



## New synonyms, combinations and faunistic records in the genus *Denierella* Kaszab (Coleoptera: Meloidae)

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### Abstract

Taxonomy of the genus *Denierella* Kaszab, 1952 (Coleoptera: Meloidae: Epicautini) is evaluated. The following new synonyms and combinations (all from the genus *Epicauta* Dejean, 1834) are established: *Denierella thailandica* (Dvořák, 1996) **comb. nov.** = *D. striolata* Yang & Ren, 2007 **syn. nov.**; *Denierella emmerichi* (Pic, 1934) **comb. nov.** = *D. serrata* Kaszab, 1952 **syn. nov.**; *Denierella promerotricha* (Dvořák, 1996) **comb. nov.** A lectotype is designated for *Epicauta emmerichi*. *Epicauta emmerichi yunnanensis* Kaszab, 1960 is provisionally raised to *E. yunnanensis* **stat. nov.**, until its status can be confirmed by the study of the holotype specimen. Five new country records, one new Chinese province record and two new Indian state records of six *Denierella* species are provided, and the distribution of all species included in this study is outlined. A checklist of the genus *Denierella* is provided and general problems in the taxonomy of Asiatic Epicautini are discussed.

**Key words:** Coleoptera, Meloidae, Epicautini, *Denierella*, *Epicauta*, type specimens, lectotype designation, taxonomy, new synonymy, new combination, new records, distribution, China, India, Laos, Nepal, Thailand, Oriental Region, Palaearctic region

### Introduction

Epicautini is a worldwide distributed group of blister beetles (Coleoptera: Meloidae) with the genera *Cyaneolytta* Péringuey, 1909, *Denierella* Kaszab, 1952, *Epicauta* Dejean, 1834 and *Psalydolytta* Péringuey, 1909 in the Old World (Pinto & Bologna 1999, Bologna & Pinto 2002). All four genera are also represented in the Oriental region. Of these, however, only *Denierella* and *Epicauta* reach southeast Asia, the easternmost extent of their distribution (Bologna & Pinto 2002). According to Bologna & Pinto (2002) and M.A. Bologna (pers. comm., 2013), *Denierella* may be a junior subjective synonym of *Epicauta*. However, *Denierella* has never been formally synonymised with *Epicauta* and it is still treated as a valid genus (Yang & Ren 2007, Bologna 2008). The two genera only differ by the serration of the pretarsal claws in both sexes of *Denierella*. This minute character seems to be easy to overlook, which has probably caused some inevitable incorrect generic placements in Oriental Epicautini, and in several cases led to parallel descriptions in the two mentioned genera of species that are subjective synonyms.

Examination of the Epicautini material housed mainly in the collection of the National Museum, Prague (NMP) revealed that it is rich in *Denierella* specimens. Moreover, during preparation of the Catalogue of meloid types deposited in the NMP (Batelka & Hájek, in press.), we revised the recently acquired collection of the late Miroslav Dvořák (1926–2008), which revealed incorrect placement of two of his *Epicauta* species. In this paper, we thus establish two new synonyms within the genus *Denierella* and three new combinations from the genus *Epicauta*. In addition, we provide new country and province records of six *Denierella* species. Last but not least, we address some problems in the taxonomy of the Oriental Epicautini in general.