Koleopterologische Rundschau	93	215–217	Wien, October 2023

Axinotarsus anatolicus EVERS, 1961 synonymized with *A. marginalis* (CASTELNAU, 1840), and a new record from Turkey

(Coleoptera: Melyridae: Malachiinae)

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Abstract

Axinotarsus anatolicus EVERS, 1961 (Coleoptera: Melyridae: Malachiinae) is synonymized with *A. marginalis* (CASTELNAU, 1840), and a new record from northern Turkey is reported. *Axinotarsus marginalis* seems to be rare in Turkey, where it is currently known only from the Marmara and Black Sea regions. Some notes on the biology and the general distribution of this species are provided.

Key words: Coleoptera, Melyridae, Malachiinae, *Axinotarsus*, biology, distribution, synonymy, taxonomy, Turkey.

Introduction

The species of *Axinotarsus* MOTSCHULSKY, 1854 are distributed in North Africa, Europe and Central Asia. Notable taxonomic treatments were published by ESCALERA (1926) and PARDO ALCAIDE (1971); MAYOR (2007) synonymized the varieties, and CONSTANTIN (2013) described a new European species.

When trying to identify a single female of *Axinotarsus* from northern Turkey, I compared it with the holotype of *A. anatolicus* EVERS, 1961 and found that the latter is obviously a junior synonym of the wide-spread *A. marginalis* (CASTELNAU, 1840).

Axinotarsus (s.str.) *marginalis* (CASTELNAU, 1840)

Axinotarsus anatolicus EVERS 1961: 176. – ŠVIHLA 1998: 235. – MAYOR 2007: 440. **syn.n.**

TYPE MATERIAL EXAMINED: Photograph of the holotype ♀ of *A. anatolicus* in dorsal view (Fig. 1); label data: "Istanbul,Umgeb.[ung] \ leg.Demelt,IV.[19]61 \\ unter [under] \ Cast.[anea] Rinde [bark] \\ Holotypus \ Axinotarsus \ anatolicus \ Det.A.Evers" (Fig. 2); Museum für Naturkunde Berlin, Germany.

ADDITIONAL TURKISH MATERIAL EXAMINED:
SINOP: S of Ayancık, 6.–12.VII.1973, leg. F. Schubert, 1 ♀; Naturhistorisches Museum Wien, Austria.

SYNONYMY: The holotype of *Axinotarsus anatolicus* and the reported specimen from Sinop Province are within the variability spectrum of *A. marginalis*, viz. have been found to be chromatically and morphologically (especially in surface sculpture of head capsule and pronotum, and length-width ratios of antennomeres) indistinguishable from samples originating from Austria, Czechia, and Slovenia. Furthermore, the differential diagnosis of *A. anatolicus* provided by EVERS (1961) states that this species differs from all other congeners in possessing totally black extremities, which is incorrect and ignorant of the chromatic variability of *A. marginalis*: for example, WANACH (1907) wrote that "the front and middle tibiae are just as dark as the hind tibiae" in two of the females in his collection, and ESCALERA (1926) stated that "in some Silesian specimens the front and middle tarsi are darker and their tibiae are blackish, only rufescent in the second half".

Figs. 1–2: *Axinotarsus anatolicus*, holotype: 1) habitus, dorsal view, 2) labels.

FAUNISTICS: The specimen from Sinop Province represents the second record from Turkey. *Axinotarsus marginalis* seems to be rare in Turkey and is currently known only from the Marmara Region (Istanbul Area) and the Black Sea Region (Küre Mountains Area).

DISTRIBUTION: According to MAYOR (2007) and ANONYMOUS (2008), this species is distributed from western, southern and Central Europe north to Great Britain and the Netherlands to Denmark and Latvia, eastwards to southern Russia, northern Turkey, and the Caucasus Region. Among existing chorotype classifications, this equals the Euro-Caucasian chorotype sensu K.B. Gorodkov (EMELJANOV 2018: fig. 32). According to the terminology of MEUSEL & JÄGER (1992), it is a case of a European meridional-submeridional-(temperate)-continental range.

BIOLOGY: *Axinotarsus marginalis* seems to be a univoltine species of the forest-grassland ecotone. Adults are palynivor (opportunistically carnivor), from May till July graminicol (facultatively floricol) in xeric to mesic, natural to anthropogenic grasslands and forest steppe (cf. KOCH (1989: 49) who lists forest edges, forest meadows, floodplain forests, heaths, ruderal sites, and parks); occasionally reared from dead wood or bark of deciduous trees (PERRIS 1869, KOLBE 1895, HOLZSCHUH 1971).

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Bernd Jaeger (Museum für Naturkunde Berlin, Germany), for providing the high-resolution image of the holotype of *Axinotarsus anatolicus*. Furthermore, I am indebted to Alice Laciny (Vienna, Austria) for the linguistic revision, and to Sergei E. Tshernyshev (Novosibirsk, Russia) for the peer review of the submitted manuscript.

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