

**On the taxonomy of *Ischnoglossa* KRAATZ, 1856: two new synonymies and a new combination  
(Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Aleocharinae, Oxypodini)**

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**A b s t r a c t :** Two synonymies and a new generic assignment are proposed: *Xenodota* PACE, 1982 (subgenus of *Ischnoglossa* KRAATZ, 1856) = *Philoleptusa* PACE, 1983, nov.syn.; *Ischnoglossa minor* (AUBÉ, 1863) = *Leptusa syriaca* EPPELSHEIM, 1889, nov.syn. (type species of *Philoleptusa*); *Ischnoglossa picipennis* (SOLSKY, 1874), nov.comb. (ex *Philoleptusa*). Additional records of *Ischnoglossa minor* are reported, among them the first record from continental Spain.

**K e y w o r d s :** Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Aleocharinae, Oxypodini, *Ischnoglossa*, new synonymies, new combination, additional records.

### Introduction

According to the latest edition of the Palaearctic catalogue (SCHÜLKE & SMETANA 2015), the genus *Ischnoglossa* KRAATZ, 1856 is represented in the Palaearctic region by seven species in two subgenera: the nominal subgenus with six species (three West Palaearctic, one trans-Palaearctic, and two East Palaearctic) and *Xenodota* PACE, 1982 with one species, *Ischnoglossa minor* (AUBÉ, 1863), distributed in the Mediterranean region and the Canary Islands.

Originally described in the genus *Homalota* MANNERHEIM, 1839, *Ischnoglossa minor* was subsequently attributed to the subgenus *Microdota* MULSANT & REY, 1873 (BRUNDIN 1948). In an article dealing with Northwest African and Iberian *Microdota* species, PACE (1982) discovered that *I. minor* in fact belonged to *Ischnoglossa* of the Oxypodini, figured the mouthparts, habitus, other external characters, and the primary sexual characters, including the highly distinctive spermatheca, and assigned the species to the newly described monotypical subgenus *Xenodota*. According to the description and the key provided by PACE (1982), *Xenodota* is distinguished from the nominal subgenus by smaller size, a shorter antennomere III, a stout and rather short maxillary palpomere III, the absence of an anterior impression on the abdominal tergite VI, impunctate anterior impressions on tergites III-V, and a spermatheca with less numerous coils.

In the following year, in a revision of material of *Leptusa* KRAATZ, 1856 in the Scheerpeltz collection, PACE (1983) discovered that *Leptusa syriaca* EPPELSHEIM, 1889, a species described from Syria, did not belong to *Leptusa* and assigned it to the newly described monotypical genus *Philoleptusa*, stating that it was closely allied to *Ischnoglossa*. Strangely, however, *Philoleptusa* is erroneously listed in the tribe Homalotini in the

Palaeartic Catalogue (SCHÜLKE & SMETANA 2015). In his comprehensive revision of *Leptusa*, PACE (1989) subsequently moved *Leptusa picipennis* SOLSKY, 1874 from Uzbekistan to *Philoleptusa*, without stating his reasons and without illustrating characters.

Some years ago, the late Marc Tronquet (Molitg-les-Bains) sent me photos of a female specimen from France that he had identified as *Philoleptusa syriaca* based on the illustrations provided by PACE (1983). The shape of the spermatheca eventually aroused the suspicion that *P. syriaca* was in fact identical to *Ischnoglossa minor*.

### Material and methods

The material reported in this study is deposited in the following collections:

cAss..... author's private collection

cTro..... private collection Marc Tronquet (Molitg-les-Bains)

cVog..... private collection Jürgen Vogel, Görlitz

cWun..... private collection Paul Wunderle

### Results

A study of the descriptions and illustrations provided by PACE (1982, 1983) leave no doubt that *Ischnoglossa minor* (type species of the subgenus *Xenodota*) and *Philoleptusa syriaca* (type species of *Philoleptusa*) are in fact conspecific. The drawings of the median lobe of the aedeagus (PACE 1982: figures 30-32; PACE 1983: figures 5-6) differ somewhat regarding the shape of the ventral process, but these differences are most likely a result of artefacts resulting from the dissection and preparation of the genitalia. The highly distinctive spermatheca of *Philoleptusa syriaca* (PACE 1983: figure 4) is clearly that of *Ischnoglossa minor*. These findings result in the following new synonymies and new combination.

