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A new species of *Aspidimorpha* (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Cassidinae: Aspidimorphini) from Uganda

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Abstract

Aspidimorpha (Aspidimorpha) wagneri sp. nov. is described from Uganda. This species belongs to the nominotypical subgenus, together with several African species that are closely related to *A. mutata* Boheman, 1854. Its relative position within the genus is discussed.

Key words: *Aspidimorpha (Aspidimorpha) wagneri*, taxonomy, description, distribution.

Introduction

The genus *Aspidimorpha* Hope, 1840 contains 10 subgenera, comprising 199 species, distributed largely in the tropics and subtropics of the Old World. However, two species from nominotypical subgenus are known to occur in the Eastern Palearctic Region (Borowiec 1999, Borowiec & Świętojańska 2014). The entire genus was recently revised; the Australopapuan species were revised by Borowiec (1992), the African and Madagascan species by Borowiec (1997) and Borowiec & Świętojańska (2011) and finally the Oriental species by Świętojańska (2001). Only four species were described after these revisions, two from the Oriental Region (Świętojańska & Borowiec 2006, 2012) and two from the Ethiopian Region (Borowiec 2006; Borowiec & Sekerka 2010). The Afrotropical fauna (incl. Madagascar) has the greatest specific diversity, with 8 subgenera comprising 133 described species. The subgenus *Aspidimorpha* is the most speciose (91 species), with the other subgenera being far less so: *Afroaspidimorpha* Borowiec, 1997 (12 species), *Spaethia* Berg, 1899 (12), *Semiaspidimorpha* Borowiec, 1997 (8), *Aspidocassis* Borowiec, 1997 (4), *Megaspidomorpha* Spaeth, 1943 (3), *Weiseocassis* Spaeth, 1932 (2) and *Spaethiomorpha* Borowiec, 1997 (1). Species from the nominotypical subgenus form several informal groups of closely related taxa as established by Borowiec (1997). Due to the extreme infraspecific variation they are often difficult to identify and sufficient comparative material is prerequisite for accurate identification. One of these informal groups comprises species that are closely related to *Aspidimorpha (A.) mutata* Boheman, 1854. It includes the smallest members of *Aspidimorpha (Aspidimorpha)* which have a circular body, more or less developed postscutellar tubercle, and usually have humeral spots on the explanate margin of the elytra. In recently studied material we discovered a new species belonging to this group, and its description follows.

Material and methods

Photos were prepared using the Nikon SMZ 1500 stereomicroscope equipped with a Nikon Coolpix 4500 digital camera, and Helicon Focus software.

Label data for type material are cited verbatim, a forward slash (/) separating different lines.

Collection abbreviations:

DBET Department of Biodiversity and Evolutionary Taxonomy, University of Wrocław, Poland;

LS Private collection of Lukáš Sekerka, Prague, Czech Republic.

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