



Taxonomic and nomenclatural notes on the *Rhinusa tetra* (Fabricius) species complex (Coleoptera: Curculionidae)

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Abstract

All taxa closely related to or synonymized with *Rhinusa tetra* (Fabricius, 1792) are studied, including the available type material. Four species are considered taxonomically valid: *Rhinusa tetra*, *R. comosa* (Rosenschoeld, 1838), *R. moroderi* (Reitter, 1906), *R. verbasci* (Rosenschoeld, 1838). The following four new synonymies are proposed: *R. tetra* (= *Gymnetron eoum* Rosenschoeld, 1838 **syn. n.**; = *Cleopus uncinatus* Dufour, 1843 **syn. n.**; = *Cleopus verbasci* Dufour, 1843 **syn. n.**); *R. moroderi* (= *Gymnetron otini* Hustache, 1946 **syn. n.**). Neotypes are designated for *Cionus amictus* Germar, 1821, *Cleopus uncinatus* and *Cleopus verbasci*. Lectotypes are designated for *Curculio teter*, *Gymnetron comosum*, *Gymnetron crassirostre* Lucas, 1849, *Gymnetron eoum*, *Gymnetron fuscescens* Rosenschoeld, 1838, *Gymnetron haemorrhoum* Rosenhauer, 1847, *Gymnetron moroderi*, *Gymnetron plagiellum* Gyllenhal, 1838, *Gymnetron trigonale* Gyllenhal, 1838 and *Gymnetron verbasci*, all currently included in *Rhinusa*. A key separating the four valid species is supported by diagnoses, biological notes, distributional data and illustrations. These new findings are important because *R. tetra* in the broad sense was proposed as a potential candidate for the biological control of invasive Common Mullein (*Verbascum thapsus* L.) in North America.

Key words: Curculionidae, Mecinini, *Rhinusa*, taxonomy, new synonymy, nomenclature

Introduction

Rhinusa tetra (Fabricius, 1792) is one of the commonest species of the Palaearctic genus *Rhinusa* Stephens, 1829. Due to its supposed high variability, many taxa mainly described in the first half of the Nineteenth Century were synonymised with it. Some of these synonymies were widely accepted by subsequent authors, while others have received controversial opinions. The status of *R. amicta* (Germar, 1821) and *R. comosa* (Rosenschoeld, 1838) seems the most intricate because there is no consensus on their taxonomic placement among authors. The aim of this paper was to verify all supposed synonyms of *R. tetra* on the basis of the study of the available type specimens. The collections from which specimens were studied are abbreviated as follows:

HNHM	Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest, Hungary.
MNHN	Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France.
MSNM	Museo Civico di Storia Naturale, Milano, Italy
NHRS	Naturhistoriska Riksmuseet, Stockholm, Sweden.
ZMHU	Institut für Zoologie, Martin-Luther-Universität, Halle, Germany.
ZMUC	Universitets Zoologiske Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Results

PART A: Interpretations of available names, in chronological order (note that we changed the Latin and Latinized adjectival epithets of all taxa described as *Gymnetron* from the original masculine to neuter according to the gender of this generic name)