagner 2007a, b), but this work needs to also embrace other parts of the Old World tropics. We therefore recently started revising the galerucines from the Oriental Region.

Non-homogeneous generic delimitation and inconsistent classification by different authors is clearly illustrated by the genus *Ochralea* Clark, 1865. This genus was described by Clark in 1865 for a very large Oriental galerucine with elongate basal metatarsomeres, and synonymised with *Monolepta* by Weise (1924). With exception of Laboissiere (1932), who claimed that *Ochralea* was distinct from *Monolepta*, subsequent authors (Maulik, 1936; Hincks, 1949; Wilcox, 1973) listed the genus as a junior synonym of *Monolepta*. Considering the revision of the type species of *Monolepta*, *M. bioculata* (Fabricius, 1781), and studies of genitalic patterns (Wagner, 2007a), it became clear that Laboissiere (1932) was correct, and *Ochralea* is clearly distinct from *Monolepta*.

Ochralea was established by Clark (1865) on the basis of some characters that distinguish it from *Adorium* Fabricius, 1801, to which it shows some superficial similarities, but the latter is now a junior