



On the identity of *Dichotrachelus maculosus* Fairmaire and *D. sabaudus* Fairmaire (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Cyclominae)

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During the compilation of the Catalogue of the Palaearctic Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Cyclominae by the first author, particular attention was given to the correct identification of a few early names of uncertain attribution within *Dichotrachelus* Stierlin, 1853. Early description and geographical distribution suggested that two of these names could be the senior synonyms of commonly used names for species of the Western Alps. Both these names have been placed in synonymy with other species, sometimes doubtfully and not respecting priority.

Dichotrachelus maculosus Fairmaire, 1869

Fairmaire (1869) vaguely localized this species in "Alp. Gall." (French Alps). Stierlin (1878) studied the type and cited the collecting locality (Faillefeu, in the French southwestern Alps) from the specimen label. He also said that it was a ♂ (sex inferred from a minute impression in the fifth ventrite, an unreliable trait for sexing *Dichotrachelus*) and gave a more complete diagnosis, in which the third tarsal segment was described as bilobed. Based on this trait, Stierlin included *D. maculosus* in his second group, together with *D. imhoffi* Stierlin, 1857, *D. rudeni* Stierlin, 1853, *D. angusticollis* Chevrolat, 1863, *D. stierlini* Gredler, 1856, and *D. knechti* Stierlin, 1875 (now *D. stierlini knechti*). Heyden *et al.* (1906), Schenkling & Marshall (1929) and Winkler (1932) included *D. maculosus* among the synonyms of *D. rudeni*. In contrast Hustache (1929), after examination of several specimens from Faillefeu, placed *D. maculosus* into synonymy with *D. alpestris* Stierlin, 1878, regardless of the indication of bilobed third tarsal segment of the former, contrasting with the simple third tarsal segment of the latter. Hustache failed to note the reversal of priority required to maintain the usage of the younger name, *D. alpestris*. Osella (1968) did not think it plausible that Stierlin (1878) was in error in his description of the tarsal lobes and rejected Hustache's opinion. Without excluding the possibility of *D. maculosus* being a valid species, Osella doubtfully referred it to *D. stierlini knechti* (again without mentioning the required reversal of precedence) rather than to *D. rudeni*. The type was not examined and no formal synonymy was proposed. Later, Osella (1971) suggested the further possibility that Fairmaire's species could be the senior synonym of *D. meregallii* Osella, 1971; however, in the catalogue of the species and synonyms of *Dichotrachelus* (Osella 1971: 553–562) *D. maculosus* was not listed, either as a good species or as a synonym.

Since its description and depending on the author, *D. maculosus* has thus been considered: a valid species, a junior synonym of *D. rudeni*, a junior synonym of *D. alpestris* (reversed precedence), a possible junior synonym of *D. stierlini knechti* (reversed precedence), and the possible senior synonym of *D. meregallii*.

The type of *D. maculosus* is conserved at the MNHN, Paris, in the Sédillot collection; it is a ♀ specimen (Stierlin's observation was incorrect) and belongs to the species currently named *D. alpestris* Stierlin, 1878. No information on the number of specimens examined was given by Fairmaire (1869), thus this is considered to be a syntype and is here selected as the lectotype.

Lectotype of *Dichotrachelus maculosus* Fairmaire, 1869 (here designated): female specimen labeled: 1. F.feue [handwritten, abbreviated form for Faillefeu]; 2. *Dichotrach. / maculosus / fairm* [hw]; 3. 191 [or 161] [green, printed]; 4. 7 [pink, hw]; 5. *Dichotrachelus / maculosus / Fairmaire 1869 / LECTOTYPUS / 2011 Meregalli & Perrin des.* [hw, red]; 5. Museum Paris / 1935 / coll. M. Sedillot [pr]. Conserved at the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris. Figs 1–4.