#### Subenus *Xenodota* PACE, 1982

*Xenodota* PACE, 1982: 81 ff. (type species: *Homalota minor* AUBÉ, 1863).

*Philoleptusa* PACE, 1983: 57 f. (type species: *Leptusa syriaca* EPELSHEIM, 1889); **nov.syn.**

#### *Ischnoglossa (Xenodota) minor* (AUBÉ, 1863)

*Homalota minor* AUBÉ, 1863: 380.

*Ocyusa postica* MULSANT & REY, 1875: 434.

*Leptusa syriaca* EPELSHEIM, 1889: 161; **nov.syn.**

*Ischnoglossa pulchella* ISRAELSON, 1969: 151.

**Material examined:** CANARY ISLANDS: Tenerife: 1♂, Teide National Park, El Portillo, 2050 m, pine forest, litter sifted, 11.IV.1992, leg. Assing (cAss); 2 exs. [identified by J. Vogel], Aguamansa, under pine bark, 12.VI.2011, leg. Peschel (cVog). La Palma: 1♂, 4♀♀, 5 exs., NW Roque de los Muchachos, 1700 m, pine forest, under pine bark, 3.IV.1999, leg. Assing & Wunderle (cAss, cWun). El Hierro: 2♂♂, 4♀♀, 1 ex., El Pinar, leg. Franz (cAss, cWun). SPAIN: 2 exs. [identified by J. Vogel], Alicante, Sierra de Aitana, Castell de Guadelest, 25.III.1971 (cVog). FRANCE: 1♀ [identified based photos], Var, Collobrières env., 11.II.1952, leg. Joffre (cTro); 1♂ [identified based a photo], Bouche-du-Rhône, Col de Sormiou, decomposing dry trunk with mold, 8.II.2010, leg. Gompel (cTro). GREECE: Pelopónnisos: 1♀, Olympia, under bark of pine, 1.IV.1986, leg Assing (cAss); 1♂, Ahaia, Kalogria, 24-25.IV.1999, leg. Angelini

(cAss); 1♀, Ahaia, E Kato Klitoria, Agios Nikolaos, 25.IV.1999, leg. Brachat (cAss); 1♀ [identified by P. Wunderle], Erimanthos, 500 m, 24.III.1992, leg. Frisch (cWun). C o r f u : 1♀, [identified by P. Wunderle], Kerkyra, old castle, 13.X.1987 (cWun); 2 exs. [identified by J. Vogel], Moraitika, V.2010, leg. Sieber (cVog). S a m o s : 1♀, N Psili Amos, 37°43'N, 26°59'E, 90 m, under bark near stream, 19.IV.2003, leg. Brachat & Meybohm (cAss).

C o m m e n t : *Ischnoglossa minor* is found under bark and rather widespread in the Mediterranean region and in the Canary Islands. In the Mediterranean it is a rare species and has been recorded from Northwest Africa (Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco), Spain, France, Greece, Cyprus, and Syria (material examined; SCHÜLKE & SMETANA 2015). The above specimens include the first records from mainland Spain and from Greece. In the Canary Islands, *I. minor* appears to be less rare (see material examined).

***Ischnoglossa (Xenodota) picipennis* (SOLSKY, 1874), nov.comb.**

*Leptusa picipennis* SOLSKY, 1874: 159.

*Philoleptusa picipennis* (SOLSKY, 1874): PACE (1989).

The identity of this species, which has been recorded only from Uzbekistan, is currently unclear. The proposed combination results from the synonymy of *Philoleptusa* with *Xenodota*, but requires confirmation based on a revision of type material.

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### Zusammenfassung

Zwei Namen werden synonymisiert: *Xenodota* PACE, 1982 (Subgenus von *Ischnoglossa* KRAATZ, 1856) = *Philoleptusa* PACE, 1983, nov.syn.; *Ischnoglossa minor* (AUBÉ, 1863) = *Leptusa syriaca* EPPELSHEIM, 1889, nov.syn. (Typusart von *Philoleptusa*). Aus ersterer Synonymie ergibt sich das Binomen *Ischnoglossa picipennis* (SOLSKY, 1874), nov.comb. (ex *Philoleptusa*). *Ischnoglossa minor* wird erstmals vom spanischen Festland und aus Griechenland nachgewiesen.

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