



<http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3682.1.8>

<http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:617DF35C-2884-4F06-AD49-5905613C3A4C>

Overview of the subgenus *Ventocoris* s. str. (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Pentatomidae) with new records and a revised key to the *Ventocoris* species of Turkey

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Abstract

This paper presents an overview of the nominotypical subgenus of the genus *Ventocoris* Hahn, 1834 (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Pentatomidae: Podopinae); the two species are identified, redescribed, illustrated, and keyed. Species of the subgenus *Astirocoris* Jakovlev, 1894 known in Turkey are redescribed, a key is provided for the Turkish species of *Ventocoris*. *Ventocoris trigonus* (Krynicky, 1871), *Ventocoris nigellae* (Fabricius, 1787) and *V. advena* (Horváth, 1896), **syn. nov.**, are synonymized with *V. rusticus* (Fabricius, 1781). The first records of *V. falcatus* (Cyrillus, 1791) from Malta and *V. oblongus* (Horváth, 1889) from Turkey are given.

Key words: Pentatomidae, Podopinae, *Ventocoris*, new synonymy, new record, Palaearctic region

Introduction

Three subgenera (*Ventocoris* s. str., *Astirocoris* Jakovlev, 1894, *Proselenodera* Popov, 1964) and twenty-four species are currently recognized within the genus *Ventocoris* Hahn, 1834 in the Palaearctic Region. *Ventocoris* s. str. contains five species, *Proselenodera* have a single species, and *Astirocoris* have eighteen species (Rider 2006; Gapon 2007; Péricart 2009).

Species of the subgenus *Ventocoris* s. str. are distributed in North Africa, Southern Europe, Turkey, the Caucasus, Syria, Iraq, Iran and Central Asia. The species, *V. rusticus* (Fabricius, 1781) was first identified in Italy and it is found in Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Macedonia, Portugal, Romania, Serbia and Spain, in addition to Italy (Rider 2006; Péricart 2010). Another species, *V. trigonus* (Krynicky, 1871), is from Crimea (Ukraine) and is located in Southern Europe, the Caucasus, Turkey, Syria and Iran (Rider 2006; Péricart 2010). *V. nigellae* (Fabricius, 1787) was first found in Algeria and was subsequently reported in Libya, Morocco and Tunisia (Horváth 1889, 1907; Stichel 1960; Rider 2006; Péricart 2010). It was recorded in Anatolia (Puton 1892), but this record refers to *V. trigonus* (Hoberlandt 1956).

Puton (1896) identified *Trigonosoma* (now *Ventocoris*) *horvathi* in Turkey; later, this species was reported in Armenia, Iran, Iraq, Russia (European Part) and Syria (Rider 2006; Péricart 2010). Horváth (1896) found a variety of this species, var. *advena*, in Turkestan in Central Asia. Later, Horváth (1907) upgraded this variety to species rank, and it was treated as a valid species under the name *Trigonosoma advena* or *Ventocoris advena* in all subsequent publications. Finally, Horváth (1907) found *Trigonosoma* (now *Ventocoris*) *ramburi* in Spain, and later it was synonymized with *V. rusticus* by Péricart (2009).

In Turkey, two species of the subgenus *Ventocoris* and six species of the subgenus *Astirocoris* have been recorded so far (Seidenstücker 1964; Rider 2006; Önder *et al.* 2006). Two of these species were identified based on samples collected in Turkey: *Ventocoris* (s. str.) *horvathi* (Puton, 1896) was based on specimens from Hatay (Akbezi) and *V. (Astirocoris) bulbifer* Seidenstücker, 1964 on specimens in Konya and Niğde (Çiftelhan). *Ventocoris* (s. str.)