



A contribution to *Macrolasia* Weise (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae: Epilachnini)

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Abstract

A detailed morphological re-description of the Indian genus *Macrolasia* Weise, 1903 is given. First drawings of genitalia, SEMs and color photographs are included. A distribution map of the genus *Macrolasia* is provided. A lectotype of *Macrolasia arcula* Weise is designated.

Key words: Entomology, taxonomy, Cucujoidea, Epilachnini, *Macrolasia*, India

Introduction

The tribe Epilachnini Mulsant, 1846 was formerly recognized as a subfamily, Epilachninae, within the family Coccinellidae. Recently Ślipiński (2007) and Seago *et al.* (2011) classified Epilachninae as a tribe within the broadly defined subfamily Coccinellinae.

Epilachnini is a large group of herbivorous ladybird beetles that include 25 genera (Jadwiszczak & Węgrzynowicz 2003, Szawaryn 2011, Szawaryn & Tomaszewska 2013, Tomaszewska & Szawaryn 2013) with a worldwide distribution.

Due to a very uniform adult morphology, current classification and taxonomy of Epilachnini is largely artificial. In addition to the need for critical study of most of the genera and phylogenetic analyses of this group (Tomaszewska & Szawaryn, in preparation).

Weise (1903) described *Macrolasia arcula* from Pondicherry (now Puducherry), India and placed it in a new monotypic genus. The genus is classified as a member of Epilachnini, which contains other genera found on the Indian subcontinent including *Afidenta* Dieke, *Afidentula* Kapur, *Afissula* Kapur, *Epilachna* Chevrolat and *Henosepilachna* Li.

Since its brief description, *Macrolasia* has never been redescribed and was known only from a single male specimen deposited in collection of the Museum für Naturkunde in Berlin. Recently the senior author has found a short series of *M. arcula* in the Maurice Sicard collection housed at the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris, allowing us to study detailed morphology and to provide an illustrated redescription of this species.

Material and methods

Specimens used in this study are deposited in the following collections:

MIZ Museum and Institute of Zoology PAS, Warszawa, Poland;
MNB Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin, Germany.
MNHN Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France;

Complete female and male genitalia from a specimen of each sex were dissected, cleared in 10% KOH solution and rinsed with distilled water, then transferred to glycerol and examined on slides. Illustrations were made from

Mesoventral process ~1.1 times wider than mesocoxal diameter at the same position (Fig. 5). Epipleuron (Fig. 1) about 2.5 times broader than metanepisternum.

Male terminalia and genitalia as in Figs. 20–26.

Female genitalia as in Figs. 30–33.

Material examined. Lectotype (**here designated**), male (**India**): “Pondichery, Staud./ Macrolasia arcua/ ex. coll. Weise/ Zool. Mus. Berlin/ SYNTYPUS Macrolasia arcua Weise, 1903, labelled by MNHUB 2010” (MNB).

Other material. India: Shembajnm (1: MNHN; 1 female MIZ); Madras (1: MNHN); “Madras India/ compare ou type/ Macrolasia arcua Weise, ex. coll Sicard” (1: MNHN).

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