



## A redescription of *Blethisa multipunctata aurata* Fischer von Waldheim, 1828 (Coleoptera: Carabidae: Elaphrinae)

HENRI GOULET<sup>1</sup>, GERMAN S. LAFER SH.<sup>2</sup> & SEIJI MORITA<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, K. W. Neatby Building, 960 Carling Avenue, Ottawa, ON K1A 0C6, Canada.

E-mail: henri.goulet@agr.gc.ca

<sup>2</sup>Laboratory of Entomology, Institute of Biology and Soil Sciences, Far East Branch, Russian Academy of Science; Russia, 690022, Prospect 100-letia, 159. E-mail: Lafer@ibss.dvo.ru

<sup>3</sup>Higashi-gotanda 5-19-7, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo 141-0022, Japan. E-Mail: carab-mori@mse.biglobe.ne.jp

### Abstract

*Blethisa aurata* Fischer von Waldheim, 1828 is redescribed based on recently collected specimens. The taxon is kept as a subspecies of *B. multipunctata* (Linnaeus 1758). This subspecies is known from forested regions on the Pacific watershed of Russia and Hokkaido (Japan), and Alaska (United States) and subarctic regions of the Northwest Territories (Canada). *Blethisa inexpectata* Goulet and Smetana, 1983 is a new synonym of *B. multipunctata aurata*. The remaining North American specimens originally assigned under *B. multipunctata aurata* (boreal east of Yukon and the Rocky Mountains) belong to *B. hudsonica* Casey, new status.

**Key words:** *Blethisa aurata*, description, distribution, taxonomy, *Blethisa inexpectata*, *Blethisa hudsonica*

### Introduction

Solutions to problems sometimes spring from fortuitous events. Such events create a team of collaborators. The discovery of *B. inexpectata* in Japan (SMC) was the catalyst behind this project.

*Blethisa aurata* Fischer von Waldheim, 1828 was described from “Kamchatka”. Lindroth (1954) studied five specimens of *B. aurata* from “Kamchatka”, Amurland (Khabarovsk; “Sotka Gora”) and reduced the taxon to a subspecies of the widely distributed *B. multipunctata* (Linnaeus).

Lindroth (1954) distinguished *B. multipunctata aurata* from the nominate subspecies by punctures at the base of the head, the punctures on elytral striae, the discal impressions on intervals 3 and 5, and the apex of the aedeagus. These morphological characteristics of *B. multipunctata aurata* have been accepted by other specialists of Carabidae. Unfortunately, Lindroth (1954) did not notice that the metacoxae of males of *B. multipunctata aurata* from eastern Asia were densely covered by long yellowish brown setae on the medial half. Consequently, he synonymized *B. hudsonica* Casey with *B. multipunctata aurata* and related *B. multipunctata aurata* with *B. oregonensis* LeConte, a species with “glabrous” metacoxae in males.

Lafer (1989) rectified this situation in his key to the two *Blethisa* species known from eastern Asia. Unfortunately, his work written in Russian remained unnoticed by foreign authors.

Goulet and Smetana (1983), in connection with the description of a new species, *Blethisa inexpectata*, wrote a key to all known species of the genus and kept the status quo on *B. multipunctata aurata*, which remained with the species possessing glabrous metacoxae. Adults of *B. inexpectata* match perfectly those of *B. multipunctata aurata*. Thus, the name, *B. inexpectata*, becomes a junior synonym of *B. multipunctata aurata*.

Because of the general confusion about *B. multipunctata aurata*, a redescription based on specimens from western North America, Japan and the Russian Far East, is given below.