

Description of the mature larva of *Hydrothassa fairmairei* (Brisout) (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Chrysomelinae) and key to the larvae of the genus

ANDRÉS BASELGA¹ & FRANCISCO NOVOA²

¹Departamento de Biodiversidad y Biología Evolutiva, Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales - CSIC, c/ José Gutiérrez Abascal, 2, 28006 Madrid. Spain.

²Departamento de Biología Animal, Facultad de Biología, Universidad de Santiago de Compostela, 15706 Santiago de Compostela. Spain.

Abstract

Mature larva of *Hydrothassa fairmairei* (Brisout) is described and illustrated for the first time, based on specimens collected on *Ranunculus* spp. (Ranunculaceae) in Spain. A key to known larvae of genus *Hydrothassa* Thomson is provided. Diagnostic characters for the identification of species within this genus are number and size of abdominal dorsal tubercles, size of prothoracical setae and number of setae of anterior dorsal meso- and metathoracical tubercles. The larva of *H. fairmairei* is similar to that of *H. marginella* (Linné), but is clearly separated by the number of setae of dorsal anterior tubercle of meso- and metathorax. Notes on distribution and host plants are included.

Key words: Chrysomelidae, *Hydrothassa fairmairei*, larva, key

Introduction

The genus *Hydrothassa* Thomson (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Chrysomelinae) is distributed in the Holarctic region (Seeno & Wilcox, 1982) and contains 7 western Palearctic species classified into two subgenera (Warchalowski, 2003). Among these taxa only three species of *Hydrothassa* are known at larval stage (Hennig, 1938; Steinhausen, 1994; 1996). This value is similar in other Chrysomelidae: larval stages of leaf beetles are still poorly known in the west Palearctic region: about 22% of known larvae within Chrysomelidae and 37% within Chrysomelinae (Steinhausen, 1996).

Hydrothassa fairmairei (Brisout) is an Iberian endemic with several striking features (i. e. tarsal claws seemingly toothed) that have obscured its taxonomic relationships due to its apparent similarity with *Phratora* Chevrolat. In fact, the taxon was described as a